

# 'Keeping Tabs'

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

*Forward Operating Base Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan*

## Supporting a school with help from home



POL-E-CHARKI, KABUL PROVINCE – Soldiers from the New York National Guard delivered supplies to an Afghan school located that they had received from family and friends at home. The school is located in a Kabul province village east of the nation's capital.

Members of SECFOR Charlie comprised mostly of members of Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry from Bayshore, Long Island delivered

more than 500 pounds of donations Pol-e-charki high school on 17 November. The supplies were organized into student packs that included paper, notebooks, pens and pencils, crayons and markers that were assembled by the SECFOR soldiers from the many shipments they received. Candy, book marks, stuffed animals, some adult clothing for the teachers, soccer and volleyballs were also handed out.

The donations were shipped to Camp Blackhorse, which is co-located with the Afghan National Army's (ANA) Pol-e-charki garrison nearby. The troops are part of Afghan Regional Security Integration Command-Central (ARSIC-C.) This command provides advisors and mentors to the ANA and the Afghan National Police in this area as part of the Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix (CJTF-Phoenix) mission to grow and develop Afghanistan's National Security Forces (ANSF.) The SECFOR troops provide security for the trainers and mentors during operations and convoys.

Afghan Soldiers helped unload and distribute the supplies to the children. This is part of the plan to build bonds of trust among the people and their army and police forces. While the SECFOR soldiers received and packaged the donations, members of the Embedded Training Teams made plans for the delivery with the ANA and the school principal and staff.

Several unit members received considerable quantities from family, friends and community groups back in NY. Private First Class John Gallup from Mechanicville, Spec. Christyan Valentine from the Bronx, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Christopher Terian from Buffalo, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jared Jensen from Ballston Spa, and Spec. Cody Davis from Syracuse received many packages from home. The balls were donated by Herkimer Community College. Other soldiers handed out items they purchased on their own.

"This is the last big project SECFOR Charlie has planned before returning home," said Lt. Jensen. "This was a project we have been working on for three months."

Lieutenant Jensen took in the largest quantity of donations mostly from family members in Idaho, Utah, Texas, and New York. "My sister also coordinated a service project with the Kingwood, Texas Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They sent about 150 pounds of school supplies and candy," he said. "Her youth group pulled this together."

#### **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](http://www.dmna.state.ny.us) For more information contact the DMNA Public Affairs Office at (518) 786-4581.**



1LT Jared Jensen meets with principal Marimullah and assistant principal Nazer Mohamad.