

# 'Keeping Tabs'

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

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

### **ARTEP is Here**

At the end of the seventh week of post mobilization training at Fort Bragg, NC members of the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team are deep in their culminating evaluated training event known as the ARTEP. The brigade-wide exercise began on Thursday and runs through Saturday 15 March. The entire task force is operating under combat conditions within a tactical scenario based on the Afghanistan operational area of responsibility. Dozens of trainers from First U.S. Army are serving as Observer-Controller-Trainers and role players, and are challenging all levels of command down to the individual Soldier throughout the day and night. News media representatives from Rochester, Albany and New York City have come to cover the action impacting on their local unit. Brigade leaders received encouragement for their efforts under pressure from exercise leaders during an interim after action review during a short break in the action Sunday evening.

### **Medic Prep**

SGT David Chapin from Rochester prepares his medic kit during pre-combat checks as the 27<sup>th</sup> BCT prepares for the ARTEP. He has volunteered for his third overseas deployment. He served in Iraq in 2005 with Troop E, 101<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, in 2006-7 with the 466th Medical Company and is now deploying to Afghanistan with the 27<sup>th</sup>. He is a medic assigned to HQ Platoon, Co C, SECFOR.





### **'Coined' by the Boss**

SGT Holger Arguello of SECFOR Charlie is "coined" by COL Brian K. Balfe, the brigade commander at Patrol Base London during the ARTEP at Fort Bragg. SGT Arguello is the commander of a gun truck and crew and his actions under simulated combat caught the attention of COL Balfe, who awarded the NCO his personal challenge coin during a break at the secured base out in the field. SGT Arguello's unit is part of the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry assigned to the Bayshore Armory on Long Island. Receiving the commander's Challenge Coin is an honor Soldiers look forward to as recognition for their efforts.

### **FOB Life during ARTEP**

Conditions on FOB Patriot during ARTEP have heated up. Random simulated mortar attacks have sent Soldiers scrambling to simulated bunkers in the middle of the night. There are insurgent attacks at the base Entry Control Points and "wounded" Soldiers get immediate aid to include intravenous fluids and simulated life saving care. In the photo, SGT Phillip Ng holds an IV bottle as combat life saver SSG John Delles from Headquarters Company 27<sup>th</sup> BCT finishes taping the line to MAJ Gregory Brown's arm. The action took place during Base Defense training just before the ARTEP began. At left, SPC Victor Pagan, also with Headquarters Company provides updated information on the patient's condition. The action comes to an end on March 15<sup>th</sup>.



### **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.*