Arriving at Camp Phoenix was like a reunion of friends that you had not seen for a long time. Arrival in country was scheduled at different times for different units, so that it may have only lasted for a half a day but we found ourselves briefly in the same place and the same time. Many of us had not seen each other since our mobilization in early January or February.

Members of Palmetto Military Academy (OCS) Class 56 – Born to Serve, Determined to Lead, From left to right 2Lts Garcia-Lockridge, Owens, CPT Smith, 2Lts Depass, Dendial. Class 56 PMA graduated 19 first class US Army National Guard Officers. Of the 19 graduated 6 six were deployed in support of Task Force Phoenix, Operation Enduring Freedom. The one not pictured here is 2LT Hedrick who at the time of this picture had already been sent down range to other parts of Afghanistan.
From Left to Right - CPT Goff, 1LT Moore and CPT Smith – Armor and Infantry, live together in perfect harmony, side by side by my Ford Truck…. We trained together off duty in preparation for this deployment… 1LT Moore and CPT Cain, another friend not pictured, are leading the effort down range from Camp Phoenix to establish the Security Force presence in their sector. Their work is critical to the counterinsurgency effort. With security established, the coalition working with the Afghan people can begin improving the infrastructure and assisting the Afghan people with more educational opportunity and economic opportunity in a more peaceful environment than what they have seen for nearly 30 years.
From Left to Right, CPT Smith, CPT Barton and LTC Williams at the JAG Office, Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan. CPT Barton and LTC Williams are close friends of mine professionally from years of service in the JAG corps and lawyers in private practice and personally. The JAGs attached to Task Force Phoenix are an integral part of the counterinsurgency effort. In addition to the duties as the 218th Brigade legal team, they will serve as mentors for the Afghanistan Government on implementation of a Afghan Military Justice System.