

'Keeping Tabs'

Issue 32, 9 September 08



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

Forward Operating Base Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan

Preparing for 9-11 remembrance

CAMP PHOENIX, KABUL –

Men and women of the New York National Guard who served at Ground Zero are commemorating the terrorist attacks of 9-11, 2001 from Afghanistan this year. A ceremony is planned at Camp Phoenix in Kabul on 11 September, timed to coincide with the first plane strike at the World Trade Center, 8:46 a.m. Eastern Time.

CJTFP has produced a video message to remind Americans about the terrorist attacks of 9-11, 2001 and the significance of Patriot Day. Colonel Brian K. Balfe, the task force commander and commander of New York's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team delivered a "Never forget" message flanked by a team of National Guard, active duty service members from all branches and



Members of CJTFP, including Soldiers of the New York National Guard and coalition allies stand together in Camp Phoenix's Patriot Square for the recording of a special public service message for Patriot Day 2008. SPC John Smith videotaped the message and CBS News cameraman Richard Butler was there to capture the moment.

Romanian allies from Camp Phoenix. The video includes footage of New York National Guard personnel at the World Trade Center site on 9-11 and members serving in Afghanistan.

More than 1700 members of New York's 27th Brigade are serving in CJTFP, with the mission to mentor and train the Afghan National Army and Police, and provide assistance to the Government of Afghanistan and its people. The task force is led by 27th IBCT commander Colonel Brian K. Balfe, who took over command last April 26. The task force is comprised of nearly 9,500 service men and women from all U.S. branches, coalition partners and civilian

professionals distributed at nearly 260 Forward Operating Bases throughout Afghanistan.

"The New York National Guard is the only part of America's military team that has literally gone from Ground Zero to the Sunni Triangle and is now here amid the mountains of Afghanistan," said Col. Balfe. "Soldiers from this brigade were among the very first to respond to the attacks and served at the World Trade Center on 9-11 and for weeks later. At least a third of the team that came from New York has also already served in Iraq," he said. "For those of us who were there, served at Ground Zero, 9-11 is deeply personal."



Photo left, PFC John Gallup from Saratoga Springs sprints to the finish line carrying the unit guidon of Company C, 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry during a 9-11 Commemorative Run held on September 6th at Camp Blackhorse located at the Aghan National Army base at Pol-e-charki. First Lieutenant Jared Jensen from Ballston Spa runs alongside. Photo right, visiting 82nd Airborne Division veteran and most awarded division Soldier in World War II LTC (ret) James "Maggie" Megellas speaks to a crowd of troops during a reception at the Camp Phoenix dining facility also on September 6th. "Maggie" was among American troops who conducted an assault river crossing in Holland as depicted in the movie "A Bridge too far."

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