

'Keeping Tabs'

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

Forward Operating Base Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan

Shift of focus to Afghanistan

CAMP PHOENIX, KABUL – There is an increasing shift of attention among western governments and news media organizations towards Afghanistan and Operation Enduring Freedom. The presidential election campaigns of Senators Barak Obama and John McCain now include policy statements on their plans for increased U.S. troop commitments here in the wake higher levels of Taliban violence. Senator Obama visited Afghanistan as part of an overseas tour and Senator McCain is also expected to come as well. The task force is short almost 3,000 mentors needed to support the increasing Afghan National Army and Police forces.



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen came to Afghanistan recently and a team from CJTF-Phoenix provided transportation. Shown above from the left is SSG Fred Fah, SGT Darren Ringler, SPC Edward Nickles, SPC James Penlon, SSG Maurice Edwards, SGT Steven Watt, SPC Stephanie Wolfanger, Admiral Mullen, SGT Michael McGrath, SPC Jason Defazio, and Lt. Cdr Edward Ferguson. The front row includes SPC Joe Adle, SPC Gary Dennis, TSgt Dennis Marks and SPC Douglass Moore. At right, SPC Adle is "coined" by the Chairman.



Police Mentors

Sergeant Major David Gilkey from Syracuse is the NCOIC of a new Police Mentoring Team for the Afghan National Police. Staff Sergeant Modesto Oliva from Brooklyn is also in the team comprised of NY National Guard and reserve troops. As the strength numbers of the police increase, new teams of mentors need to be formed. The task force is short



nearly 3,000 mentors and advisors for the Afghan National Security Forces. The Focused District Development program, launched last year to improve the numbers and readiness of the Afghan National Police, is working and spreading across Afghanistan. The country has hundreds of districts and the program is focused on districts that are close to or crossed by the “Ring Road” which circles throughout the country and ties the provinces together. The program moves



from districts in turn and the entire assigned police force is placed through an intense 8-week training period. Following the training at a Regional Training Center, the district police force is assigned a mentoring team and returned to its home district. Mentors continue to train the new graduates “on the job” and observe and report on their progress. During the training phase, Afghan National Civil Order Police provide coverage in the district until the district ANP return.

Keeping Tabs –

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