

'Keeping Tabs'

Issue 14, 6 May 08



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

Forward Operating Base Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan

Courageous Team Heading Home

CAMP PHOENIX, KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Eight members of an Embedded Training Team from the New York National Guard were honored during an awards ceremony at Patriot Square, Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan last Saturday. The Soldiers received awards for their year of service as mentors for the Afghan National Security Forces.

Maj. Chris P. Guziec said they are one of the last groups to be deployed for a total of 15 months. They arrived in Afghanistan last May. They had three months of training prior to deployment in preparation for their mission.

"We were the last group with a long tour of 12 months 'boots on the ground' and we're proud of our achievements," Guziec said. When the ETT arrived in Afghanistan, Guziec set goals for both himself and his team. "I wanted to bring everyone home," he said. "For the team, it was making the Afghan National Army a better Army."

In addition to helping to train Afghan enlisted Soldiers, the team focused on developing Afghan leaders at the Kandak, or battalion level. This meant teaching the U.S. Army's Military Decision Making Process in order to plan operations. Later, Guziec arranged to bring evaluators from the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, LA to Afghanistan to validate the Afghan leaders' skills.



CJTF Phoenix commander Col. Brian K. Balfe joins in a group photo with members of NY National Guard ETT shortly after presenting several with Bronze Star Medals and an Army Commendation Medal.

"We were able to conduct MDMP with the Kandak Staff," said Capt. Mark J. Walsh. "We feel that we increased the planning capabilities of our Kandak," he said. "We have a lot more work to do in the logistical area, but the new ETTs will continue working on the logistics part," he added.

During the deployment, the New York team was partnered with other coalition force troops to train members of the Afghan National Army. According to Walsh, the ANA is now more capable of working alongside coalition forces in combat.



Clinic of Hope

Lack of access to routine medical care is one of the greatest difficulties ordinary Afghans are confronted with daily. It becomes a greater problem when minor injuries become infected and when serious injuries go untreated. Members of "Charlie Med," or Company C Logistics Task Force, who operate the Camp Phoenix Medical Clinic, look forward to every opportunity to provide care to Afghan children from Kabul. In the photo above, left, an Afghan toddler, age 6 months, is intrigued by Lieutenant Colonel Martin Scott's glasses as the child is treated for serious burns along the back of his legs down to his ankles as a result of an accident at home. Colonel Scott, who is normally assigned to state headquarters Medical Command, is a nurse from Oceanside, Long Island. In the photo on the right, Sgt. Marla Sifuentes from the Albany area treats an adolescent with an infected wound on his arm.

Afghan Students sell Art Work

Afghan students from a Kabul High School dedicated to developing students in fine art fields brought more than 200 pieces of student art work and photography to Camp Phoenix for sale recently. The students were accompanied by their principal and an interpreter. In the photo at right Staff Sgt. John Hough from Syracuse discusses the fine points of an art photo taken by the young Afghan student.



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.