

'Keeping Tabs'

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

Forward Operating Base Patriot, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Moving Out!

Everything is over at Fort Bragg except the clean up. Nearly 1800 family members were on hand for the send off ceremony on Thursday 27 March. Now the Soldiers are packing up and leaving. Pulling out is done in sequence and details are sensitive, but groups will begin to fly out of Fort Bragg immediately and start off on the long journey that will ultimately bring them to Afghanistan. The mission will finally begin.



Send Off Ceremony Highlights

A spectacular send off ceremony was held for the 27th BCT at Seay Field, Fort Bragg on Thursday 27 March. More than 1300 hundred Orion Soldiers took the field while nearly 1800 family members and friends, military dignitaries and First U.S. Army East officials and trainers looked on. The program included honors to the reviewing officer and the nation, an inspection of the troops and a pass in review. It was the largest such ceremony for a New York National Guard formation in a long time. The New York Daily News, Newsday and News 12 Long Island sent news crews to cover the event.



Family Support

Family members of CPT Tim Simmons, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry from Buffalo, show their pride from the bleachers with custom camouflage shirts in bright colors that bear his name. Family Readiness Groups from across the state were represented at the ceremony and displayed many tributes and special gifts for their deploying loved ones. “The men and women on this field are embarking on a vital mission for

our nation and you are here showing support,” said Col. Brian K. Balfe, the brigade commander. “You get it. We know it. And as the proud commander of this wonderful team I want to thank you all very, very much for coming.”

Ready for Trouble

A rucksack sports a mascot in the form of a stuffed animal disguised as a devil, probably given to a Soldier by a family member following the send off ceremony. Hundreds of Soldiers began the move the very next day and the effort began with lining up duffle bags and gear for loading aboard trucks to be brought to Pope Air Force Base, which shares space with the Fort Bragg installation. The Soldiers have been issued large quantities of equipment and clothing that need to be crammed into packs and bags. From cold, wet weather and warm weather clothing to body armor and tactical gear – by the time each Soldier has arrived in theater he or she will have sent at least four duffle bags plus a rucksack and assault bag – each bulging with contents.



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.