

Mats Help Flight Crews in Iraq

FREMONT, OH -- Crown Mats and Matting has donated Comfort-King Supreme anti-fatigue matting to American soldiers fighting in Iraq for their use aboard Sherpa cargo planes.

The Sherpas are used to drop much needed supplies to troops all over Iraq, but are frequently the target of sniper attacks. As a result, crew members must stand during the entire flight -- often more than eight hours per mission -- on the look out for snipers to avoid attack.

"We got a call from Michael Moy, a U.S. Army flight engineer in Iraq asking for our help," says Christopher Tricozzi, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Crown. "He told us how he found out about the Comfort-King mats and why he needed them."

According to Tricozzi, Moy said the mats were placed near the entrance to the Chaplain's office at a U.S. Army base in Iraq. Walking on the mats, he realized they could help reduce leg fatigue since the troops often complain of back, leg, and foot problems during their long flight missions.

My Smiling 13s

Tricozzi says the mats were sent to Iraq at no charge and he heard they were installed in the planes as soon as they arrived. However, nothing more was heard from Moy for several weeks.

"Then we were told they were sending an American flag flown over Iraq and Kuwait during 'Operation Iraqi Freedom,' to express their gratitude as well as a card of thanks signed by many of the Sherpa crew members," says Tricozzi.

Although the flag was much appreciated, Tricozzi says it was the thank you card that was in many ways much more touching and revealing.

"These are handwritten notes thanking us for the Comfort-King mats," he says. "The comments included such things as, 'my feet thank you;' 'thanks for thinking of us;' and one soldier wrote, 'my 13s are smiling; we love your Comfort-King mats.'"

For more than 60 years, Crown Mats and Matting has been a pioneer in the development and manufacture of matting products. Beginning with the invention of walk-off matting by the company's founder, R.P. Johnson, the company now has the most diverse matting product line offered in the industry. Crown sells matting through an extensive network of highly trained sales representatives in all 50 states. These sales experts are familiar with the features and benefits of all matting systems and are able to help their clients find the right system for virtually all applications.

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