

'Keeping Tabs'

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

Forward Operating Base Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan

Adjutant General visits Task Force Phoenix

CAMP PHOENIX, KABUL, AFGHANISTAN – The Adjutant General of New York came to Afghanistan for two days in the last week of May to visit members of his New York National Guard.

Major General Joseph J. Taluto was accompanied by New York State Command Sergeant Major Robert Van Pelt to see members of the New York National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team serving in Combined Joint



Task Force Phoenix VII. Their trip over was made possible by the Joint Military Access for Reserve Components (JMARC) program, which makes it possible for select

reserve component leaders to visit federally deployed members of their command serving inside a theater of operations. "It gives me a tremendous amount of pride," said General Taluto. "People have been bragging to me since the brigade has gotten over here about how well things have gone. And, now I have eyes-on and can see it for myself," he said. Despite the tight schedule, General Taluto enjoyed reuniting with Soldiers that he has served with over the years and especially when he was the commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, New York National Guard that deployed to Iraq in 2005.

"We are all proud back in New York with what the 27th is doing and with the men and women of this brigade," he added. "We are like proud parents. But the fact is, the men and women here are the ones who are doing it and deserve the credit," he said.



Opening a New School

First Lieutenant Nathan Thompson from Rochester shakes hands with Village Elder Omar Kahn shortly after a Grand Opening ceremony of the new Hued Kail Boys and Girls School that was completed just a few weeks ago. The work was done by Afghan construction companies with U.S. funding from the Commanders Emergency Response Program. The South Carolina National Guard's 218th BCT started the project and it was finished by the New York's 27th BCT. In his role as Civil Military Operations Officer, Lt. Thompson performed a pivotal role in the project's completion. The village of Hued Kail is not far from Camp Phoenix and continues to be supported by the task force. Afghan officials from the Ministry of Education and the Afghan National Police were on hand for the ceremony, which was held on Saturday, May 31st.



Memorial Day in Afghanistan

Ceremonies were held at Forward Operating Bases across Afghanistan on 26 May and on 30 May – the traditional day to commemorate America's war dead—those who gave their lives in the service to the nation during time of war. At left Staff Sergeant's Brian Tippet from Buffalo and Kevin Vershay from Canandaigua bring the Flag to full staff and then to half staff during a ceremony at Camp Phoenix. Staff Sergeants Daniel Wilson from Albany and Dwayne Manley from Frankfort are saluting at right. Below, a ceremony is held at Camp Alamo, co-located with the Kabul Military Training Center by members of the Training Assistance Group and security force team.



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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.