

‘Keeping Tabs’

Issue 5, 27 Feb

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

Forward Operating Base Patriot, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Five Weeks of Training Done – Past Half-Way!

Post mobilization training for members of the 27th Brigade Combat Team at Forward Operating Base Patriot at Fort Bragg, NC has reached and moved past the half-way point and Soldiers are looking forward to the end. In the few weeks remaining, the brigade will be challenged during a culminating event known as an ARTEP – an evaluated exercise spread across many days. As part of the experience, news organizations from New York have been invited to come to Fort Bragg and be embedded with their local unit training here. Several news organizations have already signed on and more are expected to participate inside the period of 9-12 March.

Ambush in Freedom City

Members of Headquarters Company 27th Brigade Combat Team react to an insurgent ambush during urban operations training in a simulated village. During the scenario, the Soldiers entered the village in their M1025 High Mobility Multi Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) as part of a “presence patrol” through a friendly village. An enemy sniper suddenly opened fire and the Soldiers had to respond



and take out the threat. The purpose of the training is to help the Soldiers practice battle skills in response to enemy contact. While members of the brigade headquarters are generally not expected to perform such tasks in battle because of their other specialized duties, all members of the force undergo the same training to develop the skills that may be needed for all contingencies.

Practice Grenade

First Lieutenant Kyle Slocum, a police officer from Buffalo, prepares to toss a practice grenade inside a concrete room at a special range intended to help prepare Soldiers for urban operations. Soldiers had to demonstrate proper handling and throwing procedures in practice before being given the chance to throw a “live one.” LT Slocum is assigned to the brigade headquarters J6 communications section.



Detonation!

A live grenade goes off inside the grenade pit during urban operations training and members of the 27th BCT take cover. After practicing with training grenades, members of the 27th were given an opportunity to throw a live grenade and validate on proper handling and throwing procedures. Each blast included a heart-thumping concussion followed by a shower of dirt and debris.

FOB Life

Soldiers have become accustomed to the daily routine and are immersed in their training. Everyone is looking forward to the end of training and a short leave prior to overseas movement. For most, that means going home to see their families. Some families plan to come down to Fort Bragg to see their loved one, take a family break in the region and remain for the send off ceremony on 27 March.

Repeat : Sending Mail to Your Soldier

2125th GSU

Attn: 27th 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 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.