

'Keeping Tabs'

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

Forward Operating Base Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan



CAMP PHOENIX, KABUL – They have completed nearly 1100 combat missions as a company and now 50 members of a NYARNG infantry unit assigned to CJTF-Phoenix have received awards and combat badges for their service. A ceremony was held at Camp Phoenix on Friday 14 November. Sergeant Leo Capria from Lafayette received an Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device from the visiting Deputy Under-Secretary of Defense, Samuel D. Kleinman, PhD for Readiness. “What an honor it was for me to be able to present this award,”

he told the formation. The Soldiers are assigned to the Ithaca-based Company D, 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry, serving here as SECFOR Delta with the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry. “This has been the highlight of my career to command Company D,” said Capt. Joseph Merrill, from Binghamton. “It was an honor to command you and we are all now brothers,” he said. “If there ever comes another time when you need to dodge bullets again, just call me and we’ll do it together,” he said.

Fifteen unit members received the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) and two attached Soldiers received the Combat Action Badge (CAB.) Specialist Denis Sincabaugh from Auburn, NY received the Combat Medic's Badge. Thirteen soldiers were recognized for re-enlisting during the deployment. Nearly 1700 members of New York's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team were mobilized for the CJTF-Phoenix mission to train and mentor the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police and provide support to the government and the people.



Soldier's Photos from 'Down Range' – SSG William Macy, Buffalo



Soldiers are sharing some the images they collected from their 'down range' experiences. Members of Embedded Training Teams and Police Mentoring Teams that were mobilized last November from NY have completed their tour and are moving through Camp Phoenix on their way home. SSG William Macy from Buffalo served on an ETT in Paktika Province in Eastern Afghanistan near the border with Pakistan. His team was comprised of NY and LA Soldiers, Sailors and Romanian Special Forces troops. They trained and mentored ANA units of the 203rd Corps and frequently conducted operations with them in pursuit of the Taliban and other insurgent groups. SSG Macy served in Iraq in 2005 where he was seriously wounded by a sniper while on patrol and distributing handouts to Iraqi children. His emergency care was featured in the Emmy Award-winning HBO documentary "Baghdad ER" and was the first wounded Soldier to appear on screen. In the photo at left he is shown sitting on an abandoned Soviet T-55 tank at an old Russian base. In the center is the Afghan National Army crew of a D-30 122 mm gun at an army base at Band sar day. At right, despite his near death experience in Iraq, SSG Macy still cares for children and distributes candy and other items.

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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.