

September 2007

The ORION GALLIVANTER

1917 - 1919

Dickebush Sector
Mount Kemmel
Vierstraat Ridge
East Poperigne Line
Hindenburg Line
LaSelle River St. Souplet
Meuse-Argonne St. Mihiel



1940- 1945

Makin
Majuro
Eniwetok
Saipan
Okinawa

2001- Present

Enduring Freedom
Iraqi Freedom
Noble Eagle

27th BRIGADE DEPLOYING!

- Stars of Orion heading to Afghanistan -

With a backdrop of two memorials to past veterans, Governor Spitzer announced the deployment of the 27th Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan at a press conference at the Brigade Headquarters in Syracuse, NY.

More than 1,700 New York Army National Guard soldiers are being mobilized for a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

The soldiers are with the Syracuse-based 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and other smaller units. The call-up is considered the largest federal deployment of New York National Guard troops since 2003, military offi-



cials say.

The first of the deploying troops will report for duty in late September. The entire task force

will be deployed over the coming six months, military officials say.

The 27th Brigade will take command of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII. The guardsmen and women, members of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team based in Mattydale,

will spend a year in Kabul training, mentoring and supporting members of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police, Col.

(Continued on page 4)

THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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Commander's Message

Greetings,

When you receive this copy of the Orion Gallivanter, It will be nearing the end of the summer months. I hope that you have enjoyed the summer and are ready for the fall season and remain in good health.

As all of you know, The 27th Division Association, Inc. held its 87th annual National reunion in Syracuse, NY on August 3rd through August 5th. It was great to see our old friends again and also to see so many new people that joined us for the reunion. I am sorry to say that there were some missing faces, some due to illness and some who have gone to their final resting place.

During the reunion, we had the honor of being hosted by the 27th Brigade Combat Team at the Brigade Headquarters at Hancock Field. They had many displays set up for us to see of the latest equipment and technology that they have to work with. At each display, very capable troops explained, demonstrated and answered any questions that were asked. They had set up displays of WW II weapons and placed next to each weapon, the replacement that they use today. There were many displays to see and it was not hard to tell that a lot of hard work was put into getting everything ready for our visit.

After the displays, we had our membership meeting, and then the Memorial Service and Monument Dedication was held in front of the Brigade Headquarters. Troops from the Brigade Headquarters and the 427th Brigade Support Battalion were training that weekend and they joined in on the Memorial Service and Monument Dedication. After having a delicious lunch, Our vets from WW II were asked if they would mind having an informal talk with some of the present troops about their experiences. Five of our members volunteered and a memorable time was had by all. The hospitality of the 27th Brigade Combat Team was well received by our membership and we are looking forward to having these fine troops join the 27th Division Association.

As most of you know, 1700 members of The 27th BCT will be deploying to Afghanistan after the first of the year. We had the honor of having COL Brian Balfe, the Commander of the 27th BCT, as the guest speaker at the reunion dinner. He delivered a very informative message to us and we want to thank him and the members of his command for the contributions they made to make this a memorable reunion. We also send our prayers and best wishes to the 27th BCT for a safe and successful mission.

A motion was made and passed at the membership meeting that the present slate of officers be left in place until the 27th BCT returns from the upcoming mission. This was done because the vast majority of the incoming officers will be deploying.

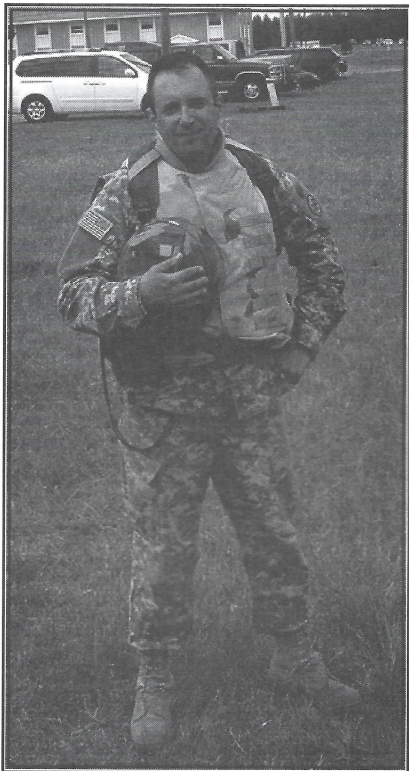
As I conclude this message, I again ask that your thoughts and prayers be of past and present comrades and all our troops and their families.

Yours in comradeship,

Raymond E. Swift
National Commander



Editor's Corner



Mailing Addresses:

27th DIV ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

- Unit & Personal Remembrances
 - 80 Plus Club to the Editor
 - Historical stories
 - Reunion Notices
 - Mailbag items
 - Taps
- New Membership application
- Membership Dues—\$10.00
- Memorial Fund Donations
 - Gallivanter Donations
 - Change of address

(The Post Office does not tell us you have changed address, you must let us know.)

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Attn: Secretary

Paul Hujer

P.O. Box 2522

Syracuse, NY 13220-2522

Email: Paul.Hujer@us.army.mil

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Fellow Orion Veterans,

By now most of you have heard the breaking news—that the 27th Brigade will be deploying to Afghanistan in early 2008. The Stars of Orion have been worn in Afghanistan for the past few years by several 27th Brigade soldiers working as ETT (Embedded Training Team) members, mentoring the Afghan National Army.

Our new mission is far larger, incorporating the ETT teams with a Support Battalion, a Security Battalion and a Brigade Command Element. Nearly 1700 NY Army National Guard Soldiers will train and mentor the Afghan National Army and the expanding Afghan National Police.

Many challenges await the men and women of the 27th Brigade starting with another three week training period at Fort Drum this October. We'll continue to hone skills learned during the June training period and will of course be expected to acquire new ones that will allow us to accomplish our goals in Afghanistan.

As many veterans have done before, we'll travel to a mobilization station where we'll continue to train and prepare for the mission ahead of us. After that, we'll head to Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan as we take control of Task Force Phoenix 7. We are scheduled to return in early 2009.

As have 27th Division Editors in the past, with the help of the Public Affairs Office and submissions from the units, I'll continue to edit and publish the Gallivanter while, "in country". Hopefully we'll bring you a modern version of "dispatches from the front".

Although our acting secretary, Paul Hujer will be deploying with the Brigade, submissions to the Gallivanter will still be made through our Post Office Box. My wife, a fellow military member who works as an accountant in the Syracuse area has volunteered to act as the secretary. She'll pass on any needed information to me or the acting treasurer.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the Association members in advance for the support and concern already shown to Soldiers of the 27th BCT. Rest assured that we will serve with distinction and will continue to bring honor to the lineage and the Stars of Orion.

Sincerely,
Your Editor
(CPT) Robert Romano

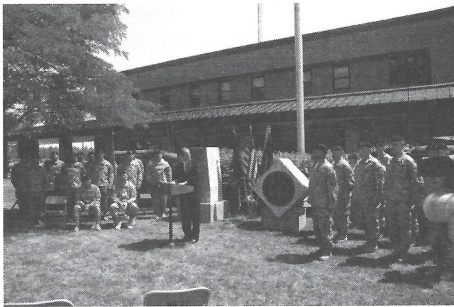
27th BRIGADE DEPLOYING!

(Continued from Main Page)

Brian Balfe said. They'll join a coalition of about 6,500 military personnel from 16 countries.



The deploying soldiers come from Central and Western New York, the Capital District and New York City and the Hudson Valley areas.



More than 6,000 New York Guard members have been called to federal active duty - mostly in Iraq and Afghanistan - since 2003. About 500 soldiers from military police, medical, personnel services, and Embedded Training units are currently in Afghanistan, military officials say.

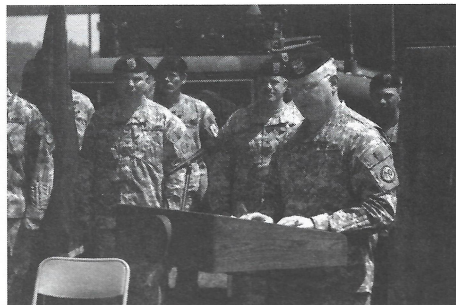
The Department of Defense announced the deployment Tuesday.

"We've known for months that this was coming," Balfe said. The first of the soldiers will leave in September. The rest will follow over the next six months.

Balfe couldn't say exactly how many of the guardsmen come from Central New York, but he said the count is "certainly in the hundreds."

Sgt. Neil Egerer, 25, of Kirkville, said he's excited to ship out. He joined the army in 1999 and has served with the National Guard since 2003.

"I've been expecting this since



the global war on terror began," Egerer said. "It was just a matter of time."

Egerer will leave behind his wife and two young children.

"I let my kids know I have to go away for a while and help other people," he said. "I try to put it into words a 2- and 5-year-old can understand."

Col. Michael Leonardo, 40, of Syracuse, has children he'll leave behind who are 7, 5 and

1 years old.

"There's a million things you've got to do to get ready: Get the unit trained, get together the skills you need for yourself, prepare your family," Leonardo said. "You hate to leave them



even for annual training, but that's what the mission requires."

National Guard members have been training for deployment for months. In addition to weekend drills, they spent three weeks this summer training at Fort Drum and some will return for three more weeks in October.

For the Board of Directors

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 8th at Hafners restaurant on 5224 West Taft Road in North Syracuse (315) 458-5108 at Noon.



Governor Eliot Spitzer
State Commander in Chief



Major General Joseph J. Taluto
The Adjutant General

DOD TO MOBILIZE NEW YORK'S 27TH BRIGADE FOR ACTIVE DUTY

Largest Federal Call Up of New York Troops Set for 2008

The Department of Defense is expected to announce plans to mobilize more than 1,700 members of the New York Army National Guard's Syracuse-based Headquarters, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and sub elements in 2008 for service in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defense recently issued mobilization orders for the initial security force elements. Those Citizen Soldiers are expected to mobilize in late September. Their call to active duty will be the initial mobilization of the entire task force scheduled to deploy over the coming six months.

The 27th will take command of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII, with the continuing mission of training, mentoring and supporting the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. Presently, the South Carolina Army National Guard's 218th Brigade is performing this mission having taken over from the Washington Guard's 41st Brigade in May.

The task force from New York will include Soldiers from the New York City and Hudson Valley areas, the Capital District, the North Country and Central and Western New York.

"The New York National Guard is the only part of America's military that served at Ground Zero following the 9-11 terrorist attacks and then has gone to war abroad," said Governor Eliot Spitzer, State Commander in Chief. "Helping the new Afghan government develop its security forces so that it can better serve and protect its people is a fitting mission for New York Citizen Soldiers. The New York National Guard has served our nation, this state and our communities with distinction and honor, whether it was in response to natural disasters, responding to the terrorist attacks or guarding New York's critical infra structure. All New Yorkers join me in saluting our team and pledging our support to the 27th and its military families as they take on this challenging and important mission," he said.

"This will be the largest single federal deployment of New York Army National Guard personnel since 2003," said Major General Joseph J. Taluto, The Adjutant General of New York and commander of the New York Army National Guard. In 2005, General Taluto commanded New York's 42nd Infantry Division in Iraq and was named Adjutant General in January 2006 following his return.

"This assignment will see the deployment of some of New York's best officer and non-commissioned officer leaders to help mentor and train Afghanistan's National Security Forces at nearly every command level," he said. "Many of these New Yorkers served at the World Trade Center site in 2001 and some when on to serve in Iraq. The New York National Guard has a hard-won record of achievement over a wide range of missions. Our members are exceptional people who daily demonstrate their special skill sets and their devotion to duty both at home and abroad," he said. "Our personnel have gone from Ground Zero to the Sunni Triangle and will now go on to the mountains of Afghanistan in service to nation, state and community. All New Yorkers deserve to be as proud of them as I am," said General Taluto.

In addition to the Syracuse-based 27th Brigade Headquarters, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII will include a Training Assistance Group formed from the Guard's 106th Regional Training Institute based at Camp Smith in the Hudson Valley and mentoring teams drawn from Guard combat and combat support units, security force personnel from the Western New York-based 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry and the Plattsburgh-based Company B, 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry, and logistic and support personnel from the 427th Forward Support Battalion from various armories statewide.

MAILBAG

-TAPS-

Brig. Gen (Ret) Richard S. Fidurski: of Dickinson, NY passed away 8 July 2007 at his home. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, a daughter, a son, 4 grandchildren and a great grandson. He was retired from the NY Army National Guard with over 40 years of service. He was a member of Post 11, 27th DIV Association and organized the local 204th Support Group to aid members and their families during the deployment.

asked if the colors could be left in his care and flown on the appropriate days. All were in accord.



The members of Post #13 were meritorious members of the 27th Division and served with great honor to their country.

We may be out of each other's sight but will never be out of mind. We all have wonderful memories and yet some things are better left unspoken.

I would like to introduce our editor, past post commander and secretary, Mr. Roy Nyquist, who will make Post #13's last act as part of the 27th Division.

With that said, Post #13 respectfully requests formal retirement of our charter."

The Quartermaster's Corner

Dear Friends,

The 27th Division Association Store has lots of new collectibles and we're adding to the store everyday. I will be coming out with a catalog in the near future. If you are interested in one please email, mail, or call me to request a catalog. Each will come with an order sheet. Remember, you can see all of the 27th Division Association items at the online store, www.27thinfantry.com. Shipping costs have increased to \$7.00 per item as the store will be using FedEx for shipping. If you have any questions or request e-mail me at rollin.skellington@us.army.mil or call me at 315-254-9327.

Your Quartermaster,
Rollin Skellington

Farewell Post #13 "The Goodbye Letter"

Editor's Note: At the reunion dinner, Roy Norquist & Don Rapp of Post #13 formally asked for retirement of their charter. Below is the letter from Post #13 read at the dinner.

"Greetings from Post #13, The Florida Sunshiner. Our numbers have been dwindling and at our last annual meeting in May 2007, it was decided that we would cease to continue.

With tearful eyes everywhere, we folded our colors for the final time. At that time we discussed what to do with them and one of the members

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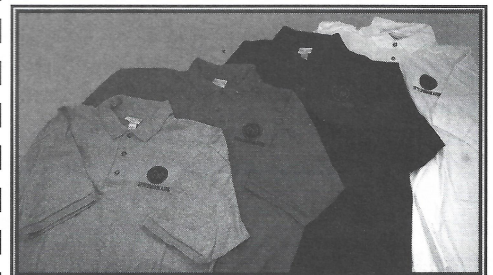
QTY	ITEM	ITEM COLOR	SIZE	LOGO TITLE	PRICE	TOTAL

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HAT COLORS: WHITE, RED, BLACK, TAN, RED & BLACK, AND BLUE.

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SHIPPING	\$ 7.00
TOTAL	

LOGO TITLES: 27TH DIVISION ASSOC.
27TH BCT

ITEMS	PRICE
COFFEE MUG	\$ 5.00
SHIRT	\$ 20.00
HAT	\$ 15.00



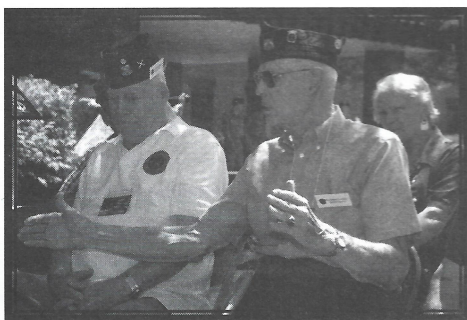
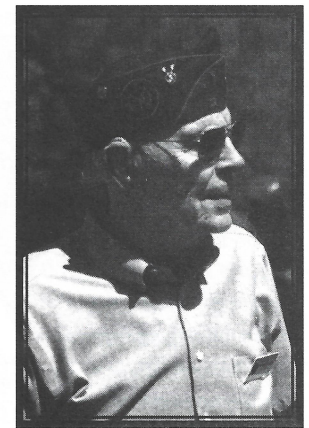
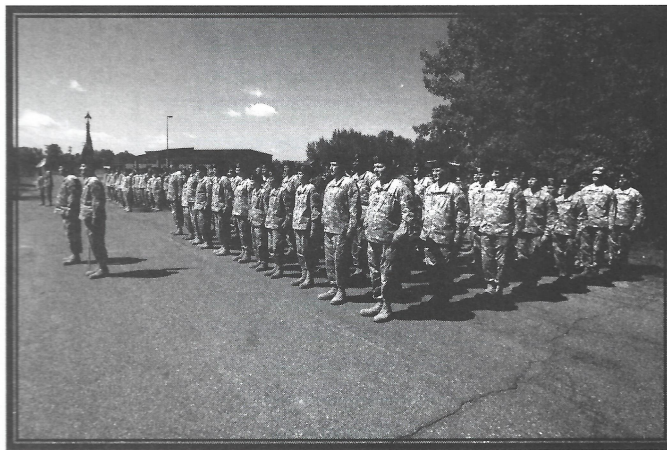
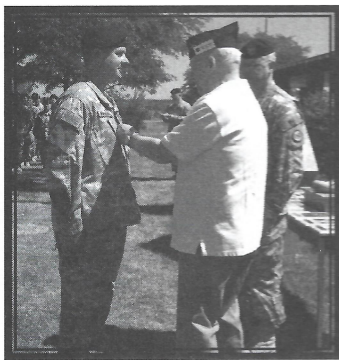
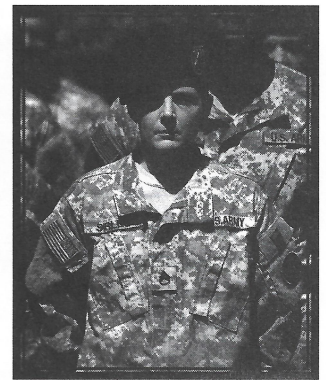
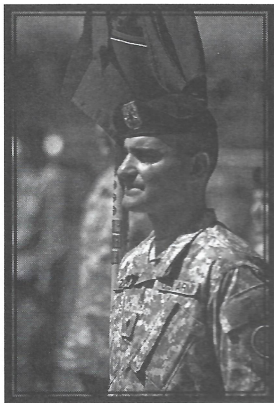
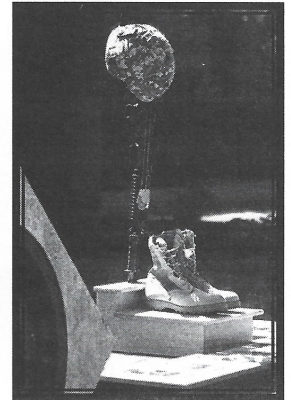
AUTHORIZED BY _____

DATE _____



THE SHUTTERBUG PAGE

Reunion Edition



Have a picture you want to submit for the Shutterbug Page? Mail a copy of the photo to the Editor's Home address (See: Masthead) or E-Mail a scanned copy to the Editor at: Robert.romano@us.army.mil

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