

— MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY —  
**SWEET MARTHA'S COOKIES BEING SHIPPED TO THE TROOPS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY**

**WHAT:** Saint Thomas Academy, Sweet Martha's Cookies and former radio host Brad Walton will again partner to prepare and ship 10,000 chocolate chip cookies to deployed soldiers in Afghanistan. Mothers of the service men and women of the 407th Civil Air Battalion, the Minnesota Patriot Guard, veterans and postal service employees will support the effort by boxing the cookies into priority mail containers.

**WHEN:** Saturday, Feb. 5 -10 a.m.

**WHO:** Saint Thomas Academy cadets  
Martha Rossini-Olson of Sweet Martha's Cookies  
Mothers of 407th Civil Air Battalion soldiers  
Minnesota Patriot Guard and veterans  
Former radio host Brad Walton  
Postal service employees

**WHERE:** Saint Thomas Academy  
949 Mendota Heights Road  
Mendota Heights, Minn.  
651-454-4570

**DETAILS:** Cookies for the Troops began in 2006, when then-radio host, Brad Walton, asked a soldier serving the 3rd Marine division, "What can we do to support the troops overseas during this coming holiday season?" The soldier responded, "Chocolate chip cookies!" Sweet Martha's Cookies partnered with Walton to donate 10,000 cookies that year, and every following year. (See below for more information.)

**SOLDIERS IN AFGHANISTAN TO RECEIVE A TASTE OF HOME FOR VALENTINES DAY**

10,000 chocolate chip cookies are being donated by Sweet Martha's Cookies to servicemen and women in Afghanistan for **Valentines Day 2011** in a joint effort with the mothers of the **407 Civil Air Battalion** and several community sponsors who are covering the costs for the cookies and postage.

**The cookies will be packed and shipped starting at 10:00 AM on Saturday, February 5th at St. Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights by Martha of Sweet Martha's Cookies. Martha will be joined by several mothers from the 407 Civil Air Battalion, the Minnesota Patriot Guard and veterans to pack the cookies in U.S. Priority Mailers for shipment to a locations in Afghanistan for distribution to the troops.**

Major General Nash extended his appreciation on behalf of the Minnesota National Guard, *"I wish to thank Sweet Martha's Cookies, St. Thomas Academy, the mothers, the veterans and the many contributors for their thoughtfulness and delicious way of saying thank you to our service members deployed overseas. One can never overestimate the value of these acts of kindness. Cookies are truly one of our all time 'comfort' desserts that brings a smile to a person's face and puts fond memories into their hearts. Thank you all for caring and for showing it through these acts of kindness."*

Cookies for the troops began in 2006, during an on-air conversation, with **former** radio host, Brad Walton, when he asked a soldier serving the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine division, "What can we do to support the troops overseas during this coming holiday season?" The soldier paused for a moment and then replied, "Chocolate chip cookies!"

*“I could tell just from the tone of his voice that this would be something that would touch the troops in a very meaningful way,”* said Walton.

The following week, Walton contacted Martha Rossini-Olson of “Sweet Martha’s” cookies to see how many he could buy and get to the troops for Christmas. Martha responded by saying, *“I want to donate 10,000 cookies to the troops.”* The partnership was born, and grew, and shipments have continued.

Along with the cookies, there will be 10,000 cards designed by local Air Force veteran, Richard Glasgow, designed to thank those who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces. Nearly 2,000,000 of these “Dear American Hero” cards of appreciation have been distributed in the last 3 years. They read, *“I am not certain as to how to express my gratitude for all you have done to secure my freedom. Please accept this simple card as a small token of my appreciation,”* and are signed, *“A grateful American citizen”*.

Each time, more groups volunteer to participate and assist in getting the shipments out. Representatives from the Minneapolis and St. Paul Post Offices will be on hand and veterans and deployed soldiers, who are home on leave, will be loading the packages.

Contact: Brad Walton – Email: [bswalton@yahoo.com](mailto:bswalton@yahoo.com) – 651.307.4646