

# 'Keeping Tabs'

Issue 4, 18 Feb 08



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

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

### **Fourth Week of Training at Fort Bragg Done – Approaching the Mid Way Point**

Members of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII have completed four weeks of post mobilization training at Fort Bragg, NC and are approaching the mid way point in their assignment here. There is a lot of training left and a culminating tactical exercise that will last several days. Troops are looking forward to completing the training over the next few weeks, taking a short break to see family members once more and then getting on with the deployment and the mission. Plans are underway for a formal send off ceremony at Fort Bragg near the end of March. Details will be shared in a future edition.



#### **Shoot House Sharp Shooter**

Ssg Christine Cullinan of the J-2 section, takes on targets that emerge from windows and doors on a special range that simulates urban situations and the threats posed by gunmen who could spring forth to fire upon friendly forces. The range gives Soldiers the chance to practice combat shooting skills and help develop “muscle memory” and quick reaction capabilities under dangerous conditions.



#### **Satellite Tech**

SGT Benjamin Gardiner of the J-2 Intell Section installs the Global Broadcasting System for the Headquarters Tactical Operations Center.

## **FOB Life**

Members of the 27<sup>th</sup> have been sharing life at FOB Patriot with other units heading to Afghanistan to serve as Provincial Reconstruction Teams, which are not part of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix. Most of these personnel were at the FOB before the 27<sup>th</sup> arrived and have been pulling out this week as their training has come to an end.

Now members of the 27<sup>th</sup> are required to assume base security duties that were being performed by the PRT troops. This includes perimeter security and operating Entry Control Points through which training convoys and administrative traffic flow daily on and off the FOB.

As part of physical conditioning, members of the task force are conducting distance road marches wearing full gear and body armor. Over the last few weeks, the troops have completed 3, 4 and 5 mile road marches. All units are focused on completing 8 mile marches within the next two weeks.

Typical weather has been cool mornings, warm days in the 50-60 degree range and the temperature drops to the 30s and 40s when the sun goes down in the evening. It rained only on a few days, but some days have been very windy.

Soldiers have been issued cold and wet weather gear and routinely layer themselves for each training day. The body armor also serves to trap body heat, so Soldiers must be careful not to over dress for the heat of the training day.

## **Repeat: Sending Mail to Your Soldier**

Here is the correct address when shipping packages to your loved one assigned to the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 Soldier have only so much space near their bunks in the tents.

2125<sup>th</sup> GSU

Attn: 27<sup>th</sup> BCT (Include Soldier’s Name without rank and include unit here)

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## ***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.***