

'Keeping Tabs'

Issue 6, 2 Mar 08



27th Brigade Combat Team --- Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII

Forward Operating Base Patriot, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Headquarters Completes Staff Exercise – The 'Big One' is Next

Following the sixth week of post mobilization training for members of the 27th Brigade Combat Team at Forward Operating Base Patriot at Fort Bragg, NC the brigade headquarters has completed its third staff exercise. Next up is the brigade-wide evaluation known as the ARTEP that will last several days. The entire task force will be stressed day and night under simulated combat conditions as a culminating training event. First U.S. Army trainers use role players and inject events and problems that Soldiers and leaders at various levels must respond to. News organizations from New York have been invited to come to Fort Bragg and be embedded with their local during the evaluation period 9-12 March and several have already signed on.

Key Leader Engagement

Lieutenant Colonel Dave Dunkle, the commander of the SECFOR Battalion – the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry from Buffalo -- escorts "Kahn Wafa" the leader of the local "Braggistan" community of Dari Village. A Dari translator walks beside the colonel as they speak and they are also accompanied by other staff and a base security team. A meeting took place on the FOB to discuss humanitarian support for Dari Village as



part of the ongoing mission of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix. The meeting was held during the command post exercise and is designed to prepare the troops for the mission ahead. Planning and conducting humanitarian support will be one of the many missions the task force will perform. Understanding the culture and being able to communicate and work with local leaders is an important skill receiving emphasis during the training at Fort Bragg.

Morning Mount Up

Private First Class Ting Kuei from Queens, NY climbs to the gunner's station of his humvee as his unit lines up for the day's mission. The immigrant from Taiwan and part time college student is looking forward to getting his U.S. citizenship. Also in the crew is driver PFC Francisco Valesquez from Brooklyn and SPC Steven Bennett from Seneca Falls in upstate NY. The Soldiers are assigned to SECFOR Bravo which was formed from the Fighting 69th Infantry based in Manhattan.



Map Brief

Staff Sergeant Ed Winkowski from Boston is among 17 volunteers from the Massachusetts National Guard to Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII. These Soldiers only recently returned from a deployment to Kosovo. The Soldiers are assigned to Headquarters Company SECFOR, which is based in Buffalo. Sergeant Winkowski goes over route and mission plans with Staff Sergeant David Smith from Niagara Falls. Also participating is Staff Sergeant Ronald Horn from Erie, PA who usually drills with his NY unit in Jamestown.

FOB Life

Soldiers are looking forward to the end of training and a short leave prior to overseas movement. Some Soldiers scheduled for advance tams have become to take their leave. For most, that means going home to see their families. Other families plan to come down to Fort Bragg during the third week to see their loved one, take a family break together and remain for the send off ceremony on 27 March.

Keeping Tabs –

Is a weekly electronic newsletter produced by the HQ 27th BCT Public Affairs Section for family members and friends back home and is available on-line through the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs website at www.dmna.state.ny.us For more information contact the DMNA Public Affairs Office at (518) 786-4581.