

## 1-501st ready to 'make it happen'

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment are on the ground and ready to fulfill their mission here.

"The task force has been extremely busy," said Lt. Col. Harry C. Glenn, III, Task Force 1-501 commander. "In the short time since we have left Alaska we have flown half way around the world, made significant improvements in our living conditions and the force protection of FOB Salerno."

The unit has also conducted a relief in place with 10th Infantry Division (Mountain), planned and prepared their first combat operation and performed more than a dozen patrols off the compound.

"On the first patrols I was anxious to get out there," said Spc. Steven

Smithson, Detachment D, who has been on 10 patrols. "Now although the patrols have become routine, when we go out the gate we see how the locals act and then adjust accordingly."

Smithson says, if the kids are running up to their vehicles asking for stuff, then the soldiers have a more relaxed attitude. If the people in the villages go inside the soldiers go to an even more ready state.

This heightened readiness is not just when soldiers leave the compound. Range cards have been made for each of the guard towers on Salerno and soldiers have reconfirmed the zero on their weapons.

Work on Salerno has not just been on the defences. The soldiers have also spent time improving their living conditions.



Sgt. Frank Cole, Detachment D, cuts a piece of wood as Pfc. Scott Hunter holds the shelf unit steady.



Pfc. Peter Ginnetty, Company A, sights in his 240B machine gun, as his assistant gunner, Pfc. Gary Higdon, stands by.

"There is a hadji mart outside the gate and we have bought rugs and bed mats to make our living area more comfortable," Smithson said. "We have also hung ponchos inside the tents to give each person their own little piece of the world."

"I was a carpenter before I

came into the Army, so I had some skills that we have put to use down here," said Pfc. Torrey Kramer, Scout Platoon, Headquarters Company. For his platoon, Kramer has helped build shelves, tables and chairs.

Some jobs Kramer has helped on have benefited the entire camp. He has built benches for the dining facility and the Moral Welfare and Recreation tent so that the soldiers have a place to sit while they wait to use the phones and internet to contact their loved ones.

"As always, the Geronimos rise to each task and 'Make it Happen'." Glenn said. "They have the highest standards and my utmost respect."

## News briefs

### JAG

Pfc. Saenz is available for power of attorneys in the ALOC, located next to the TOC.

### Chapel Services

Protestant Services	Saturday 1500
	Sunday 0400
Prayer/Meditation Hour	Monday-Friday 0700
Latter Day Saints	Sunday 0600
Catholic	TBD

### Laundry

Laundry service is available Saturday to Thursday 0330 to 1030. Items must be in a laundry bag.

### Mail Call

Check with your company orderly room for incoming mail. Mail is due in from KAF every 7-10 days.

### AAFES, Finance and Postal

AAFES, 10th SSB Finance clerks and the 300th Adjutant General Postal Company will be on FOB Salerno Nov. 22.

The 300th will accept packages to be mailed out. This will be the only chance to mail packages home in time for Christmas. Let family members know that according to the U.S. Postal Service, they need to mail packages by Dec. 4 in order for them to arrive by holidays.

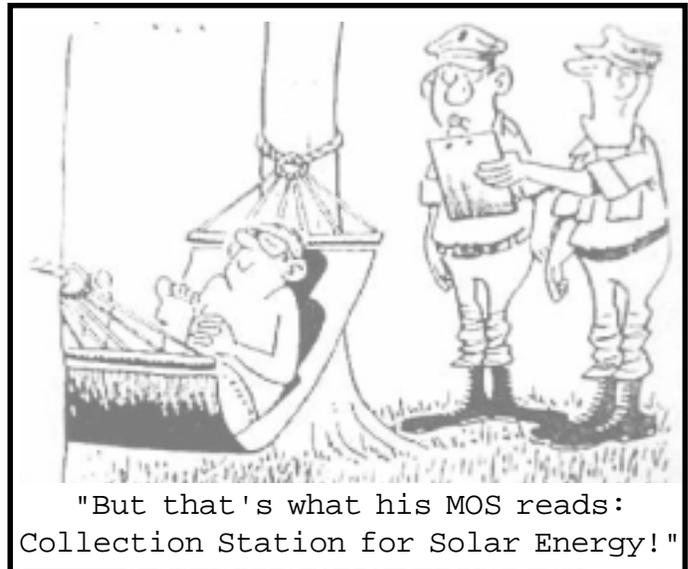
### Dining Facility Hours

Breakfast	0200-0400
Dinner	1230-1430



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

Staff Sgt. Tyrone King (left), and Spc. Steven Wasielewski protect their ears as they launch a 120-mm mortar shell. The Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 6 Field Artillery, 10th Infantry Division (Mountain), soldiers were taking part in a routine practice fire.



"But that's what his MOS reads:  
Collection Station for Solar Energy!"

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Questions or comments should be directed to: 1/501st Public Affairs Office. DNVN 580-3067.

Task Force Commander  
Editor

Lt. Col. Harry C. Glenn III  
Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

## Faith in the Word

By Chaplain (Capt.) Brad Lee  
TF 1-501 PIR Chaplain



Greetings to you my fellow Geronimos. By the time this makes print, our entire Task Force should have arrived at FOB Salerno. And hopefully by now, each of you has adjusted to Zulu time. Keeping track of Zulu, local and Alaska Time can be a bit confusing and hopefully by the time I get the hang of it we'll be redeploying.

All of you should know by now of our 3-month extension. Though I wasn't excited about the news, I wasn't surprised either as I'm sure many of you were not. I'm confident however, that we Geronimos will not only survive the length of our deployment, we will accomplish our mission with great success and will distinguish ourselves as the best to be deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom.

That having been said, it dawns upon me that there are several of you that have

been deployed to a combat zone before. There are many others, myself included, that have not. Regardless if this is your first or fifth combat deployment, we are at a unique time and place in history and we all face new and different dangers in this deployment.

In the few days before we left Alaska, I came across two verses in Proverbs that have given me great comfort and I hope they will you as well. "He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death" (Proverbs 14:26-7).

Regardless of your experience, age, or maturity, we all have experienced some dynamic of fear in coming to OEF. And while some fear is healthy in helping one stay mentally and emotionally

focused, the healthiest fear is genuine fear of the Lord. This fear is defined as holding in awe or reverence.

When we acknowledge the reality and presence of the Creator we cannot help but to experience awe and reverence. This fear becomes a source of strength and a fortress as we grow in the knowledge and confidence of God. And according to verse 26, our example of fearing the Lord is a refuge for our children and families as well. For those of you that have families, this should be of particular encouragement!

Ironically, verse 27 points out that fear of the Lord leads us to life, which turns us away from death. Death in this verse points more toward the spiritual death associated with sin and evil, not necessarily physical death which ultimately happens to us all.

For those of you that literally face death and danger during OEF, you can take courage in the fear of the Lord and have the confidence that whatever happens to you your soul and spirit are secure in the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth  
Chap. (Capt.) Brad Lee leads the congregation in Amazing Grace during the first service held in the new chapel.

Lord. The bottom line is this; if you are going to fear anything, fear God and He will be a refuge and a comfort to you in times of danger and distress.

It is my hope and prayer that as each of you settle into the rhythm of life here at FOB Salerno, you take the time to search your soul and spirit from whatever faith background you come from. Know that as your Chaplain, I pray for you daily and am always available to assist you in your spiritual journey whatever your faith may be. Blessings and Godspeed in the days ahead.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

**Mail Call:** FOB Salerno receives it's first big shipment of mail. LEFT: Staff Sgt. Jason Gray, Company A, sorts through the hundreds of letters for Task Force 1-501. BELOW: Soldiers sort the 2,700 pounds of mail into company piles.





## ASK MSG NORDSTROM

If you have a question for MSG Nordstrom, drop it off at the ALOC.

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

I was wondering, how did you enjoy your role as Gunnery Sergeant Highway in "Heartbreak Ridge"? Did you find it a natural character role?

Sincerely,

CPT Smartypants

CPT Smartypants,

Sir, well at least you've got your name right. In my day, a good NCO would have had you trained better so you'd know not to go asking stupid questions. Stop by the TOC and touch something and you'll see just how naturally I can put a boot in your 4<sup>th</sup> POC!

MSG N

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

I heard you might retire soon. Just wondering why you hadn't yet? There must be some age limit, right?

Respectfully,

SSG Wreck

Wreck,

Hell, I was going to get out until I met you. Now I've got to stay in

longer to try and get the Army straight again. When you leave, I will.

MSG N

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

I've noticed that it gets colder inside my tent than outside. Why is that?

Respectfully,

SPC Frozen

Frozen,

I think it has something to do with the combination of altitude, dry air, and latitude. Right. Son, I have no idea but I'm cold, too. Try this old TTP when sleeping. Get naked and lie down on a bunch of newspapers.

MSG N

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

I heard we were running low on rations and I noticed chow had suffered a bit as of late. Then I noticed that all of the dogs on the FOB had disappeared and we were suddenly having steak for every meal. Do you know anything about this?

Sincerely,

SGT Bellyache

BA,

You can't handle the truth. Just let that one go. Stay away from the "beef" jerky as well.

MSG N

### Afghan Way

Pashto phrases to know.

Hello	salaam-alay-kum
Please	meh-ra-baa-ne
Thank you	de-ra ma-nana
OK	ba-le / sa-hee
Yes	ba-le
No	nah
Stop	wo-da-n-ga
Hands up	laasuna por-ta-kra
Lie down	pre wo-za
We must	taa hat-man
search you	la-ta-wo

## Free Books/Mags

Books and magazines are available for your reading enjoyment at the Hard Rock Cafe. Once finished with them bring them back so that others may read them.

If you have any books or magazines you are through with, instead of throwing them away, recycle them at the Hard Rock Cafe. Help out your fellow task force soldiers.

## DROP ZONES

How many of the following WWII combat drop zones can you locate in the puzzle?

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Tafaraouni      | Cote d' Azur |
| Youks les Bains | Nijmegen     |
| El Djem         | Eindhoven    |
| Gela            | Manarawat    |
| Nadzab          | Tagaytay     |
| Paestum         | Corregidor   |
| Avellion        | Los Banos    |
| Normandy        | Wesel        |
| Noemfoor        | Aparri       |

