

# 'Keeping Tabs'

Issue 22, 30 June 08



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

*Forward Operating Base Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan*

## Long Range Convoy



## SECFOR AND ANA Team Up for Security

**CAMP PHOENIX, KABUL –** Members of the security force battalion's Company D (SECFOR Delta) teamed up with "Alpha Kandak" of the Afghan National Army to escort a long range convoy from Camp Phoenix to Kandahar. The team left the base in the early morning hours before sun rise on a mission expected to last several days. Equal number of US and Afghan vehicles provided the armed escort for the construction materials and tactical vehicles being transported by flat bed trailers and other trucks.



Above, M1151 Up armored Humvees of SECFOR D move towards the starting point inside Camp Phoenix. At left, SPC Robert Collins of Ithaca lubricates his M2 .50 Cal. Machinegun from his gunners position in preparation. At right, eager members of Alpha Kandak, Afghan National Army are ready to go.

## Friends Remembered at Phoenix Ceremony

**CAMP PHOENIX, KABUL**– A emotional memorial ceremony was held on Monday 30 June at Camp Phoenix for four U.S. service members who were killed last week during combat operations. Two were members of the New York Army National Guard.

“What links these four men together – marine and soldiers – is their devotion to duty and the ideal of a greater good,” said Col. Brian K. Balfe, commander, CJTF-P, to more than 200 U.S. and coalition service members and distinguished guests in attendance. “Each spoke to us with their actions which for these four honorable men clearly speak louder than any words. They truly cleared the way for all of us here today,” said Balfe. The following U.S personnel were honored.

Staff Sgt. Christopher D. Strickland, 25, of Labelle, Fla. died June 25, in Helmand province. He was assigned to 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. The following Soldiers died on June

26, when their convoy was struck by an IED, small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. SFC Class Matthew L. Hilton, 37, of Livonia, Mich., of the 425th Infantry Regiment, Michigan Army National Guard, Selfridge, Mich. SFC Class Joseph A. McKay, 51, of Brooklyn and SPC Mark C. Palmateer, 38, of Poughkeepsie, of the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment, New York Army National Guard.

### ***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.***



Friends of the late SFC Joseph McKay support each other in front of the Fallen Warrior Memorial in Patriot Square. At the end of the program Task Force Phoenix personnel line up to render honors to fallen brothers.