

Happy Thanksgiving to all of servicemembers, far from home

By Public Affairs Staff 27 November 2019



Hungry World War II soldiers wait while Thanksgiving turkeys are prepared in field oven. courtesy USAHEC photo collection

This Thanksgiving Day please remember all of the service personnel on duty around the world, who will give a nod to the holiday with their unit family.

“We appreciate the sacrifices of our service members who are away from home this holiday season and we’re honored to provide them with the best Thanksgiving meal,” said Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Robert Manning. Some 300,000 pounds of traditional Thanksgiving food is en route or has arrived at military field kitchens and galleys throughout the Middle East, Africa, Europe and to troops supporting Customs and Border Protection on the Southwest border, he said.

It takes a lot of coordination and attention to detail to make sure service members get the Thanksgiving meal they deserve, said Rich Faso, deputy

Director of the Defense Logistics Agency's Troop Support Subsistence supply chain in Philadelphia. The planning begins in May and the work continues until the last deliveries are made.

This year, deployed service members will receive:

Whole turkeys: 9,738

Pounds of roasted turkey: 51,234

Pounds of beef: 74,036

Pounds of ham: 21,758

Pounds of shrimp: 67,860

Pounds of sweet potatoes: 16,284

Pies: 81,360

Cakes: 19,284

Gallons of eggnog: 7,836

"The Troop Support Subsistence team is a dedicated group of employees who take pride in ensuring that deployed service members can experience an enjoyable holiday meal each Thanksgiving," Faso said.

While it is not exactly the same as being home, it is important for the troops to know that someone cares, he said.