

# 'Keeping Tabs'

Issue 10, 7 Apr 08



**27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team --- Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII**

*Forward Operating Base Patriot, Fort Bragg, North Carolina*

## Movement into Theater



Members of Chalk 4 load rucksacks aboard a box truck at Camp Patriot, Fort Bragg, NC for movement to Pope Air Force Base in preparation for an overseas flight.

rest and prepare for the last leg of the trip into Afghanistan. The long journey that lasted for hours will ultimately bring them all to Camp Phoenix near Kabul, Afghanistan. Some will remain there while others will be pushed out to other Forward Operating Bases.

Hundreds of 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team troops began movement into the Area of Operations during the first week of April. In a series of flights built around "force packages" also referred to as "chalks," members of the Headquarters Company 27<sup>th</sup> BCT, the Security Force and Logistical Task Force battalions, and the Training Assistance Group were flown out from Fort Bragg, NC. The team was moved in a series of flights, some flying days apart from each other and others within hours. The route took most through civilian airports in Bangor, Maine and Leipzig, Germany before moving on to military bases in Kuwait or elsewhere in Southwest Asia. The Soldiers will have a chance to



At left, Platoon SGT Fernando Gonzalez of SECFOR Bravo "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry" displays one of hundreds of donated shaving kits from a Hudson Valley-based Jewish War Vets post. At right, three members of Headquarters Company SECFOR play chess at the Green Ramp at Pope Air Force Base while waiting for their flight. From left to right are PFC Salvatore Fiore, PV2 Timothy Poirer and SPC Joseph Barber.



### Warm Welcome in Bangor

1LT Amy Fires gets the glad hand from a member of the Bangor, Maine Veterans Greeters as a line of 27<sup>th</sup> BCT and U.S. Marines enters the airport terminal. The plane both groups were sharing on their trip bound for Kuwait made a scheduled stop there to refuel. The troops were able to get off for about two hours before flying on to Germany. The vet greeters at the Bangor Airport are famous for the hospitality and support shown to the troops who pass through to and from theater. Among the services is the free use of cell phones from inside the Vet Center in order to call loved ones. The walls are covered with flags, drawings and messages of support.



### Morning Formation in Kuwait

Master SGT Neil Jordan leads a formation of Headquarters Company, 27<sup>th</sup> BCT troops at a morning formation at Camp Virginia, Kuwait. The troops arrived there around dinner time the day before and the troops were using the time to recover from the long flight and get ready for the last leg of the journey – the flight into Afghanistan. Most would stay there about two days but some would be leaving only 24 hours after they arrived.

### Keeping Tabs –

*Is a weekly electronic newsletter produced by the HQ 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.dmna.state.ny.us) For more information contact the DMNA Public Affairs Office at (518) 786-4581.*