

'Keeping Tabs'

Issue 2, 3 Feb 08



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

Forward Operating Base Patriot, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

The 27th Completes Second Week Training at Fort Bragg

Nearly 1400 members of the 27th Brigade Combat Team completed its second week at Forward Operating Base Patriot at Fort Bragg, NC on Sunday, February 3 – Super Bowl Sunday! During the last week troops conducted weapons qualification, diagnostic physical fitness tests, cultural training and the brigade headquarters staff began command post training focusing on their role as Headquarters Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix in Afghanistan.

Combat Rehearsal

Ssg Eric Dieumegard of SECFOR Charlie leads a section on reflex fire practice. "I want the guys to get used to moving and engaging with their weapon," he said. "A lot of us have overseas experience so we are trying to spread it down to the others," said CPL Michael Ponzi also with SECFOR Charlie who conducted room clearing procedures nearby. Both men are members of Co B Fighting 69th Infantry from Bayshore, Long Island. More than 300 members of the Fighting 69th are deploying as part of CJTF VII and many have combat experience from their deployment to Iraq in 2004-5.



FOB Life

The troops have settled into the daily routine, which includes morning physical training, preventive maintenance on vehicles and for members of the Security Force and Logistical Task Force battalions – convoy movement to training areas off the FOB.

A number of Soldiers have come down with a virus, leaving them with coughs, sneezes, fevers and general malaise. Dubbed the "Patriot Plague," the brigade surgeon and camp first aid station have handed out aspirin and cold medicines and said that treating the symptoms is the only thing to do and it will all pass in just a few days.

Super Bowl Party

Colonel Brian K. Balfe, the commander of the 27th BCT set aside time at the end of the day on Sunday, February 3 for the troops to watch the Super Bowl and enjoy all the trimmings of a Super Bowl Party, including chicken wings, hamburgers, corn dogs, soft drinks and more. Direct TV hook ups were set up in dining facilities, command posts and other sites at FOB Patriot and at FOB Latham nearby for members of the task force's Training Assistance Group. The troops trained all day, but at 1600 it wrapped up so that the troops could settle in to enjoy the game.

Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix Super Bowl Facts and Ironies

- The Task Force name is Phoenix – the Super Bowl was played in Phoenix, AZ
- The 27th BCT is from New York – home state of the New York Giants.
- The Forward Operating Base at Fort Bragg is called Patriot – the New England Patriots also played.
- Many members of the task force come from Albany -- the New York Giants conduct pre-season training at the State University of New York in Albany.
- More than 350 Soldiers assigned to the task force come from New York City – considered home town for the New York Giants (which actually holds its home field games at the Meadowlands Stadium in New Jersey.)
- Many other members of the task force were assigned from the New York National Guard state headquarters based in Latham, New York – the second FOB at Fort Bragg is called “Latham.”
- Our commander was born and raised in Cornwall, New York – but has resided in Boston, Massachusetts since 1996.

Sending Mail to Your Soldier

Here is the correct address when shipping packages to your loved one assigned to the 27th BCT. Remember – the troops cannot receive packages marked “For Any Soldier.” They should only receive packages from people they know. And packages should not be too large. There is a limited ability to carry packages from the post office on base out to the training area and Soldiers have only so much space near their bunks in the tents.

2125th GSU
Attn: 27th BCT (Include Soldier's Name without rank and include unit here)
A-3280 Butner Road
Fort Bragg, NC 28310-7500

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.