

Special Forces: Day Eighteen

Basic Training: Unit Three

Joint Operations

Multinational Forces

My last overseas assignment was at a NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) headquarters in Naples, Italy. Armed Forces South (AFSOUTH) had representatives from several nations, and from all military branches within those nations. I learned a lot about multinational corporations while working on a college degree and have received first hand experience since retirement from the Army. We have seen UN (United Nations) and NATO operations across the globe. Forces from some nations seem to have majority representation in these kinds of operations and seem to be doing most of the work.

As Christians, we are members of a multinational organization that has greater potential than anything mere governments and world powers can dream up!

Key Verse:

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:13-16 (NKJV)

Interesting words from Jesus to his disciples. He didn't tell his closest followers what they could be, but what they were. I guess you could say that Christians are members of God's Salt and Light Company (GSLC, Inc.) That's quite an honor!

However, Jesus also told them that it's possible to be the sort of salt that is only good for melting ice on an icy sidewalk, and hidden candles that don't help anyone else see. How and why we become useless salt are worthy topics I won't talk about right now, but I will ask a question we all have probably asked at one time or another. Where am I supposed to be this salt and light? I think I'll let a passage from Luke's gospel provide us with a clue. A couple of groups of federal employees asked John the Baptist.

Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"

And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."

Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?"

So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages." Luke 3:12-14 (NKJV)

It looks to me like the preacher told them to act right in their current professions. Sometime later Jesus even commended a Roman soldier for his faith, but didn't say anything about needing to change jobs!

Check out Luke 7:1-10 for the rest of that story.

So What!

Jesus said that I am a 'GSLC, Inc.' employee whether I want the position or not, and wherever I hang my hat or earn a paycheck. My saltiness and brightness depends on how well Jesus (the REAL salt and light) expresses himself through me.