



## Geronimos help Afghans to vote

**Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth**

The Afghanistan people who suffered 23 years of oppression and forced leadership under the Soviets and Taliban are finally getting the opportunity to use their voice. They are using it to rebuild their country.

One of the building blocks in the reconstruction of Afghanistan is voting for a new government. Before a new president and his cabinet can be voted into office, people have to be registered.

Remnants of the Taliban regime, which was driven out of power in late 2001, have vowed to derail the election process. To help keep these militants in check in this region, Geronimos make weekly visits to the registration sites.

"Most of the sites haven't had any issues," said 2nd Lt. John Campbell, Company B's 2nd platoon leader. "Some of the sites had Taliban or ACM activity in the area prior to the voter registration, but not since they have been set up."

In the Khowst area, as

throughout Afghanistan, there have been "night letters" dropped off containing threats against anyone who works for the election process.

The Taliban and al-Qaeda have not made their presence known here as they have in other areas of Afghanistan, where there have been rocket attacks on the UN-led registration sites.

The Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan has invited United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to assist in the administration of the elections and the registration of all eligible Afghan citizens. The Coalition Forces and the United States are not involved in voter registration, but will continue to provide security of all Af-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

During a visit to a voter registration site in downtown Khowst, 2nd Lt. John Campbell, Co. B, talks with Mhuyodaen Dine about how the site was going. In the week and half that the site had been open more than 15,000 people had registered at his site, which is located at a boy's school.

ghan citizens.

According to Campbell, when he and his men go to the voter registration sites they are checking on a number of things to include the number of voters who have registered and if there have been any issues. What they have found is a positive reaction from the Afghans.

The vote was originally scheduled for this month, but was delayed to give more time for the country's 10 million eligible voters to reg-

ister, 4 million – one-third of them; women – have done so already. An average of 90,000 people register each day according to the UNAMA.

A person must be of Afghanistan descent (either mother or father Afghani), and be 18 by the day of the election in order to register.

So far in the Khowst area 76,000 Afghans have registered. According to Campbell the sites change

**See VOTE page 4**

## Salerno Happenings

### Finance/Postal are Here For Good

Finance and postal Soldiers have arrived at FOB Salerno. The finance office is temporarily located in tent OG4 and is open 0430z to 0930z Monday to Sunday. The post office will soon open in the building next to the PX. Watch for flyers for their grand opening and hours of operations.

## The World

### Bill To Repeal GI Bill Enrollment Fee

United States Representative Vic Snyder introduced a bill last Thursday that would repeal the \$1,200 Active Duty Montgomery G.I. Bill enrollment fee. Currently, persons participating in the G.I. Bill have their basic pay reduced by \$100 per month for the first year. Congressman Snyder's legislation, The Fairness in Veterans' Education Act (FIVE) of 2004, would significantly alter this pay system. Currently, the G.I. Bill pays enlistees up to \$985 per month for full time educational training. The benefit may be used any time up to 10 years after release from active duty, but in order to participate, enlistees must pay an "enrollment fee." According to Congressman Snyder, this fee is particularly burdensome for young servicemembers who are just beginning their careers in the military.

### Dancing Saddam a Baghdad best-seller

Iraqis used to dance to his tune, but in Baghdad toy shops a chubby, gun-toting Saddam Hussein doll now wiggles his hips to the "Hippy Hippy Shake." Toy stores around Baghdad are doing a quick trade in the foot-high, battery-powered dolls of the former president, which swing their hips to cheesy pop music. The likenesses of Saddam are decked out with hand grenades, daggers, a walkie-talkie, binoculars and an AK-47.

### Mailman reportedly will retire

A source close to Karl Malone said Wednesday the future Hall of Fame forward will retire. The decision would end a 19-year career for Malone — 18 with the Utah Jazz and one with the L.A. Lakers — and leave him as the second-leading scorer in NBA history with 36,928 points. Only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has more (38,387). Malone turns 41 on July 24. After a nearly injury-free career in Utah, Malone's first season with the Lakers was marred by pain. He avoided surgery following a knee injury in December, but missed 10 weeks of the season. Malone returned to the lineup in March, but the knee was never fully sound.

## FOB faces

### Why is it important to fight for freedom for others?

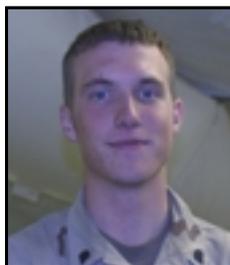


*It's important because they need to experience freedom just as much as we do because some usually don't cherish it as much.*

Pvt. First Class Donna Netherton  
Co. A, 528th Engineer Battalion

*While we often times take our own freedom as common place, many in the world have yet to experience the joy of being able to voice their own opinions.*

Spc Scott Weston  
Forward Support Company



*Some people are incapable of fighting for themselves, so I feel a responsibility to step up and do my best in their place.*

Spc. David Potter  
Company A, TF 1-501st PIR

*It's what Americans do. As the biggest dog on the block, it's our responsibility to help those that can't help themselves.*

Sgt. Kent Newland  
Company A, TF 1-501st PIR



# America's 228<sup>th</sup> Birthday A Time for Reflection

1SG Thomas S. Ballard  
HQ Company, TF 1-501st PIR

July the fourth is the day that our country's citizens celebrate the independence of the 13 colonies from the reign of King George the III of England in the year 1776.

It was on this day at the Pennsylvania State House (later renamed Independence Hall) in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that 56 men of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence to abdicate all ties with England.

The despotism of King George III had become so unbearable for the 13 fledgling colonies that, armed with the belief "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," these courageous souls set out on an undertaking that would forever change the history of the world.

It is important to remember that this country's independence was not a permanent reward for the perilous, yet relatively brief endeavors of our ancestors during the Revolutionary War. Our freedom has no guarantee, and peace is sometimes expensive.

The Revolutionary War only allowed us the opportunity to build and live in a country where all its citizens could enjoy life to the fullest. Through the 228 years of this nation's existence, we have fought for our freedoms and reaffirmed to the world that we stand behind our forefather's ideals and the foundation they laid for us.

From the earliest Revolutionary War battlefields such as Concord, Yorktown, Monmouth, and Saratoga this nation was established.

During the War of 1812, Americans fought at places such as Champlain, Horseshoe Bend, and Crysler's farm.

The Mexican-American war created battlefields such as Palo Alto, Vera Cruz, and Cerro Gordo.

Throughout the American Civil War, we fought for the freedom of a people and to keep our country united. Great fields of battle lay scattered across our country such as Bull Run, Antietam, Vicksburg, Gettysburg and Chickamauga serve as reminders of principles, morals and convictions gone astray.

The Spanish-American War brought Americans face to face with the enemy in fierce fighting such as that seen at the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba.

The great World Wars I and II saw the Americans give their all fighting across the globe. Places such as the Argonne Forest, Verdun, the Marne, the Battle of the Bulge, Anzio and Guadalcanal still harbor the spirits of American souls who did their best to keep our world free from oppression.

In more recent years we have seen the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom both in Afghanistan and the Philippines.

Let us not forget lesser known conflicts such the Dominican Republic, the Bay of Pigs, Beirut, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Haiti, Rwanda and Kosovo.

Our country's existence has not been easy and there will always be those who wish us harm. All threats, as in the past, must be met with dedication and commitment if we are to keep our country free. The nature of freedom is strength.

History is a very interesting subject in that it tells us not only what happened yesterday, but also what is likely to happen tomorrow.

What does this mean to us? Are we

doomed to meet the same fate as those before us such as the ancient Egyptians, Aztecs, Mayans, Romans and many more well established societies like the United States of America?

Historically speaking, our country is due to falter. Shocking?

Our country and our government are at risk every day from outside forces as well as those from within.

What will we do to keep our country and our way of life alive? Will we do it alone? Surely not.

Since the beginning of time, man has found strength in numbers, power in unity, and might in diversity.

Our country's enemies no longer come in force to our shores to wage war. Our enemies do not wear uniforms and they do not fight by a set doctrine.

They attempt to build influence by oppression and fear over people who have no means to protect and defend themselves. It is our duty as a world power to assist those less fortunate thereby helping to liberate them from

evil as well as gain their trust and confidence as allies.

When our service members engage in combat in little known countries throughout the world, when they die for no apparent reason, America wonders why.

One simply has to look into the history of America to see the answer clearly: **We have**

**no choice.**

On this day of festivity, as you enjoy the cookouts, entertainment and camaraderie, think deeply of what you actually celebrate.

Remember those who have provided you this opportunity and think of those who will undoubtedly be called upon to take up the torch in the future.

Be proud of the achievements of the United States of America, understand where we came from, thank God for your families and friends and have a great day. America earned it!



**Vote:** Cont. from page 1

location once all Afghans in that area are registered.

“It will be a big blow to the Taliban to have more than 51 percent of the people register, to say that they do not want the old ways,” Campbell said. His patrols to the sites show that the United States is committed to Afghanistan and “helping build rapport between our government and theirs.”

Task Force 1-501st PIR is not the only ones in the area striving to ensure that democracy flourishes in this arid country. Each site has armed guards, Afghan police as well as local citizens who do not want to see anything disrupt the process.

During the G8 Summit, at the beginning of June, Afghan President Hamid Karzai told world leaders that

more NATO security forces would be needed to ensure a free and fair election.

On June 15, President George W. Bush announced that the United States’ help in building democracy in Afghanistan will not end when the elections are complete. A training program for newly-elected Afghan politicians will be established to help them better serve those who elected them.

“You are making a difference now,” said Maj. Gen Eric T. Olson,



Photo by Spc. Colby Hover

A banner hangs outside a building marking the women's voter registration site in Sharkalay. One third of voters are female.

25th Infantry Division commanding general, told paratroopers of Co. B prior to a registration site visit. “What you are doing will be felt for scores and scores of years by the Afghan people.”

## COMMEMORATIVE GERONIMO SIG P226



- Initial price based upon demand (options additional cost)
- Base offer is 9MM (.357 and S&W 40 option available)
- Purchased online (date to be determined), delivered to a
- Sigarms dealer of choice
- No limit to the number purchased
- Must be 21 years old to purchase or have a sponsor purchase
- See your 1SG if interested



## Rocket Research

Sgt. First Class Timothy Andrews, Battery B, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, shoots an azimuth to determine where a rocket that landed on FOB Salerno was fired from. Staff Sgt. Michael Eastabrook, Bat. B, and an Afghanistan Militia Forces soldier check the crater for remains of the rocket.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

# Agency Correcting Afghanistan Maps

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service  
WASHINGTON - Mapmakers at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency have detected errors in topographic line maps of Afghanistan and are working to correct these mistakes, agency officials said.

The maps are the 1-to-50,000 ratio charts commonly used by infantrymen, combat controllers and engineers. The problems involve place names in Afghanistan and possibly Pakistan, officials said. The maps were produced since 2002.

Agency spokesman David Burpee said agency officials identified instances where place names do not appear on the maps, and where the place names are imprecisely placed on the maps. Further investigation revealed the agency's Geographic Names Data Base also contains place-name discrepancies.

The agency discovered the discrepancies in mid-June.

"We notified DoD, Joint Chiefs of Staff and commercial and international partners of our findings," Burpee said.

There have been no reports of real troubles due to the place name anomalies, officials said. They do present the potential for confusion, but no service member has reported a serious issue with the maps. In fact, aside from the place-name discrepancies, other information on the maps - such as grid-coordinate data, topography and road networks - "is the best available and continues to be used by customers," Burpee said.

The agency already has begun correcting the errors on the maps. The first of the revised maps will be available in "weeks, not months," said officials. The agency has formed a team of analysts to review and correct the maps based on operational priorities.

The agency will continue to update users and overseers as soon as more information becomes available, officials said.



## Comedy tour stops at FOB

Soldiers, Marines and Airmen at FOB Salerno got a midweek break when comics on a USA tour made a stop at the base. Peter Berman (right) and Dan Smith, who have both been on HBO and Comedy Central, entertained the troops. Their jokes about trick or treating in rural Texas and tailer parks in Missouri gave the service members a chance to relax and not worry about patrols (above).



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

# Teamwork key to mission completion

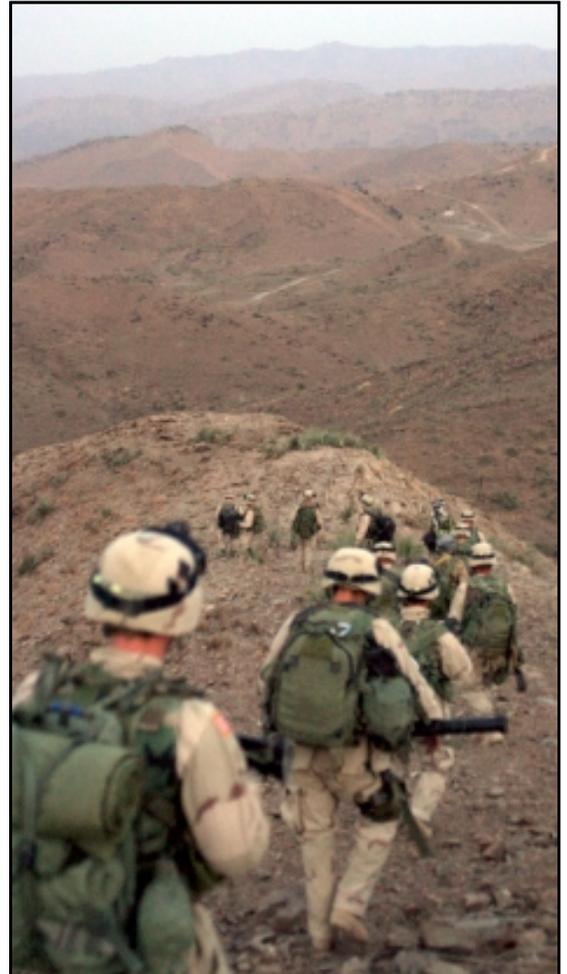
Task Force 1-501st Parachute Infantry Regiment's recent mission to stop al Qaeda from coming across the Afghanistan/Pakistan border fell to Company A which sent a platoon to Border Checkpoint 4. Their mission would not have been possible though without the cooperation of all units in the Task Force .



**CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW:** Spc. Eddie Kinsey, Forward Support Company works on a HMMWV at Border Checkpoint 4. Co. A Soldiers, HQ Co. mortarmen and Afghanistan Militia Force soldiers walk towards their observation post on top of the mountain in front of them. Staff Sgt. Martin Reinhardt and other Soldiers transfer MREs and water to a Co. A vehicle. Soldiers from Co. B, FSC and Detachment D pass by Afghan children during the resupply mission for Co. A and Battery B, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, which was set up to support Co. A with their 105mm howitzers.



**CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT:** Co. A Soldiers scan the valley adjacent to their observation post after hearing a gunshot. The single shot was likely a farmer killing a goat or other livestock, according to one of the AMF soldiers. After a night on the mountain the soldiers head back towards their vehicles. In front of them is BCP 4 and Pakistan. The Geronimos make their way along a rocky hillside on their way to their mountain top OP. Battery F, 7th Field Artillery, 25th Infantry Division have their 120mm mortars (foreground) set up along the ridgeline which is BCP 4. Other task force elements are staged along the road behind them.



**PHOTOS BY  
STAFF SGT.  
JEFF TROTH**



# ASK MSG NORDSTROM

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

Now be careful with these creatures. You don't want to let them sink their choppers into you. One bite, and they can temporarily paralyze you. And from what I hear a couple sergeants can now be called SGT Stubbs. The lizard is safe, and full.  
MSGN



Dear MSGN

Why do we have stop and yield signs on Salerno? Aren't we in a combat zone? Sincerely, Stopped on Salerno

Dear SS,

We got them because some people, OK a lot of people on this base do not have the common sense or courtesy to give the right of way to other vehicles or people. Plus if you haven't noticed we are a little bit bigger than a forward operating base nowadays, I guess we ought to call this place SAF (Salerno Air Field).

MSGN

Dear MSGN

I have heard a lot of scampering around my tent, but when I look outside all I see is a blur of tan scurrying around the corner of the tent. Do you know what is stalking outside my tent?  
Signed, Scared of Noises

Dear Scaredy pants

What you are hearing outside your tent is a lizard that was here way before we got to this beautiful country.

Dear MSGN

The other day in the DFAC I overheard some guys at the next table saying that our extension was back on. If this is true, why?  
Signed, I Wanna Go Home

Dear Whaaaambulance Driver,

Stop listening to rumors. What you hear in the chow hall or in the latrine is from people that don't have all the facts. You know who you get your marching orders from -- your first sergeant. Disregard anything that does not come

from him. He will let you know if our country still needs us here.  
MSGN

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

Why are the steaks at the DFAC not chewable? I have lost several pounds due to the lack of edible food.  
Signed, Longing for Outback

Dear Picky Eater,

What do you mean the food isn't edible? I have no problem with the steak once I slap in my titanium teeth. This food is much better than the hard tack we had when I was a private. If you don't think the DFAC has good food -- eat MREs three times a day.  
MSGN

Dear MSG Nordstrom,

I heard that the Army is activating all of the Inactive Ready Reserve due to the operations here in Afghanistan and Iraq. Is this going to effect my ETS?  
Respectfully, Hoping to be a Civilian

Dear Out of Luck,

Here we go with the rumors again. I hope you haven't been spreading that around, because it is not true. I am glad you came to me for the straight poop. Not all the IRR is being called up, just about 5,600 of them.

Currently the MOSs that they are short on are engineers, logisticians, medical, transportation and military police. So if you hold one of these don't make any long term plans when you get out.  
MSGN



## 4th of JULY

How many of the following 4th of July can you locate in the puzzle?

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| AMERICA       | PARADE        |
| BBQ           | PATRIOTISM    |
| BOTTLE ROCKET | PICNIC        |
| FIREWORKS     | ROMAN CANDLES |
| FLAGS         | SPARKLER      |
| FREEDOM       | STARS         |
| INDEPENDENCE  | STRIPES       |
| JUSTICE       | UNCLE SAM     |
| LIBERTY       | WATERMELON    |