



# America's Arctic Paratroopers

# 1-501 GERONIMOS

# NEWS

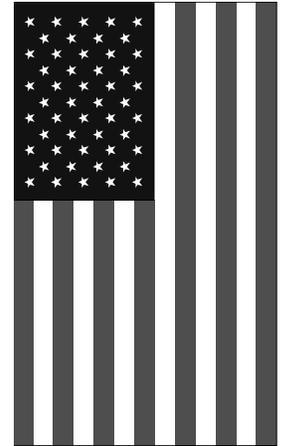
Fort Richardson, Alaska

August 2004

## Message From the TF Commander

Dear Geronimo Families,

By the time this Newsletter is published, many of you will have already been reunited with your loved ones after ten months of separation. While the time has been difficult for each of us in our own ways, I must compliment our soldiers and our families with the incredible teamwork, sacrifice, and selfless service in which our mission was accomplished. Let there be no mistake, we could not have accomplished our mission with the huge success and accolades without the bedrock support of our families and loved ones. Each of you directly contributed to the success of our mission in this very important role in the Global War on Terror.



While we have been gone, I know each family member or loved one has grown, changed, and matured in their own ways. Each of you have become more independent, more focused, developed life long relationships with friends, and many other life changing aspects. Your deployed spouse has experienced many similar changes. In their cases, they may have developed life long bonds with their fellow team or squad members. They have shared many stories, dangerous moments, and numerous hardships. As we all slowly integrate back to our norm, be patient and understanding, your relationship will only be stronger.

This will be my last letter as the Commander of Task Force 1-501 PIR. Gina and I have truly been blessed to work with such professional soldiers and wonderful families. We are a stronger team because of everything our families and troopers have accomplished together. I would like to personally thank each of our FRG leaders whose Herculean efforts ensured each Geronimo family was well informed and assisted when need arose. We have suffered eleven wounded in combat; but, every Geronimo who deployed to Afghanistan is coming home. Our troopers discipline and prowess made this possible. Please be safe and enjoy a much deserved Block Leave.

Our service with the Geronimo Troopers and Families will be one of our fondest memories.

HARRY C. GLENN, III  
LTC, IN  
Commanding

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A Marine UH-1 Huey Gunship provides air support for the convoy.



A Salerno convoy nears the top of the Khowst-Gardez pass.



Tricons are placed on a new jingle truck when the original truck broke down just as the sun set.



## Geronimos prepare to leave Afghanistan

A rest stop on the way to Bagram Air Field, gives Soldiers a chance to stretch their legs and drivers to check their jingle truck's brakes.

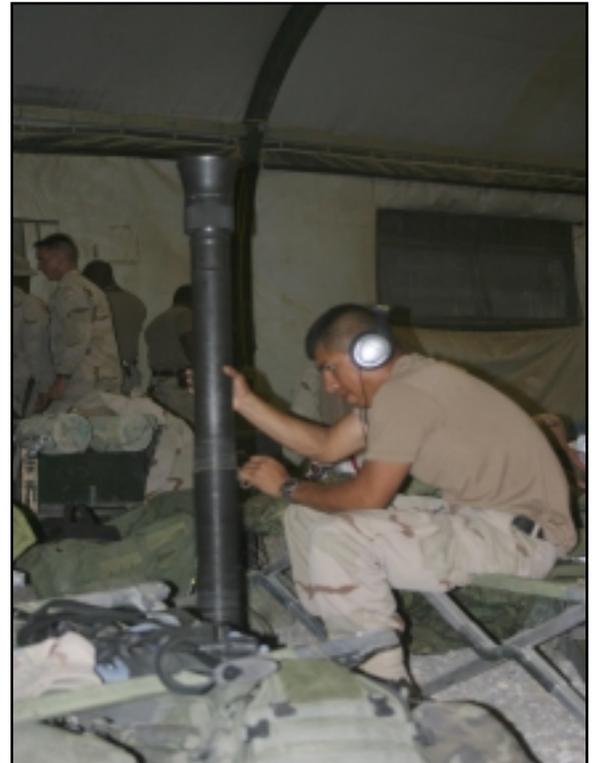


At Bagram, Spc. Bryan Murphy lifts tricons off the trucks.

**PHOTOS BY  
STAFF SGT.  
JEFF TROTH**



Soldiers crowd around a laptop to watch a movie.



Spc. Christopher Trinidad listens to music as he cleans the tube of his 81mm mortar.



Spc. Glen Bucy, along with an MP customs officer checks the bottom of an HMMWV before packaging it for shipment.



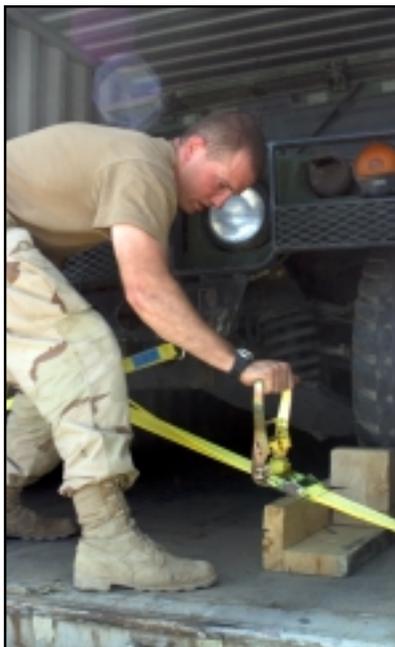
Soldiers use teamwork to make sure that there is no caked on dirt, which could transport bugs back to the US, beneath their HMMWV.



A Geronimo gets rained on as he cleans the undercarriage.



Motorpool Soldiers consolidate items from two tricons into one.



After blocking the HMMWV's tires, a Soldier ratches the tie-down straps.



A paratrooper uses a high-pressure hose to ensure the engine is dirt and grease free before it is shipped.



After clearing customs a HMMWV is packed into a milvan.



An inventory must be filled out of all items going in the tricons.

# Chaplain's Corner

Greetings Geronimo families. It is hard to believe that nine months have nearly elapsed and that the Geronimos will soon be back in Alaska—where they belong! Even as I write, the preparations for redeployment are many and ongoing. And while daunting and even tedious, every Geronimo is anticipating completing our mission here and being reunited with their families.

I cannot begin to tell you how honored I have been to serve with your husbands (and wives!) during Operation Enduring Freedom. I have watched people grow in a number of ways, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, and professionally. The pride that I feel to have served with the Geronimos is almost indescribable. The Geronimo reputation throughout the Afghanistan Theater, even the Army, has been of noblest esteem. Even other chaplains passing through have reinforced this notion. Again, I have been very proud of what each Geronimo has accomplished during our time in Afghanistan.

I also want to take a moment and express appreciation to you—the spouses—that have survived this deployment. Many of you have endured and succeeded far more than you would give yourself credit for. Doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, soccer practice, automobile repairs, taking out the garbage, cooking for the family minus one day in and day out, cleaning the house, paying the bills, making decisions that you would rather have had help with or not made at all, and the list goes on. The thought strikes me that while every Geronimo will come home wearing a combat patch and many will have received awards, our spouses and families are the real heroes—at least to us you are—and you are the ones that deserve an award. Thank you for your sacrifice and your dedication to support us in our mission here.

Lastly, I would publicly thank God for His providential care and protection over the 501<sup>st</sup> during our deployment, as well as the privilege to serve and pastor them. I would share two verses with you that sum up my vantage point of our success as well, “I do not trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory; but You (God) give us victory over our enemies, you put our adversaries to shame” (Psalm 44:6-7). We have fought an enemy here that has frankly not wanted to fight. They have showed cowardice when they have fought attempting to avoid a direct fight with the Geronimos. Be that as it may, we have not only succeeded in our mission but have experienced God's grace and protection day in and day out. And as we approach the end of this deployment, I would encourage you to continue to pray with me that every Geronimo arrives home safely and unharmed.

Again, thanks to every Geronimo and to every Geronimo family that has served whether here or back at home. You have served with honor and distinction, and it is my privilege to be the Geronimo chaplain. God bless you all.

For God & Country,  
Chaplain Brad Lee

