

# THE TAJI TIMES

Supporting the Rock in Southwest Asia



Vol. 1, Issue 2

Published for the Soldiers and Families in the Division Support Brigade

April 15, 2005



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

Home improvement! Spc. Jenecia T. Brooks, an ammunition specialist with 24th Ordnance Company, moved "jersey barriers" with a fork lift. Brooks, a St. Thomas, V. I. native, worked to improve the DSB position at Camp Taji.

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## A stick in time

By Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick  
Division Support Brigade PA

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – "A stitch in time saves nine." This ageless proverb indicates that if you fix something as soon as it's broke, you won't have to do a major over-haul later.

If that's true, then perhaps a stick in time can save lives.

If a Soldier's "battle buddy" can apply an intravenous flow of fluid, it will increase their possibility of surviving a major trauma.

Soldier survivability is the intent behind Division Support Brigade Commander Col. Brian R. Layer's command directive that all DSB unit members be Combat Life Saver qualified.

Soldier survivability is what motivates the medics teaching the CLS course here.

"There's nothing more important than this," said Spc. Aaron M. Orr, an airborne medic with the 550th Area Support Medical Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, during a class held here March 21-23.

(See Stick, Pg. 3)

## The Command Corner



**Lt. Col. Shawn M. Morrissey**  
Deputy Commander

We have been in country for a little over three months and we have established and settled into our various daily battle rhythms. Our command proudly recognizes your phenomenal and outstanding performance across the full spectrum of the brigade. Your relentless efforts have proven well in sustaining the 3d Infantry Division operationally.

More notably, your outstanding performance during convoy and combat operations here in theater is also the result of your professionalism, training, and commitment to duty. Collectively, each soldier's military occupation specialty and expertise within our brigade team provides a sustaining lethality in our continual quest of supporting the new Iraqi government and people.

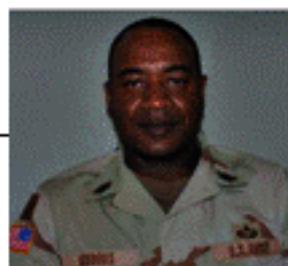
We also appreciate First Cavalry Division's contributions in providing us a solid foundation and infrastructure here for us to improve upon, specifically, in our work and living areas, while we are deployed. Consequently, we challenge you to continue to make individual and corporate improvements in your respective areas.

Additionally, I encourage you to take the opportunity of using the available communication assets on our Forward Operating Bases. It is important that we continue to stay in contact with our family members and love ones at home. The Army has done a great job in providing MWR and commercial assets for our deployed soldiers to stay connected.

The Soldiers of the Division Support Brigade are among the finest in our services and nation. So, remain focused and vigilant daily by mitigating risk hazards with effective leader assessments and by taking care of each other.

Importantly, we are grateful and proud of our families and friends back in the states. The Division Support Brigade says, "thank you for your loyalty, encouragement, and the tremendous sacrifices you make for our Soldiers during our separation and deployment in OIF III."

**"Heart of the Rock"**



**Command Sgt. Maj. Edward T. Brooks**

On April 5, I had the distinct opportunity to visit soldiers of the 92nd Engineer Battalion currently attached to the 36th Engineer Group at Camp Liberty.

In there short time in theater, they have complete numerous projects to include a highly efficient, new double vehicle loading dock for deliveries at the DFAC. They have also started foundation work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment headquarters and are doing some runway work. Once the runways are completed, the Soldier engineers will then begin working on the headquarter's buildings.

After speaking with some of the Soldiers on site, it was apparent that the Black Diamond is up for the challenge of rebuilding in Iraq. The Soldiers of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Eng. are working nearly seven days a week at a strength of nearly 100 soldiers. From heavy equipment operators to surveyors they are working hand-in-hand to get the mission complete. Sgt. Robert Thompson, B Company, told me some land prior to grading was impassable. But with the help of his surveyors' precise measurements, the land is now passable. In addition to being a heavy equipment operator, Spc. Wendy L. Sheppard is responsible for making sure that all equipment is dispatched and mission capable before the start of the day. Multi-tasking is common in the unit. Soldiers spoke highly of their leadership and the training they received prior to this deployment. Some Soldiers were putting their training and skills to the test on their first real project. The 92nd Eng. Bn. is a great unit and it's obvious that a tremendous amount of time, energy and teamwork got them where they are today.

**"Heart of the Rock"**

**"Preparedness is the key to success and victory"**  
**Gen. Douglas MacArthur**

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Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Peter J. Chadwick



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

**Sgt. Cristen M. Kwiatkowski, seated left, and Spc. Aaron M. Orr, seated right, lend an arm during the intravenous train up. Nearly 60 Soldiers from units here attended the Combat Life Saver course. The DSB goal is 100% CLS trained Soldiers.**

**Stick, continued from Pg. 1**

Orr, who hails from Olympia, Wash., said every Soldier having this training will free the medics to handle the more critical patients, therefore giving each casualty a better chance to survive.

Training begins with the basics.

“We teach buddy aid first,” said Maj. David W. Seiffert, the division nurse for the 3rd Infantry Division.

Seiffert, who is from Fairbanks, Alaska, said they begin with the soldiers common tasks in first aid. This part usually goes quickly, because the Soldiers are already familiar with the skills.

Sgt. Cristen M. Kwiatkowski, a medic with the 550th, said they then teach them how to do trauma assessments with the ABCs of care... airway, bleeding and circulation.

They teach the Soldiers several critical skills like treating fractures, stopping bleeding and inserting the IV, said the Elmira, N.Y. native.

“We’ve been having one class a week until now,” said Kwiatkowski. She said they started doing two classes a week on Monday to help meet the

requirement of training every Soldier.

Until that mission is accomplished, Soldiers like recent graduate Spc. Timothy W. Owens, motor transport operator, 396th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, will be put in key positions to provide aid.

“I’ll probably be part of a “snatch” team,” said Owens, whose home is Effingham, Ill.

This is a team of Soldiers dedicated in a convoy to rescue casualties and render good buddy aid, as well as recover equipment after an incident.

Soldiers going out on convoys aren't the only ones needing to know how to aid their buddy.

Sgt. Lakemtres D. Hamilton, a supply sergeant with 104th Transportation Company, 87th CSB, said it is not part of her job to go out on convoys, but she was there to recertify as a combat life saver.

She was there to make sure her battle buddy got the best care possible, said the New Orleans, La. native.

Sgt. Andre A. Mulet, a shop office clerk with 94th Maintenance Company, 87th CSB, was also back for refresher training.

“It was good to come out and

get my feet wet again,” said Mulet, who is from Jamaica Queens, N.Y. “I enjoyed it. It’s very hands on.”

Mulet said the instructors were very knowledgeable.

“All of them have combat trauma experience,” said Mulet.

With all this great training, he hopes he doesn’t have to use it, said Mulet. But if the need arrives, he feels ready.

“I see myself as a first responder instead of just standing there,” said Mulet.

Orr said the response of the combat life saver is critical to situations where the medic has either not arrived or been wounded in action and can’t perform their duties.

Their purpose?

“Conserve the fighting strength,” said Orr.

A stick in time could do just that.

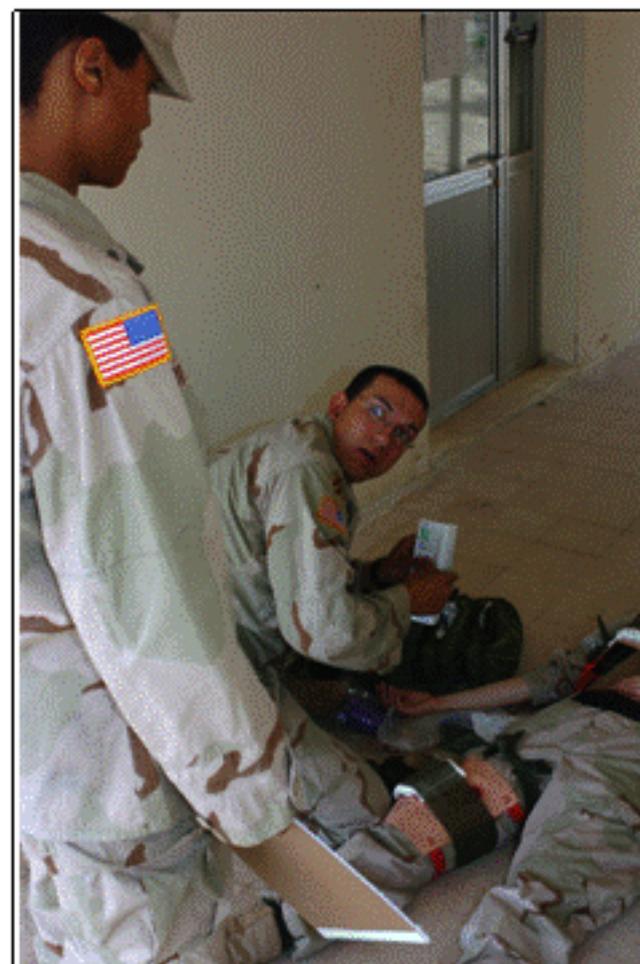


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

**Sgt. Andre A. Mulet, center, a shop clerk with the 94th Maintenance Company, looks to Spc. Lekeysha K. Mitchell, a medic with the 550th Area Support Medical Company, who is observing his casualty assessment and treatment test.**

## Serve and protect

By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Peter Chadwick

Division Support Brigade PA

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – “Serve and protect.”

This motto can be seen on many police cars across the United States.

But it's the Soldiers of the Division Support Brigade's Physical Security Teams, who are serving their country by protecting their commanders and command sergeants major, meeting a need created by the enemy's tactics. “When the insurgents started targeting colonels and sergeants major, we had to implement this,” Staff Sgt. Jose F. Magana, a pharmacy technician with the Brigade Troops Battalion, DSB. “We have to protect them because they're the ones leading our brigade, they're leading our battalions.”

The Columbus, Ga. native said the leaders selected the PST members from a variety of military occupational skills.

They're all Soldiers first regardless of MOS, said Magana, who is the noncommissioned officer in charge of sched-

ules for the brigade team. But, the Soldiers had to receive training beyond their basic combat training. “Prior to deployment, we had to go to a four-day class,” said Master Sgt. Eric S. Magee, an automated logistic sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, DSB.

Magee, who is from Gulfport, Miss., said the classes were rigorous eight-hours a day sessions taught by the 3rd Infantry Division back at the brigade's home station, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Sgt. Tyrone O. Simmons, a radio and communications security repairer with the Brigade Troops Battalion said the classes were taught by military police who specialize in personal security.

“The classes were about formations and how to escort the principle to keep him safe if he comes under attack,” said the Charleston, S.C. native. Simmons, who is a team chief with the BTB's PST, said he pulled similar type of duty while he was a gunner in Bosnia. His instruction by Special Forces members and experience in escort duty, patrols and convoys there helped prepare him for his assignment here.

“For most of the guys, it's there first time (See PST, Pg. 7)



## HMMWV ROLL- OVERS



There have been **143** Class A-C Army HMMWV accidents from the start of FY04 to present, resulting in **48** soldier deaths. Of the **143** accidents, **66** involved **rollovers** and **36** of the **48** fatalities occurred in a **rollover**. Eleven of these soldiers drowned in HMMWV rollovers.

The leading causes of death or serious injury in these accidents are Soldiers being ejected from the vehicle and head trauma. Ninety seven percent of the soldiers wearing seatbelts in an accident during OIF received only minor to no injuries. The reasons why our soldiers are dying in rollovers are: Driving too fast or failing to slow down for conditions, Failure to stay alert, Inexperienced / unqualified for driving the vehicle, Operating a vehicle in an overly aggressive manner, Failure to take appropriate/required safety precautions including:

- Using seat belts
- Wearing Kevlar
- Dismounting and ground guiding in dangerous or unfamiliar areas / terrain
- Not practicing / using roll-over drills

In one of our recent rollovers (photos above) none of our soldiers were wearing their seat belts at the time of the accident. As a result all four soldiers were ejected from their vehicle with three soldiers sustaining major injuries.

In view of this accident, consider these actions to prevent rollover incidents:

When conducting mission planning, ensure hazards such as narrow roads, soft shoulders and canals are identified and appropriate controls are identified, communicated, and implemented.

Prior to the mission, conduct rollover/crew evacuation drills.

Although it is the senior occupant's responsibility to assist the driver in identifying and avoiding road hazards, all occupants should assist with hazard identification and avoidance.

# From the Pulpit

by Chaplain (Maj.) Paul J. Yacovone

## Keep the fire burning!

Keep the fire burning! What do you mean by keep the fire burning? I'm frustrated, not free to be all that I can be. I'm tired, not fired up. I'm fried, not ready to roll. The light at the end of the tunnel is the Marne Express and it's heading my way. But, I don't even have the energy to 'moonwalk' out of its way. Talk about 'a deer in the headlights' syndrome. It's coming and I see it's coming, but... To burn out or to burn on, that is the question being asked by many these days. And, I believe the answer is keeping the fire burning!

In the book of Leviticus, tucked away in the sixth chapter, is a quiet passage describing the duties of the priests of the Tabernacle in handling burnt offerings. The priests had many tasks. Among them stood one supreme duty. God reinforced its importance three times within this small passage. The fire on the altar, the eternal flame on which sacrifices were offered to God, was not to go out. Other duties could slide. Other tasks could be put off. But, the fire on the altar was not to go out.

The apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians, contrasted our inner life with our outer life when he said that "though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly, we are renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16). We are renewed in-

wardly day by day by tending the fire on the altar of our hearts.

In the margin less lives we live, we need to go by our inner compass instead of the clock. In other words, prioritize by asking, "What matters most?" instead of overloads driving us to feel like we're toast.

There's something about a soldier's cross that compels the will to sacrifice. There's something about a soldier's faith that inspires the belief system for endurance of great hardships. And there's something about a soldier's heart that motivates him or her to be moved with compassion, complete a mission or fight in the cause of freedom. But, if you kill a soldier's spirit, it's hard to resurrect a positive attitude. And, I believe it is the attitude of the soldier that influences success or failure in anything they do.

The challenge of today is to try and keep a balanced enough life that we can shine without burn out. Dick Biggs, peak performance coach for Fortune 500 companies, defines burnout as "the extinguishing of your spiritual, mental, physical or emotional enthusiasm." Enthusiasm means to be filled with Spirit, to be filled with energy or fire. It means to be filled with life!

You can't do your best, if you don't feel your best. So, making time for rest and re-energizing makes a lot of sense. If, I'm a Fiat forced to run like a Ferrari then, I'm going to need maintenance along the way before I blow a gasket and become useless to everybody.

If, we can't fight our present situation and we can't flee from it, let's learn to flow with it. What matters most? What should be your number one priority? That which energizes you. Keep the Fire burning!

## SPO knows...



By Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick  
Division Support Brigade PA

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – What does Support Operations know?

Better yet, what doesn't the Division Support Brigade unit know, especially when it comes to logistic support.

"We focus on the logistics for the division," said Lt. Col. William R. Keeton, Distribution Management Center/ Support Operations Officer for the SPO.

"The DSB has sort of a dual mission," said Keeton, who has been in the 3rd Infantry Division since

2003. "It provides for itself, but it also provides distribution and logistics over view for the entire division.

There are a variety of sections where nearly 100 of our Soldiers serve their country.

Keeton said the Property Book Office has accountability for weapons, tanks, helicopters and all the other equipment that belongs to the division.

Staff Sgt. Michael D. Wilson, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Combat Service Supply Automation Management Office from Warm Springs, Ga., said they are responsible for ensuring that the 3rd Inf. Div. can consistently and effectively pass critical logistics information throughout Iraq using Standard Army Management Information Systems on the Logistics Automation network.

MATO does all the tracking for the maintenance status within the division, said Keeton.

Master Sgt. Thomas J. Rooyackers, NCOIC for the Division Ammunition Office, said they are responsible for ensuring the Marne Division has enough ammunition to do its mission.

Our office has already coordinated numerous ammunition re-supply missions that keep the 3rd combat ready, said Rooyackers, who currently calls Hinesville, Ga. home.

General Services section tracks and supports all requests for supplies, said Keeton.

One of their sub-sections, Supply and Services Division, is managing all of the division's classes of supply from three different (See SPO, Pg 6)

**SPO, Continued from Pg. 5**

locations here in Iraq and Kuwait, said Sgt. Phyllis L. Magee-Lindsey, a petroleum supply sergeant from Bassfield, Miss.

Magee-Lindsey said many of the sections members have traveled to other forward operating bases to provide assistance and ensure mission accomplishment.

Keeton said the Plans section plans operational requirements and forecasts what ever is needed for the division.

The SPO Medical Operations has eagerly taken on the mission of getting all the Medical Supplies and Equipment ordered and delivered to the Division in a timely manner, said Master Sgt, Thomas Wallsmith, Surgeon Cell NCOIC.

Wallsmith said, DSB Surgeon Cell is busy supporting the

medical education, training and patient accountability of the Brigade.

SPO Transportation makes sure that what ever needs to be moved has the right vehicle and numbers of vehicles to do the job, said Keeton.

Keeton said SPO operations is the over seers that bring it all together.

Contracting is responsible for the contracting on an area basis here, said Keeton. They handle every work order from filing sand bags to building improvement.

Finally, the unit also has representatives in other FOBs to facilitate the smooth function of the operation.

All these functions can be wrapped up in one phrase.

"We create combat power for the division," said Keeton.

**To My Daddy**

You're away, but not forgotten.  
I'm awaiting your return.  
I know you're off to do your duty,  
But waiting for you is no fun.  
I try to look on the brighter side  
And remember why you're there.  
Remembering and remembering,  
But the answer, I'm not aware!  
I ask myself, "God why so many deaths?"  
I don't mean to question your work,  
But I'm under that mental stress.  
See, you sent my dad to Iraq.  
I'm just worried about those attacks.  
You see, many go and don't come back.  
They are known as our  
Heroes that have fallen,  
But, Lord, don't let that be my father's calling.  
You see, I want him home with me  
So he can tell me to be the best that I can be.  
In short, I'm asking you,  
Along with all the others,  
To look over the grandfathers, grandmothers,  
Fathers, mothers, sons,  
Daughters, sisters and brothers.  
Keep them safe and never let them go.  
I've told my dad good-bye. I also want to say  
hello.  
These words are written from the heart,  
From a daughter to her  
Father, for when they are apart!

*Written by Tysheena Jordan, Freshman,  
Xavier University of New Orleans  
For her father, Sgt. Maj. Darrell A. Jordan  
Supply and Service Sergeant Major,  
Division Support Brigade*

**Equal Opportunity Focus**

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

**Equal Opportunity...**

**the Heart of Readiness!**



*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick*  
**Spc. Murril, Aviation Brigade, kneels over a "wounded" 1st Lt. Terri N. Baynes, 550th Area Medical Support Company, while playing a medic who comes into her own at the Women's History Month celebration March 25, building 510, here. The program was written and directed by Sgt. Maj. Gloria D. Farrow, Division Support Brigade plans and operations section.**

**Upcoming Equal Opportunity observances**

|           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| April/May | Days of Remembrance          |
| May       | Asian Pacific Heritage Month |

# Health Tips

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE  
'CONSERVING THE FORCE FIGHT-  
ING STRENGTH'

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

## Leishmaniasis

The little-known parasite that causes chronic, festering sores and is responsible for more than 700 acute cases during OIF is back in the game. Leishmaniasis (leash' ma NIGH' a sis) is a vector-born parasitic disease spread by the bite of infected female sand flies. The sand fly, about 1/3 the size of a mosquito, is a noiseless flyer, has a short flight range, and typically bites at night. The sand fly breeds in

dark places such as leaf litter, rubble, loose earth, caves and rock holes. It does not leave telltale pain, itch or visible evidence of the bite like mosquito bites. Generally, sand flies feed at dusk and during the evening; however some species are opportunistic and will feed during the day if disturbed. The uninfected sand fly acquires the infection by feeding on a reservoir host. Reservoirs for Leishmaniasis, which vary depending on location, include domestic dogs, rodents (including rats, hyraxes and gerbils), sloths, marsupials, and humans. Leishmaniasis is also called kala-azar, Oriental sore, Delhi boil, and espundia. It should not be confused with sand fly fever, which is a viral disease transmitted by sand flies. There are three forms of the disease: cutaneous, mucocutaneous and

visceral. *Cutaneous Leishmaniasis*, with an incubation period of weeks to months, starts with a papule that enlarges and becomes a non-healing ulcer lasting months to years if untreated. *Mucocutaneous Leishmaniasis*, patients develop ulcerative or granulomatous (granular) lesions of the nasal, oral, and pharyngeal linings, which generally occur after or concurrent with cutaneous lesions. *Visceral Leishmaniasis*, with an incubation period of 10 days to years, the most severe form with **95% mortality** in untreated cases, is a chronic disease typified by fever (which is irregular, often with two daily peaks), enlarged spleen and liver, anemia, reduction of white blood cells, progressive emaciation and weakness. Treatment is generally *pentavalent antimonials* (See Sand, Pg. 8)

### PST, Continued from Pg. 4

doing personal security," said Simmons.

Pfc. Michael L. Poppert, a wire systems equipment repairer with HHC, DSB, said he had no prior experience. "I was a carpenter with a construction company," said Poppert of his time in Big Lake, Alaska before joining the Army. Poppert said he was working in the orderly room before joining the team.

"I'm really not a desk job type of person," said Poppert.

Poppert said his chance to get out from behind that desk came when he heard some of his friends talking about the PST and how they were still looking for Soldiers.

"I was not on the original crew back in Stewart," said Poppert. "They caught me up pretty quick."

The catching up came through the daily training the teams go through.

Simmons said repetition in training helps them to be able to react. They go to ranges periodically to stay fresh with a variety of weapons, as well as practice hand to hand combat.

Magana said the teams practice the self defense techniques taught them in Stewart. Training in disarming an attacker and overcoming an opponent with various holds is as realistic as possible, but safe. They are taught to tap their hand against their body to give in before they get hurt, said Magana.

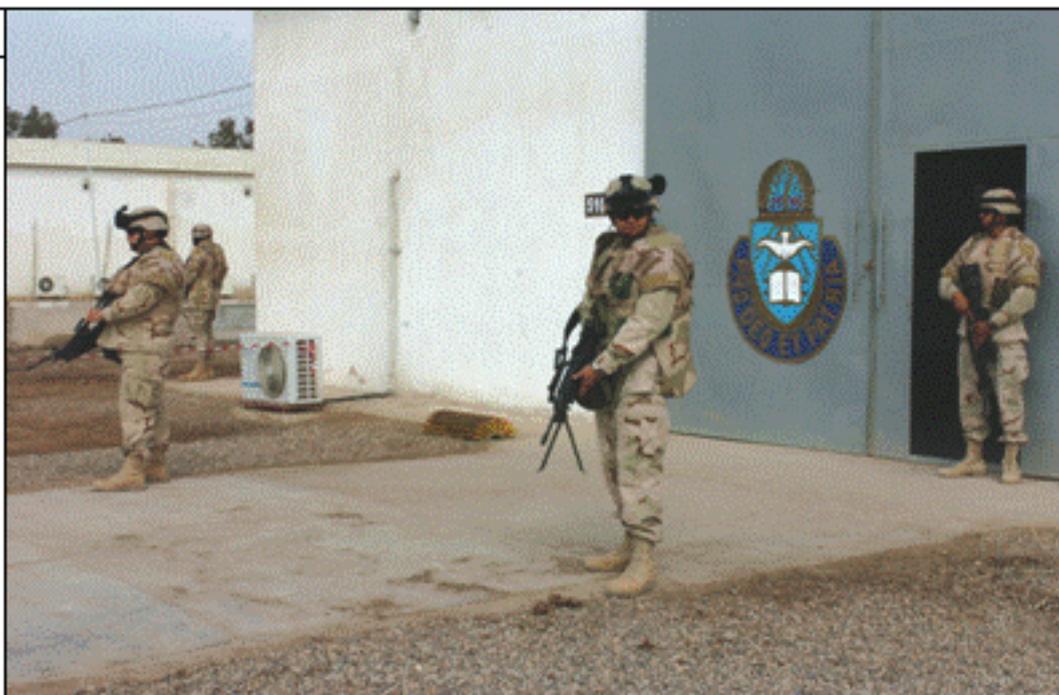


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

From left to right, Pfc. Michael L. Poppert, Spc. Luis Cruz and Staff Sgt. Jose F. Magana form part of a perimeter during a recent exercise. The Physical Security Team maintains their edge through regular training, ranges and classes.

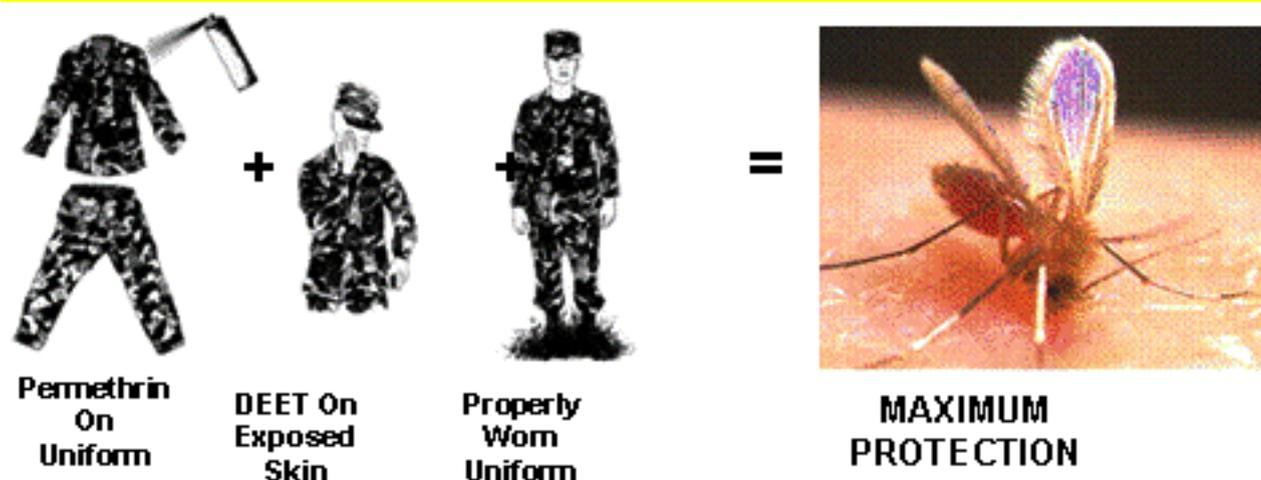
Safety is very important to these Soldiers. That's why the Combat Life Saver course is part of their training.

They individual training and team maneuvers are important for the groups to gain confidence in each other, said Simmons.

"I know what I'm doing," said Poppert. "I know what I'm supposed to do. I know how to protect myself and everybody else."

Protecting, serving and team... possibly a more complete definition of P-S-T.

## DOD Insect Repellent System

**Sand, Continued from Pg. 7**

such as *Pentostam* or *Glucontime*. Second line drugs are *amphotercin B* and *pentamidine*; however, these are not used routinely because of toxicity.

**There is no vaccine or preventive drug.** The best way to protect yourself from Leishmaniasis is by following these precautions: Limit outdoor activity at dusk and during the evening when possible, when the sand fly is most active. If possible, buildings

should have window screens or other barriers to keep sand flies from entering. Wear long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and socks; wear loose-fitting clothing to prevent sand fly bites through thin fabric. When wearing your desert combat uniform (DCU) have your pants tucked into boots, sleeves down, undershirt tucked into pants. Apply DEET lightly and evenly to exposed skin; do not use underneath clothing. Avoid contact with eyes, lips

and broken or irritated skin. To apply to your face, first dispense a small amount of DEET onto your hands and then carefully spread a thin layer (Standard military skin repellent: 33% DEET lotion, long-acting formulation, one application is effective for up to 12 hours, NSN 6840-01-284-3982). For your clothing, use a product that contains permethrin. Permethrin should be used only on clothing, never on skin. When using any insect repellent, always FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS. The preferred military clothing repellent is the Individual Dynamic Absorption (IDA) kit, 40% permethrin; one application remains effective for at least 50 washes, NSN 6840-01-345-0237. **Do not dry clean treated DCU's. This will remove the permethrin from the fabric.** 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).

## 87th hosts Iron Soldiers

By Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick  
Division Support Brigade PA

The 87th Corps Support Battalion, Division Support Brigade, sponsored an Iron Man/Iron Woman contest at building 546, here, starting at 3 p.m.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy L. Pegues, 87th CSB's command sergeant major, said his intent was to get Soldiers pumped up about competing in a bench press contest.

"I was not expecting such a large turn out," said Pegues, a power lifter from 1984-1989 at the local, national and international level.

"None of this would not have been possible had it not been for our sponsors and the soldiers that assisted me," said the former member of the All Army Power Lifting Team. Pegues said the sponsors were AAFES, Exchange New Car Sales, Amateur Athletic Union, Titan Support Systems, and

Crain Muscle World, Limited. They provided a variety of gifts and prizes for the event.

Pegues said he was especially grateful for the support and the hard work of the officials, spotters, timekeepers, scorers and the master of ceremonies.

The next planned event will be a squat contest around middle July, said Pegues. He said there may be another bench press contest as well because Soldiers are already asking when the next contest will be held.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alan Trotter

**Sgt. 1st Class Earnest Thurman, from the forward operating base in Anaconda, pushes 425 pounds as Frank C. Jimenez, Oshkosh Trucking, judges. Thurman earned a first place.**

### Send the Taji Times Home

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