THE TAJI TIMES

Supporting the Rock in Southwest Asia

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Photo by Capt. Davie Wright

We're back! - The DSB Personal Security Team raises the sign to show "The Heart of the Rock" has arrived at Camp Taji. They are, from left to right, Staff Sgt. Jose F. Magana, Spc. Luis Cruz, Sgt. Franklin Vilorio, and Pfc. Daniel Roberts

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87th CSB keeps supplies flowing

By Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick
Support Brigade PAO

If a river is dammed up, someone's not going to get water. If supplies get held up, some Soldiers are going to be in great need.

"I don't make cubby holes," said Capt. Curt A. Hinton, a support operations officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 87th Corps Support Battalion. "We keep things fluid. It's important for me to push out."

Hinton, the officer in charge of Division Support Brigade's Division Distribution Center, here, said his center handles everything from soccer balls and Meals Ready to eat, to tires and engines.

The supply system is working very well, said the Peoria, Ill. native.

Hinton said Army transporters move equipment and supplies, while Kellogg, Brown and Root's movers take care of the retrograde.

Retrograde items are either excess supplies that need to be shifted to where they can be used or unserviceable items, like worn tires, marked for disposal.

Another method of transporting supplies is by air, said Hinton. **(See Flow, Pg. 3)**

The Command Corner

Lt. Col. Shawn M. Morrissey
Deputy Commander

As we embark into the second anniversary of the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I personally thank all the soldiers, spouses, and family members of the Division Support Brigade for your sacrifice and dedication to both our service and nation.

Our historic return and deployment back to Iraq has been nothing more than remarkable. Confidence, competence, and teamwork are the pillars, which have characterized the first chapters of our operation from Kuwait in January to on-ward movement into Iraq in February.

Subsequently, we have been fortunate in observing and supporting the Iraqi nation's success and progress during its January 30 free elections and the seating of the Transitional National Assembly as it develops its governing administration and constitution.

The significance of the DSB's arrival and mission is not only in continually providing and managing theater sustainment operations and improving the infrastructure of essential services; but also our transformed force has inherited the tremendous opportunity of supporting Iraq's government and assisting its people in providing security and stability in democratic Iraq.

Notwithstanding, we must remain unabated and vigilant as we support in the success of Iraq's new democracy and freedoms. We will remain mission-focused at all levels; without neglecting the welfare and safety of our Soldiers during deployment operations.

Again, the DSB command is extremely proud and appreciates the contributions, commitment, and collective efforts of its Soldiers and families; while we serve and defend; the noble cause of democracy with distinction, integrity, and discipline.

"Heart of the Rock"

Command Sgt. Maj. Edward T. Brooks
Brigade Sergeant Major

Every Soldier I've spoken with across the board is dedicated to the mission here in Iraq.

If asked, most Soldiers on their first deployment would say they didn't want to come here initially. No one wants to be thousands of miles from home. But once they crossed the berm on convoys or flew over head in air transports, they realized the importance of supporting the Iraqi people in their fight for the same freedoms we enjoy.

We give that support through a vast variety of skill sets. We have truck drivers, administrative, food service, supply and logistics, communications and electronic repair specialists. No occupation specialty is trivial. Every job combat service support soldiers perform, including DEFAC guard and civilian worker escorts, is just as important as the infantryman searching houses.

In the months ahead, leaders and Soldiers must stay focused and remain loyal. Professional and ethical conduct is non-negotiable. It is the foundation of how we do business.

Soldiers need to look out for each other as we conduct the dangerous business of our missions. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Leaders must ensure that its mission first, but Soldiers always. Each leader must assess the risk for each task and make recommendations and decisions at the appropriate level. They must ensure pre-combat checks and inspections are done on all equipment before every mission. As I walk around and find deficiencies on a Soldier or equipment, when I find the "checker," I've found the problem. Remember, nothing is accomplished in the Army without our Soldiers. Good communications is crucial in all we do. Ninety percent of information from higher is usually a task for the Soldiers to execute.

See CSM, Pg. 3

"I've always believed that if you put in the work, the results will come. I don't do things half-heartedly. Because I know if I do, then I can expect half-hearted results." - Michael Jordan

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DSB Commander
Col. Brian R. Layer

DSB Executive Officer
Lt. Col. Nathaniel R. Glover

DSB Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Davie L. Wright

Editor/ Staff Writer, *The Taji Times*
Sgt. 1st Class Peter J. Chadwick

CSM
Continued from Pg. 2

Leaders must ensure information is passed down on time…every time.

I want to thank all the families and friends of our Soldiers for their solid support. Not just in providing encouragement and information to the troops in the field, but in taking care of the home front and each other as well. Our success is a direct reflection of your hard work.

Finally, I want to thank all DSB Soldiers for your dedication and support. Where you go, I'll go.

"Heart of the Rock!"

By Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

Spc. Levester J. Musgrove, a truck driver with the 104th Transportation Company, places a pallet in the appropriate forward operating base lane.

Flow, Continued from Pg. 1

The more pallets of supplies that can be sent by aircraft, the fewer convoys there will be on hazardous roads.

Spc. Levester J. Musgrove, a truck driver from the 104th Transportation Company, Fort Benning, Ga., expressed concern for his fellow "road warriors."

"We have to make sure they have the right stuff the first time," said Musgrove, who hails from Laurel, Miss. and operates a forklift in the center's yard. "The more they have to come back and forth, the more they are on the road where bad things can happen."

Bad things can happen in the yard, too. That's where Sgt. 1st Class Miguel A. Merritt, a laundry and shower, and logistic sergeant with HHD, 87th, weighs in. "Safety first, of course," said the DDC's noncommissioned officer in charge who calls Columbus, Ga., home. "We make sure everyone's wearing seatbelts and are trained up on the fork lifts."

Musgrove said he had driven a smaller forklift back at Benning, but had to be trained up on the larger version used at the center.

Merritt said training and supervision on regular primary checks and services are critical to the safe operation of the heavy equipment.

The equipment is used to move palletized loads from the delivery truck to the forward operating base lanes and then from the lanes to the pick-up transports.

"I give a soldier responsibility for each lane," said Hinton. The FOB lanes are assigned to specific customers to keep the flow organized.

Hinton said Soldiers track their lanes during one of three eight-hour shifts. He feels it's important to give specialists and privates this responsibility for professional development as account managers, as well as instilling the pride of ownership. There has to be someone at the lanes 24 hours a day because transporters come any time of the day or night, said Hinton.

These Soldiers have no formal training in this kind of responsibility, said Hinton. He said he had every military occupation from truck drivers to cooks working with him. They learn the tasks when they arrive.

Hinton said, when he arrived, the system of moving supplies continually was already in place.

"I learned a lot from the "Cav."," said Hinton of his 1st Cavalry Division counterparts. Hinton said he is glad the command sent him with the advanced party so he could learn the system and ensure a seamless transition.

Because the change of responsibility went well between the two divisions, the flow of supplies continued and no Soldier is left in great need.

WHY WE WEAR BALLISTIC GOGGLES

Cost of one set of goggles: $55.00

Cost of the eyesight or life saved by wearing these goggles: Priceless

The soldier wearing these goggles was the victim of an IED explosion. He suffered face wounds as a result of the attack, but he will live to fight again because he was wearing his ballistic goggles. Shrapnel is embedded in the lens instead of being embedded in his eye possibly causing blindness or death.

BALLISTIC GOGGLES SAVE LIVES

WEAR THEM

Promotions

Pfc. Harly Aguilar, 1st Plt., HHC

Sgt. Sachkia A. Licorish
Avn. Plt., 2nd Det.
3rd Sig. Co.

Spc. Stephen L. Balyint, 1st Plt. HHC

Maj. Douglas R. Wesner
OIC, BDE S-6

Spc. Daniel Roberts, BTB PST

Capt. Shonda L. Gilchrist
S-2, BTB

Spc. Robert K. Smith
BDE S-6

Staff Sgt. Letia L. Ellis
BDE S-1 FAST Team NCOIC

Maj. Jimmie J. McKinney
Asst. S-3

Spc. Anthony J. Zavala
BDE DAO

Sgt. 1st Class Patricia K. Cunningham
Logistics NCO, BDE S-3

Capt. Christopher B. Amara, Jr.
SPO Trans.

Re-enlistments

Spc. David W.A. Patton, DSB TOC

Staff Sgt. Maxine N. Glover-Blackwood, BDE S-1

From right to left, Spc. Anthony Zavala, Sgt. Richard E. Mantooth and Sgt. John D. Barrett, all of DAO

Staff Sgt. Marcus Anderson
BDE Chaplains Assistant

SFC Angela M. Mallard, SPO

Staff Sgt. Demetria Hawkins, PBO

Staff Sgt. George E. Askew
Mortuary Affairs

Staff Sgt. Selina N. Higgs, S-1

From the Pulpit

God's not dead

by Chaplain (Maj.) Paul J. Yacovone

"God's not dead. No! He is alive! God's not dead. No! He is alive! God's not dead. No! He is alive!

I feel Him in my hands (clap, clap). I feel Him in my feet (stomp, stomp). I feel Him in my heart (boom, boom). I feel Him in my soul (whoooo). I feel Him all over me. Praise the Lord!"

This simple children's song reveals a child like faith full of simplicity but, what about those in our increasingly secular society who do not believe in God or question the fact that Jesus rose from the dead?

And what good is a dead Messiah? A lot of people have died for a good cause. There was the student in San Diego who burned himself to death protesting the Viet Nam War. There were many Buddhists who burned themselves to death in order to bring world attention to Southeast Asia. Many religions have had many so called enlightened leaders who all ended up in the grave.

When Christians are asked to provide evidence that their beliefs are grounded in truth rather than legend or wishful thinking, they invariably point to the resurrection. What explanation other than Jesus' resurrection could account for the empty tomb, the sightings of the once – dead Jesus, and the radically changed behavior of the disciples? If someone claimed to be the Son of God, what more than His miracles, fulfillment of prophecies and resurrection would confirm His identity for you?

With so much hinging on the reality of Jesus' **(See God, Pg. 7)**

Equal Opportunity Focus

by SFC Tanya Toussaint
Division Support Brigade
Equal Opportunity Advisor
Bldg 543/242-6106

Equal Opportunity...
the Heart of Readiness!

Last month, the DSB celebrated Black History Month, its first ethnic observance held in Taji, Iraq. LTC Glover, DSB Executive Officer was our honored guest speaker. We were also very fortunate to have several talented DSB soldiers participate in the program. Thanks for your support in making the program successful.

This month we celebrate Women's History Month. The purpose of women's history is not to idealize women. On the contrary, the stories of women's achievements present a full view of the complexity and contradiction of living a full and purposeful life.

The 2005, Women's History Month theme, "Women Change America," honors and recognizes the role of American women in transforming culture, history and politics as leaders, writers, scientists, educators, politicians, artists, historians, and informed citizens.

Learning about the extraordinary achievements of women helps diminish the tendency to dismiss and trivialize who women are and what they accomplish. In celebrating women's historic achievements, we present an authentic view of history.

The knowledge of women's history provides a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. This perspective can encourage females to think larger and bolder and can give males a fuller understanding of the female experience.

Next month we will celebrate the "Days of Remembrance" for Victims of the Holocaust.

Individuals are welcome to volunteer their time and/or talent to make the observances a great success by contacting the DSB EOA.

Upcoming Equal Opportunity observances

April/May	Days of Remembrance
May	Asian Pacific Heritage Month
August 26th	Women's Equality Day
Sep 15–Oct 15	Hispanic Heritage Month
November	Native American Heritage Month

3rd Signal communicates new-old

By Sgt.1st Class Peter Chadwick
Support Brigade PAO

The 1st Cavalry Division had successfully completed their mission and were on their way home.

Their departing communicators passed the signal torch to the newly arrived "signaleers" of the 3rd Infantry Division.

The 2nd Detachment, 3rd Signal Company, Brigade Troop Battalion, took over communications duties February 20, here.

They brought a combination of new technology and old stand-bys to keep their division connected.
The new equipment is the Joint Network Node.

"JNN came out in August (2004),' said Sgt. Sachkia A. Licorish, Systems Switch Operator/ Network Maintainer, Aviation Platoon, 2nd Det.
Licorish, who was born in Guyana, said her unit attended a seven week course.

Sergeant 1st Class Donald J. Williams, aviation's platoon sergeant, said they took the equipment right from the school and straight to the field for the October Mission Readiness Exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga.. Using the new gear was a little rocky at first, said **(see Signal, Pg. 8)**

By Staff Sgt. Peter Chadwick

Sgt. Sachkia A. Licorish, Aviation Platoon, 2nd Detachment, 3rd Signal Company, patches up her JNN equipment. Licorish first started training on the new equipment a few months before deployment.

God, Continued from Pg. 1

return from the dead, it is encouraging to know that this supernatural event is so thoroughly documented in the historical record.

Even the once-doubting Sir Lionel Luckhoo, identified by the *Guiness Book of World Records* as the most successful attorney in the world, was forced to conclude after an exhaustive analysis of the evidence, "I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt." (Who Made God?, Zacharius, p.97)

The Easter event demonstrated Jesus' deity, validated his teaching; attested the completion of His work of atonement for sin; confirms His present cosmic dominion; assures us that His personal pardon, presence and power in people's lives today is fact; and guarantee's each believer's own re-embodiment by Resurrection in the world to come.

The early accounts, the empty tomb and the emergence of the Church all reinforce the fact that God's not dead. He is alive! And, "if Christ be not risen," then where is the proof of His deity? What is there to back up all those claims He made for himself? What is there to fortify the story that He was the virgin-born Son of God? If the spear and the spikes ended it all, then how did Jesus differ from other good men who died as martyrs? "If Christ be not risen," then I have been cheated.

If there be no living Savior, then my faith has failed me and it is vain. "If Christ be not risen," then He is still dead, and churches and chapels are monuments to man's stupidity. "If Christ be not risen," all Christian creeds and books are false and meaningless. All songs and sermons in His name are hollow and ineffective. "If Christ be not risen," then all who sleep in the silent city of the dead will never wake again. If He did not rise from the grave, no one will. "If Christ be not risen," then the greatest tragedy of all is that we are still sinners. (Fletcher Spruce)

But, Oh Heavenly Father, our hope is in the risen Christ, not a dead one. In the realms of astronomy, He is the Son of Righteousness and the Bright and Morning Star. In the realm of geology, He is the Rock of Ages. In the realm of botany, He is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley. In the realm of zoology, He is the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God. In the realm of medicine, He is the Great Physician. In the realm of government, He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. In the realm of leadership, He is the Soldier of Light and in the realms of Glory… He is our Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, our Almighty God. He is the Resurrection and the Life.

The Son of God rose from the dead. He is not dead. He is alive. Our faith is secure. Our sins are washed away. Our hope is steadfast. Our resurrection is certain; our title to eternal life is a blessed reality. Thank You God for Easter – the dawn without a dusk.

Oh death, where is your sting? Oh grave, where is your victory? Our redeemer lives. He lives! Thank You God Almighty. He lives! Amen and Amen.

Health Tips

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE 'CONSERVING THE FORCE FIGHTING STRENGTH'

By Capt. Randolph A. Leon-Pieve
Preventive Medicine OIC

AVOIDING HEAT INJURIES

To protect your health when temperatures are extremely high, remember to keep cool and use common sense. The following tips are important.

Increase your fluid intake – regardless of your activity level. During hot weather, you will need to drink more liquid than your thirst indicates. However, avoid very cold beverages because they can cause stomach cramps.

In addition, avoid drinks containing alcohol because they will actually cause you to lose more fluid. Drinking plenty of liquids during exercise is especially important. During heavy exercise in a hot environment, drink at least 2 to 4 glasses (16-32 ounces) of fluids each hour.

Heavy sweating removes salt and minerals from the body. These are necessary for your body and must be replaced. The easiest and safest way to replace salt and minerals is through your diet.

Drink fruit juice or a sport beverage during exercise or any work in the heat. Do not take salt tablets unless directed by your doctor. If you are on a low-salt diet, ask your doctor before changing what you eat or drink- especially before drinking a sports beverage.

Sunburn affects your body's ability to cool itself and causes a loss of body fluids. It also causes pain and damages to the skin. A variety of sunscreens are available to reduce the risk of sunburn. The protection that they offer against sunburn varies. Check the sun protection factor (SPF) number on the label of the sunscreen container. Select SPF 15 or higher to protect yourself adequately. Apply sunscreen 30 minute before going outdoors and reapply according to package directions.

Since our arrival, we have been enjoying good weather days with temperatures not higher than 75 F, but time is approaching when we won't see these good days for several months. Be aware that any sudden change in temperature will be stressful to your body.

You will have a greater tolerance if you limit your physical activity until you become accustomed to the heat. Allow several days to become acclimated before attempting any vigorous exercise, and **(See Heat, Pg. 8)**

Heat, Continued from Pg. 7

work up gradually. If exertion in the heat makes your heart pound and leaves you gasping for breath, STOP all activity, get into a cool area, or at least in the shade, and rest, especially if you become lightheaded confused, weak, or faint.

Monitor the condition of your battle buddy and have him do the same for you. Heat-induced illness can cause a person to become confused or lose consciousness. Overweight people may be prone to heat sickness because of their tendency to retain more body heat. Any health condition that causes dehydration makes the body more susceptible to heat sickness. If you or your battle buddy is at higher risk it is important to drink plenty of fluids, avoid overexertion and get your doctor advice about medications taken for high blood pressure, depression, nervousness, mental illness, insomnia, or poor circulation.

If you must be out in the heat, try to plan your activities so that you are outdoors either before noon or in the evening. While outdoors, rest frequently in a shady area. Resting periodically will give your body's thermostat a chance to recover. The most effectively way to beat the heat is to stay in a cooled area. Consider to visit an air-conditioned or fan-cooled place for a few hours during the hottest part of the day. Avoid hot foods and heavy meals-they add heat to your body.

For Preventive Medicine support you can contact us at 242-6102 or you can visit us, our office is located in building 562 (DSB TMC)

By Capt. Davie Wright

Spc. Tahara N. Walls, a promotions clerk with A Detachment 18th Personnel Services Battalion, performs a praise dance at the Black History Month celebration on Feb. 28 at building 510, here.

Signal, Continued from Pg. 6

Williams, who is from Summerville, N.C., native.

Second Lt. Derrick A. Lowe, aviation's platoon leader, said there was a bit of a steep learning curve that comes with any new piece of equipment. But it wasn't totally new.

"There were some similarities," said Lowe, who hails from Macon, Ga. "But the new equipment is much more complex."

Lowe said the average experience level in his platoon is three years, many of whom are privates and specialists. But that was a positive.

"Fresh minds," said the veteran of more than 14 years. "Fresh out of school…high school or college… minds are ready to learn. Youth is good."

1st Lt. Baden A. Anderson, the platoon leader for 3rd Signal's Sustainment Platoon, said the training at Stewart was assisted by civilian contractors who familiarized his Soldiers with the JNN.

"I got my experience from watching the civilians," said Spc. Kevin K. Anderson, a system administrator with Sustainment Platoon. The Conyers, Ga., native said between his experience with some JNN components, combined with observation and hands-on training, brought him up to speed on the new configurations.

Williams said when the three-week training exercise had ended, the young Soldiers were more confident. "Everything fell into place," said Williams. "As soon as the system came up, everybody was happy with it and we couldn't wait to get it here."

When they arrived, 2nd Detachment fired up their equipment and ran parallel with 1st Cav. until it was time to take over, said Lowe. He said the JNN is different from Mobile Subscriber Equipment the cavalry was using but the detachment was able to fall in on the cabling.

Licorish said there are three major differences between the JNN and the MSE. The JNN can be set up in much less time, can run more circuits and uses a commercial satellite to communicate.

Lowe said the MSE was line of sight. The JNN can operate the same way if need be. But the old system has not retired to the museum yet.

Sustainment Platoon uses the system similar to the MSE to support the Division Support Brigade's teleconferencing network.

Lt. Anderson said the JNN can't support that system.

Trained and confident, 3rd Signal ensures that Camp Taji continues to communicate.

By Staff Sgt. Peter Chadwick

Pfc. Jeffery D. Lynn, Sustainment Platoon, 2nd Detachment, 3rd Signal Company, tunes in his system. Lynn's unit provides line-of-sight communications for the DSB.