

THE GALLIVANTER

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"Orion, the Hunter!"

August 5, 2010



Weather Forecast

Thursday, Aug. 5



High: 81°

Low: 62°

Chance of rain: 30%

Friday, Aug. 6



High: 71°

Low: 55°

Chance of rain: 30%

A publication of New York's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

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42nd CG visits Orion troops in the field

By Spc. IAN BOUDREAU
27th IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, the commanding general of New York's 42nd Infantry Division, visited the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team on Fort Drum last week.

As he toured the Ori-

on Brigade's area of operations on Fort Drum, he reviewed Soldiers' training as the 27th IBCT prepares for a possible deployment.

"The 27th Brigade is the focus of effort for the entire State of New York," Wickstrom said. "We do have other units that are deploying that

are getting a lot of attention; however, the 27th needs to be successful."

Wickstrom watched infantrymen from the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment as they practiced movement-to-contact drills on Range OP5A, following them up the lane as they ran

the live-fire portion of the exercise.

He said he was impressed with "the quality and effectiveness of the training, to the motivation and professionalism of the troops."

During a visit to the 2/108's mortar teams, Wickstrom did the honors for a promotion ceremony, pinning staff sergeant rank on George Klemish, a mortar crewman with C Company, from Gloversville, N.Y.

Wickstrom said the visit to the 27th was well worth the time.

"It's important to come out of the office and go to the field so that you can learn and see the training success taking place," he said. "You can hear about it in the office, but it's just not the same... I've enjoyed talking to the Soldiers, which is something I don't get to do as much these days, unfortunately, in the role that I'm in." •



Photo by Spc. Ian Boudreau

1st Lt. Clint Davis, HHC 2/108's executive officer, discusses the features of an XM-110 sniper rifle with Brig. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, commanding general of New York's 42nd Infantry Division, during his visit to the 27th Brigade's annual training.

427th BSB's fuelers keep the 27th Brigade rolling

By Maj. KATHY OLIVER
27th IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The 427th Brigade Support Battalion's Fuel Handlers pump over 3,000 gallons of fuel per day out of the Brigade Support Area to keep the 27th moving around the training area. Food, water, ammunition and the Soldiers themselves would not make it to where they need to go without the success of

this critical operation.

The fuel point activity is highly regulated as pointed out by Staff Sgt. Tomasz Mroczek, "We received high marks from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for New York State when they came out to inspect us. The DEC told us that we have



Photo by Maj. Kathy Oliver

Sgt. Richard Tietz (left), Cadet Brandon Post, and Staff Sgt. Tomasz Mroczek fill fuel cans at 427's fueling site on Fort Drum.

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By Luke Marble

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the best operation that they have ever seen on Ft. Drum, and that we are now the standard for other units to follow."

AT 2010 is the first time that the 27th Brigade had a consolidated fuel point by bringing all of the Fuel Handlers together in one area rather than having decentralized operations in each of the forward support companies. The initiative enabled 24-hour fuel service while allowing for proper crew rest and the opportunity for all Fuel Handlers to participate in training

events that included ranges, basic Soldier skills training and convoy operations.

"It's good training for everybody. I really like working outdoors and being with these guys as part of a team," stated Sgt. Richard Tietz. He went on to say, "We finally get to do the same training and have the same experiences as everyone else. In the past we were so busy doing the support mission that we couldn't get the training time in."

Fuelers from the 427th will remain on Ft. Drum until August 13. •

Reporter's Notebook

The 'Field 'Stache'

By Spc. IAN BOUDREAU
27th IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It must be admitted: as an accessory to the modern man's attire, the mustache has seen better days. Once celebrated as a sign of class and virility, it is now generally regarded as something of an anachronism.

Certainly, there are cadres of holdouts. Hipsters in New York's East Village and parts of Los Angeles wear them, but then more as an ironic or anarchistic gesture than with actual pride.

However, in along-running military tradition, field exercises give the mustache a chance at a comeback. As annual training rolls into its second week, normally clean-shaven Soldiers will be seen with stubby hair populating their upper lips.

This temporary mustache (and the facial hair we are talking about here is *always* temporary) goes by several names: "Field 'stache," "AT 'stache," and "Get that the hell off your face" seem to be the most popular.

"It's a Cav 'stache," said Spc. Justin Chandler, an analyst with the 27th Infantry Brigade's intelligence

section. "The field 'stache has always been a pastime of mine."

Chandler, who spent several years on active duty with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment before joining the New York Army National Guard, said during time in the field, almost all of the junior enlisted Soldiers in his unit would grow temporary mustaches.

By July 31, Chandler had sprouted a distinct layer of fuzz under his nose.

"It's weak, but it's got potential," he said.

While the field 'stache is usually an enlisted phenomenon, there are a few officers who have given it a try. Sgt. Michael Parrow, a mortar crewman with the brigade's headquarters company, said he was growing his AT 'stache as a tribute to one grown by Maj. Paul Hernandez, the brigade's plans officer, while he was deployed with the 27th.

"When he was in Afghanistan, he grew a really nice 'stache," Parrow said.

Hernandez said he had grown a mustache in Afghanistan over the course of five weeks.



Photo by Spc. Ian Boudreau

Sgt. Michael Parrow, a member of the 27th Brigade's Headquarters Company, shows off his field 'stache.

"It was very intimidating," he said.

Hernandez explained that in Afghan culture, facial hair remains an important symbol of masculinity.

"I think I got more respect from the Afghans when I had that big, monster mustache," he said.

Parrow said that while he's pleased with his AT 'stache so far, there are problems tenant to keeping one.

"It itches a little bit," he said. "You get food stuck in it. You've got to maintain it, trim it up a bit."

The final word on the field 'stache—or any other mustache worn while in

a military uniform—is of course Army Regulation 670-1, which is where you can find the standards for growing an authorized facial garden.

Just remember, when you see aspiring Tom Sellecks and Teddy Roosevelts along the Fort Drum tank trails, that these brave individuals are thumbing their noses at modern convention, for reasons that may be personal, psychological, or tactical. But whatever the immediate motive might be, they are upholding the time-honored National Guard tradition of the "field 'stache." We salute you, gentlemen. •