

‘Keeping Tabs’

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

Forward Operating Base Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan

End of tour nears for some

CAMP PHOENIX, KABUL – Dozens of New York National Guard troops who were mobilized last September for service in Afghanistan are nearing the end of the tour. More than 230 Soldiers assigned to security force platoons have finished almost 10 months of duty. Several have volunteered to stay longer. But most are looking forward to rejoining loved ones at home, knowing they contributed to a vital mission under difficult and dangerous conditions. Many, like members of Company A, 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry were assigned to Police Mentoring Teams, serving “down range” to develop the Afghan National Police.

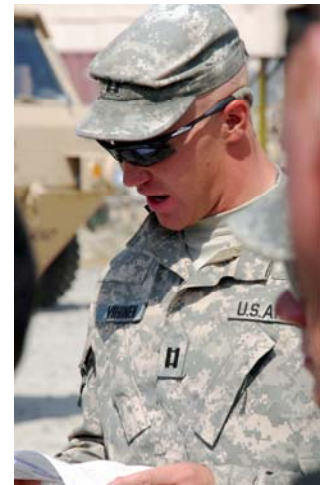


In the top photo, SSG Dan Markle from Irondequoit adjusts the .50 cal machinegun on the team’s MRAP while CPT Kelsey Aaron of the TX National Guard prepares to lead the convoy. Above left, humvee gunner SPC Todd Fleenor from Ithaca, vehicle commander SGT Ryan Spink from Hamburg and driver SPC Philip Burns from Batavia are ready. At bottom right, driver SPC Donald Yott from Rochester is shown seconds before departure.



'Conop'

All convoy movements are deliberate and planned. Here members of SECFOR Bravo, comprised of Fighting 69th Soldiers from New York City assigned to the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry participate in a convoy briefing issued by their commander, CPT Eric Vihinen from Warwick, NY who previously served in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division as a platoon leader.



Keeping Tabs –

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