

'Keeping Tabs'

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

Forward Operating Base Patriot, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

ARTEP is Over – Leave Comes Next!

The 27th BCT has completed the evaluated exercise successfully and training is nearly over. Eight weeks have gone by since the unit arrived at Fort Bragg, NC for post mobilization training. On Saturday 15 March, convoys returned to the Forward Operating Base from “patrol bases” that had been established under the training scenario. The day before, the FOB was attacked by insurgents using mortars and a suicide vehicle bomber at one of the gates. But the team was ready due to good intelligence which predicted the enemy actions. Medics, combat Life Savers and litter teams sprang into action in response to simulated casualties from the enemy fire. Army trainers praised the brigade’s performance Saturday evening during the After Action Review. One retired Command Sergeant Major who was brought in to help with the training and mentor NCO leaders noted how much the team had learned in the short weeks it had trained at Fort Bragg. “Watching the mass casualty exercise was like watching a graduation ceremony – everything worked like clock-work,” said Command Sergeant Major (retired) Dwight Brown.



Litter Team

A litter team from “Charlie Med” (Company C Logistical Task Force) evacuates a simulated wounded Soldier from the casualty collection site following mortar attacks on FOB Patriot on Friday 14 March – the last day of the exercise. The casualty was loaded aboard a unit humvee ambulance that waited outside. At front is PFC James Gusky, behind and to the left is SPC Elizabeth Bradley and to the right is PV2 Tiffany Fridley.

Marine Pick Up

A SECFOR patrol secures a convoy sent to an airfield to pick up advance elements of Marines coming in to join the task force and help train the “Braggistan” police. The mission took place in the middle of the ARTEP. The scenario was based on the developing real world story of more than 3200 U.S. Marines that will soon be reinforcing U.S. forces in Afghanistan. The Marines will become a part of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII and are expected to arrive in theater at some point during the 27th BCT tour in theater.



FOB Life during ARTEP

Despite tactical conditions, the mail keeps coming – but not for much longer. The last day to ship mail to Fort Bragg was 15 March. Delivery after that can't be certain given the limited time left before overseas movement and new units are arriving at the FOB to begin training. MAJ Dan Dudziak, a Physician's Assistant assigned to Headquarters Company SECFOR sorts through his latest deliveries. Behind him is SPC Jesse Lewis, also of HHC SECFOR.



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.