

The Orion Leader

27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team



Annual Training Newsletter

Issue 1

14 June 2007

Happy Birthday U.S. Army!

232 Years of Service

27th kicks-off AT 2007 'We're Back!'

Nearly 2,000 members of the New York Army National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and supporting units and personnel are on post to conduct an aggressive Annual Training period that for many will stretch to three weeks.



Participating units include the Syracuse-based brigade headquarters, the Fighting 69th and 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry, the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry, the 258th Field Artillery the 27th Brigade Sustainment and the 427th Support Battalions. In anticipation of a future mission, dozens of new Orion officers and enlisted Soldiers have and continue to be transferred in from the state headquarters, 106th Regional Training Institute, 42nd Infantry Division and 53rd Troop Command units.

"The 27th has entered an exciting new period as we prepare for an important future mission," said COL Brian Balfe, brigade commander. "We have much to accomplish over the next few weeks and every Soldier must be focused on preparing now for the challenges ahead. I am proud of each and every Orion Soldier and grateful to all for volunteering to serve our nation, state and communities here in the Guard."

Key training events include infantry security force, live fire, support operations and for the first time a special external evaluation of selected 108th Infantry Soldiers assigned to a terror response team dubbed "CERFP" (pronounced SERF-PEE.) In short, the team will respond to a potential future terrorist attacks in New York where a chemical, biological or radiological weapon has been used. For the last year, Soldiers of the 108th have been intensely training and will be evaluated on 17 June on their ability to conduct Search and Rescue operations in a "hot zone" and decontaminate victims. Following the unit's validation, the CERFP will remain in a ready status over the next year, subject to call up in the event of a state emergency.

From Command Sergeant Major David Piwowarski

Welcome to all Soldiers and to those entering the 27th. If you are a part of Task Force Phoenix or helping to train the task force you are a part of the largest operation that the 27th will conduct since World War II. The focus of our mission is to mentor the military and police of Afghanistan so that they can conduct sustained and independent operations to defeat terrorists.

Any available training time should be taken advantage of. On some days you may or may not train/validate late into the evening, and changes to the training schedule may open other time. Make sure that you have a T&E BN rep, the right sign in roster and be in the right uniform when validating any training -- to task, condition and standard OR YOU WILL DO IT AGAIN. The T & E BN is working with us and will work with you. Discuss any issues that you have with them, up front. Orion!

SAFETY MESSAGE:

Conduct Risk Assessments for appropriate training. Monitor hydration and conduct PCIs Vehicle accidents are the most common cause for Soldier injuries. Use ground guides, obey all speed limits. Soldiers must be in the proper uniform and seat belted. THE NO-ALCOHOL POLICY IS IN EFFECT.

UNIFORM GUIDANCE:

Cantonment area inside the FOB (the vicinity of the barracks and mess hall that your unit is assigned to out to the EST trainer) uniform is ACU/BDU, weapon (cleared) and either a patrol cap or boonie hat with rank (pin-on or sewn-on). The alternate/off duty uniform is the APFU. No civilian clothing is authorized.

Outside of cantonment area or in/on a vehicle outside the FOB, uniform is ACU/BDU, helmet, weapon, body armor complete with pouches and camel back, or LBE complete if you do not have body armor. A camel back may be worn with the LBE as well. The arrangement of pouches may be set for the comfort and function of each Soldier as long as it presents a military appearance. Set pouches up, so you can move, shoot and load your weapon. If you carry an M4 you need pouches for 6 magazines and a 1st aid pouch minimal. Soldiers will wear body armor for all field tasks. LBE is by BCT SOP if you are using it. Berets will be worn on main post, outside of the FOB including Nash Blvd and all PXs in accordance with Fort Drum policy.

This Date in Orion History 14 to 16 June 1944

Northern and Southern Attack forces began preparatory bombardment of the island of Saipan as the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions and the Army's 27th Division awaited the assault order. The Marines landed the next day and suffered nearly 2,000 casualties along the heavily defended beaches. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 27th Division's 165th Infantry Regiment (Fighting 69th) landed during the early morning hours of 16 June and was attached to the 4th Marine Division. The 165th passed through the 3rd Battalion 24th Marines and took up positions in preparation for an attack on the Aslito Airfield.

Weather Report 14-16 June

Overnight Lows 59 degrees, Day time highs in the mid to high 70's each day. Partly cloudy Thursday and Friday. Mostly clear on Saturday.