



THE TAJI TIMES

Supporting the Rock in Southwest Asia



Vol. 1, Issue 7

Published for the Soldiers and Families in the Division Support Brigade

July 1, 2005



By Sgt. Victor Soto

“Staying on point!” Spc. Sean Hefler, with machine gun, a cannoneer specialist with 3rd Battalion, 117th Field Artillery Regiment (Forward), receives instructions from 1st Sgt. William A. Payne, the first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, BTB, while manning a guard tower at Camp Taji. Hefler, a Daleville, Ala., native, and his Alabama National Guard unit are attached to the Brigade Troops Battalion, Division Support Brigade, for convoy escort and force protection. Payne, who calls Huntington, W. Va., home, and the other DSB first sergeants periodically check the training and well-being of the Soldiers who keep the forward operating base at Taji secure.

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The Command Corner



Col. Brian R. Layer
Commander

Stories I tell friends

A eulogist said of George Washington, our first Army leader, "He was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." General Washington helped establish a legacy of value-based service which has been passed to us through many generations of soldiers.

Year after year, Americans identify the Army as one of the Nation's most trusted institutions—high above Congress, lawyers, and even the clergy. Because of your sacrifice and service you remain first in the hearts of your countrymen.

But respect, like fame, is fleeting. We are respected today not only because we are first in war and first in peace but because we continue to demonstrate our values around the world. Loyalty. Duty. Respect. Selfless-Service. Honor. Integrity. Personal Courage.

When these values frame our actions, they define our service—a service worthy of this praise. But history teaches us that when we operate outside these values, the trust and faith of our countrymen is easily squandered too. One of the great things about being on the Army team is we are all first string players; none of us sit on the bench. Consequently, the very essence of the Army rests in our hands.

The Army is what we are. Our Army's values are not etched in stone, they are rewritten each day by the work we do, the decisions we make, and the way we conduct ourselves as soldiers. If each of us lives these values, they'll remain the Army's values.

If we don't, we'll squander our legacy and the folks back home will see us as something less.

So as you go about your duties in the weeks to come, continue to live the Army values and together we'll remain "first in peace, first in war, and first in the hearts of our countrymen."



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

Heart of the Rock!

Here we are approaching six-months in theater. Subsequently, we have settled in with our daily duties and routines.

Well deserved environmental morale leave is at its peak with soldiers leaving and returning on a daily bases. I personally appreciate all the sacrifices that you have made while deployed. As you go on R & R leave, I want you to keep in mind a few things:

- R & R stands for rest and recuperation and this leave is just that. Do not overwhelm yourself with events so that when you return you will be more exhausted than when you left.
- Spend quality time with your family and friends. It's been a long time since you've done this.
- Safety is first! Be responsible and remember that you are our fellow Soldier in the best army in the world whether you are in uniform or not. You are representing us even on leave.

Remember that the impression that you share with your family regarding Iraq, will remain with them; even after your leave has ended.

America is depending on you!

Enjoy your well-deserved time away and return with a clear mind for the mission at hand.

Backbone of the Rock!

**Remember, upon the conduct of each depends the fate of all.
— Alexander the Great**

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DSB Executive Officer
Lt. Col. Nathaniel R. Glover

DSB Public Affairs Officer
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Sgt. 1st Class Peter J. Chadwick

104th Trans. Co. mourns comrade, Soldier, friend

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – More than 200 Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers filled Warrior Chapel to capacity June 20 as they gathered to memorialize a fellow comrade, Soldier and friend here.

Capt. Yolanda Bailey, commander for the 104th TC, spoke of that friendship.

“Specialist Jones was one of those people that, when you saw him, he always had a smile on his face,” said Bailey, whose unit is nicknamed The Road Dawgs. “Specialist Jones touched the hearts of many Soldiers in the Road Dawg family.”

Family was a top priority for Jones.

“His biggest joy in life was his wife and kids,” said Spc. Michael Wisher, a fellow transporter and best friend who had served with Jones for three years.

Wisher said that Jones was also great plans for his military career.

“He had a great sense of pride and discipline, which made him a great Soldier,” said Wisher of the Sumter, S.C., native. “He saw himself retiring as a command sergeant major.”

“[He] was an outstanding Soldier,” said Lambert. “He was a great ambassador for duty, honor and selfless service.”

“Specialist Jones was the type of person that would be there for you when you needed him most,” said Wisher.

“It was truly an honor to serve with Specialist Jones and I know that any one who knew him feels a sense of loss,”



By Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Chaplain (Maj.) Stanislaw Jasiurkowski, at podium, 87th Corps Support Battalion chaplain, gives the invocation at the memorial service for Spc. Anthony G. Jones June 20 at Warrior Chapel here. Jones was killed by an improvised explosive device while performing his duties as a transporter for the 223rd Heavy Equipment Transport Platoon, 104th Transportation Company, 87th CSB.

said Bailey.

“Let us respond to the passing of our fellow Soldier by renewing our resolve to respect the rule of law and to respect individuals, especially our neighbor,” said Jasiurkowski.

“It is important for us to learn how to make the world a safer and more civilized place, and retain our best character.” I’m convinced; that is Specialist Jones’ expectation.”

“Anthony, your spirit continues to live within us,” said Lambert. “Thank you for what you have given us. We will never forget!”



Photo By Sgt. Maj. William Price

L-R, Spcs. Timothy A. and Ashely A. Goodell after their reenlistment

DSB couple stays Army

By Sgt 1st Class Peter Chadwick
Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Commonly known wedding vows include “for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health.”

But for two 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers, maybe they should have included in reenlistment and duty station.

Spc. Timothy A. Goodell, a light wheel vehicle mechanic with the 94th Maintenance Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, and his wife, Spc. Ashely A. Goodell, human resource clerk, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Troops

Battalion, renewed their commitment to the Army June 18 here.

The two Division Support Brigade Soldiers were reenlisted by Lt. Col. Shawn M. Morrissey, the DSB deputy commander.

Both said they reenlisted to complete their 8-year commitment to the Army on active duty.

“This is what we love to do,” said Ashely, who hails from High Point, N.C.

“I wasn’t ready to get out,” said Timothy, a Sanford, Maine, native. “I still wanted to see some of the world.”

The couple signed up for six years with a follow-on assignment to Korea in June 2006.

Baby Parade

Congratulations to the new parents in the Heart of the Rock!

If you have had a new arrival since coming to Camp Taji, contact Sgt. 1st Class Chadwick at: peter.chadwick@us.army.mil Don't forget the photo and vital statistics



James Alexander Leon-Luciano,
Born April 6, 2005
To Capt. Randolph A. and Vanessa Leon
5 pounds, 11 ounces, 18 inches



Naphtali Z. Smith
Born June 9, 2005
To Spc. Robert K. Smith and Bevlique Garrett
7 pounds, 9 ounces, 19 inches



By Sgt. 1st Class Ken Walker

Pfc. Gerado Gallardo, left, points to the new stand a produced for the Division Support Brigade as Col. Brian R. Layer, the DSB commander, gives "thumbs up" for a job well done.

DSB colors get new stand

Sgt. 1st Class Ken Walker
Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Thanks to a maintenance company Soldier, the Division Support Brigade colors and American flag have new place to stand.

Pfc. Gerado Gallardo, a metal worker with the 94th Maintenance Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, produced the custom designed banner stand for the commanders' office in his units work shop.

Col. Brian R. Layer, the DSB commander, asked Gallardo's company to design it.

"This is a beautiful, colors stand that will stand in the brigade commander's office for years to come," said Layer.

Gallardo, a San Antonio native, said he used a "plasma torch" to cut the design out of one-quarter inch steel and welded it to "C" channel steel for a base.

Afterwards, the piece was de-burred with a flat file and painted, said Gallardo.

Layer took time June 17 to congratulate Gallardo on a job well done.

"I'm really surprised and honored the commander wanted to meet me," Gallardo said. "I was just doing the job that was assigned to me."

"It's indicative of the type of work all our Soldiers do everyday," said Layer.

Gallardo's daily duties include projects ranging from repairing wheeled and track vehicle radiators to reinforcing and installing armor plates in guard towers to in support of force protection.

Gallardo, who has 18 months in the Army, said he learned his metal working skills at advanced individual training.

**What you don't see
could kill you.**

**Look for secondary
explosive devices.**



0002

IEDs KILL

Off The Wall in Taji

Sgt. 1st Class Ken Walker
Division Public Affairs PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Hundreds of Soldiers enjoyed a rock show by the veteran United Services Organization touring band “Off The Wall” who made an unscheduled stop here after playing a Camp Victory the night before.

The band played a set lasting over an hour and a half with a set that included everything from hip-hop and country, to rock classics from Jimi Hendrix.

The band’s next scheduled venue was Camp Liberty.

However, an opportunity to play here was too good to pass up.

It became Taji’s gain and Liberty’s temporary delay as the band quickly agreed to add the show.

The six-member group arrived early in the afternoon before the evenings’ performance.

While the road crew was setting up their equipment, the band visited Soldiers at various Morale, Welfare, and Recreational service locations on Taji.

As word got around, Soldiers came by the MWR to visit the performers and take an opportunity to relax from their daily routine.

Soldiers received autographs, talked about cars and guitars, and took photos with the patriotic performers.

Spc. Roger Brown, an administrative specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, received an autographed promotional flyer signed by Michelle Velasco, vocalist for (See Wall, Pg 6)



By Sgt. 1st Class Ken Walker

Spc. Roger Brown receives an autographed promotional flyer signed by Michelle Velasco, vocalist for the band “Off The Wall” prior to the outdoor concert Camp Taji.

Equal Opportunity Focus



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

Equal Opportunity...

the Heart of Readiness!

Equal Opportunity is to maximize human potential and to ensure fair treatment of all, based solely on merit, fitness, and capability in support of readiness.

The goal is to create and sustain effective units by eliminating discriminatory behaviors or practices that undermine teamwork, mutual respect, loyalty, and shared sacrifice of our soldiers. EO is everyone's responsibility.

Wall, continued from Pg. 5

the band.

Brown, who hails from Miami, Fla., said he tries to go to all the music acts that come to Camp Taji.

"Having our photograph taken with the Soldiers and autographing promotional flyers is a simple and easy thing we always make time for," said Velasco, who is from Los Angeles. "We are here for the Soldiers."

During the evenings' performance, Velasco belted out classic rock and songs currently on the Billboard charts.

From the small stage, she had everyone's attention as she flirted and danced with several Soldiers in the audience.

Spc. Trenton Coley, a radio-

telephone operator with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Aviation Brigade, danced with Velasco.

Coley, from Tacoma, Wash., said he could not resist the opportunity, even though he expected his friends to tease him.

He said he loves to dance, especially with a beautiful woman to make his friends jealous.

One highlight of the evening occurred when Sgt. Jay W. Sawyer, a truck driver with the 541st Transportation Company, 68th Combat Support Battalion, joined the band on stage to play the harmonica.

Sawyer and the band's lead guitarist traded riffs throughout a couple of songs.

The audience witnessed an unrehearsed jam session that was fantastic.

The weather was not the only thing hot that night, Sawyer and his harmonica were "smokin'."

The band wowed the crowd with a surprise Jimi Hendrix tribute.

Both guitarist, one with a tattoo of Hendrix on his arm and the other with a left-handed neck on a right handed guitar (Hendrix played left-handed), were obviously dedicated to the music of the late great guitarist.

After the band's performance, they spent more time visiting the soldiers, autographing and talking about their music and their show.

The band's next stop on the "Elusive Comforts" tour was Balad, Iraq.

BTB, DSB opens new headquarters

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- From left to right, Capt. Katie Nygren, commander, 550th Area Support Medical Company, Brigade Troops Battalion; Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Hamilton, project manager, 557th Red Horse; Capt. Ryan J. Ussery, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, BTB; prepare to cut the ribbon officially opening the battalion's newly renovated building June 16, here. Ussery said the hero of the project was Hamilton. "He's the epitome of selfless service," said Ussery. He said the Air Force engineers put in secure storage cages, a covered back porch and second floor dayrooms for the unit Soldiers to relax from their duties. The renovation took about 4.5 months to complete. The building accommodates the administrative offices for the 550th ASMC and HHC, BTB, along with the battalion staff itself. Ussery said moving into the new building has greatly boosted the morale of his Soldiers.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ken Walker

Health Tips

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
'CONSERVING THE
FIGHTING STRENGTH'

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

Anthrax Vaccinations to Resume Under EUA

Personnel serving in Iraq and all other countries in the U.S. Central Command area of operations are now being offered anthrax vaccinations under an Emergency Use Authorization approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The Department of Defense requested the EUA to provide pre-exposure protection against deadly anthrax spores. On April 6, 2005, the court allowed voluntary anthrax vaccinations under specific conditions of the EUA. Unit commanders in USCENTCOM are responsible for ensuring that all personnel are educated on the resumption of the vaccinations. The education will include information on the threat of anthrax spores and disease, health benefits and risks of vaccination, and the option to refuse vaccination without penalty. All personnel will receive a tri-fold brochure explaining the program. Individuals accepting vaccination will resume the six-dose series from where they left off. No vaccinations in the series will be repeated. For more information, contact Lt. Col. Steve Horosko, Force Health Protection Office, by phone at DSN 318-822-1231 or email

steve.horosko@iraq.centcom.smil.mil.

Additional information on the EUA program is located on the MNC-I web page at <https://sps.irq01.centcom.mcfi.mil/c7/surgeon> and at www.anthrax.mil/eua.

Disease Facts

There are three forms of anthrax: inhalation anthrax, cutaneous anthrax, and gastrointestinal anthrax. These disease forms correspond to the way in which

the anthrax bacteria or spores enter the body. It's the pathway into the body that results in the different disease symptoms early in infection. All three forms are come from the bacterium known as *Bacillus anthracis*.

Inhalation Anthrax

The most deadly form of anthrax is inhalation anthrax, a condition that results from breathing in anthrax spores. In the lungs, these spores germinate into bacteria, like popcorn popping in a microwave oven. The bacteria then cause disease, unless the person is immune via vaccination or takes antibiotics very soon. There are usually two stages of inhalation anthrax -- the first stage can last from hours to a few days and is similar to a flu-like illness with fever, headache, cough, shortness of breath, and chest pain. The second stage often develops suddenly and is notable for shortness of breath, fever, and shock. This second stage can result in 100% fatality in untreated/unprotected individuals due of the build-up of toxins

Anthrax spores are considered by the Intelligence Community to be the #1 threat with respect to biological warfare and bioterrorism. The fatality rate for inhalation anthrax approaches 100% due to the bacteria's ability to multiply rapidly once in the body.

Cutaneous Anthrax is an infection of the skin with anthrax bacteria. The disease occurs after the bacteria enter through skin cuts or abrasions. Usually within two weeks, an itchy skin lesion develops (similar to an insect bite). This lesion may later blister and then break down, resulting in a black ulcer (eschar) which is usually painless. The skin lesion is often surrounded by significant swelling. Sometimes painful lymph nodes may develop. A scab is often formed which then dries and falls off within two weeks. In up to 20% of untreated individuals,

the infection may spread through the bloodstream and become fatal. However, in most individuals who receive appropriate treatment and have been protected, death from cutaneous anthrax is rare.

Gastrointestinal Anthrax

The **gastrointestinal** form of anthrax occurs after swallowing raw or undercooked contaminated meat. Disease usually develops within one week and can affect the upper portion of the gastrointestinal tract (mouth and esophagus) or the intestines and colon.

Gastrointestinal anthrax is associated with severe abdominal distress followed by fever and signs of septicemia. Involvement of the pharynx usually includes lesions at the base of the tongue, sore throat, fever, and swollen lymph nodes. Lower bowel inflammation usually causes nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting and fever, followed by abdominal pain, vomiting blood, and bloody diarrhea.

Infection in both of these areas may result in spread of the infection by the bloodstream and can result in death.

Protection Against Anthrax:

Anthrax vaccine provides the best round-the-clock protection against anthrax disease. The main component of the vaccine is the **protective antigen** protein. When injected into the body, the immune system generates antibodies that neutralize **protective antigen**.

If we are exposed to anthrax and its toxins, our immune system will send out an army of antibodies to neutralize the toxin.

The vaccine, therefore, provides an added layer of protection to go along with bio-agent detector equipment, Mission Oriented Protective Posture clothing and masks, and early treatment with antibiotics following known or suspected exposure. A 1962 study in mill workers by Brachman *et al.*, showed that anthrax vaccine was



Cutaneous Ulcer. Cutaneous anthrax ulcer. Even with treatment, the ulcer progresses to a black eschar, which separates after 2-3 weeks, leaving a scar.

(See Anthrax, Pg. 8)

Reenlistments

632nd Maintenance Company

Sgt. 1st Class Fort
 Staff Sgt. Bacon
 Staff Sgt. Bass
 Staff Sgt. Heard
 Staff Sgt. Hamilton
 Staff Sgt. Hardy
 Staff Sgt. Rivero
 Staff Sgt. Swieda
 Sgt. Banegura
 Sgt. Bonea
 Sgt. Collins
 Sgt. Colston
 Sgt. Dillon
 Sgt. Evans
 Sgt. Fernandez
 Sgt. Hill
 Sgt. Hill
 Sgt. Owens
 Sgt. Payton
 Sgt. Pilgrim
 Sgt. Quinn
 Sgt. Salgado
 Sgt. Sanders
 Sgt. Thompson
 Sgt. Williams
 Spc. Byczkoski

Spc. Chambers
 Spc. Fleming
 Spc. Gau
 Spc. Goodwin
 Spc. Hinks
 Spc. Kahala
 Spc. Martinez
 Spc. Milton
 Spc. Ninete
 Spc. Toney
 Spc. Wamba
 Pfc. Perez

94th Maintenance Company

Staff Sgt. Arthur
 Staff Sgt. Barr
 Staff Sgt. Bell
 Staff Sgt. Brogdon
 Staff Sgt. Eisensmith
 Staff Sgt. Phillips
 Staff Sgt. Stull
 Sgt. Allsbrook
 Sgt. Bargerhuff
 Sgt. Barrett
 Sgt. Fitzpatrick
 Sgt. McCall
 Spc. Goodell
 Spc. Al-Arif
 Spc. Francois

226th Quarter Master Company

Sgt. Wint
 Sgt. Perez
 Sgt. Shneur

396th Transportation Company

Sgt. Felix
 Spc. Dutan

550th ASMC

Sgt. Velazquez
 Sgt. Thompson

632nd Maintenance Company

Sgt. Pilgrim
 Sgt. Sanders
 Spc. Milton
 Spc. Toney

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 87th CSB

Spc. Stroupe
 Spc. Wright
 Spc. Brown

Promotions

87th CSB 94th Maint. Co.

Capt. Gubitosi
 Chief Warrant Office 4 Arroyo
 Staff Sgt. Stull
 Staff Sgt. Eisensmith
 Staff Sgt. Bell
 Sgt. Bargerhuff
 Sgt. Cobb
 Sgt. Stadick
 Sgt. Lacy
 Sgt. McCall
 Spc. Brown

Pfc. Lillegaard
 Pfc. McGee
 Pvt2. Gilles
 Pvt2. Dixon
632nd Maint. Co.
 Sgt. 1st Class Perr
 Staff Sgt. Batis
 Sgt. Cruz-Sanches
 Sgt. Lane
 Sgt. Nava
 Sgt. Thompson
 Cpl. Bloomquist
 Spc. Adkisson
 Spc. Campos
 Spc. Fleming

Spc. Lucas
 Spc. Monroe
 Spc. Wiggins
 Spc. Zubek
 Pfc. Cardenas
 Pfc. Everson
 Pfc. Johnson,
 Pfc. Kline
 Pfc. Mears
 Pfc. Moore
 Pvt2. Colbert
3rd SSB
HHC
 Sgt. Nerti

A Co.
 Pfc. Ferguson
 Pfc. Prettyboy
B Co.
 Spc. Frame
 Spc. Montenegro
 Pfc. Suarez
 Pfc. Windom
C Co.
 Spc. Camachosolis
D Co.
 Spc. Roberts
 Spc. Vincent

Send the Taji Times Home

Anthrax, continued from Pg. 7

From:

FREE
 MAIL

To:

92.5% effective in preventing anthrax (including both cutaneous and inhalation forms of anthrax). The anthrax vaccine used by DoD has been licensed by the FDA since 1970 and has been used routinely to vaccinate veterinarians who may acquire the disease by working with livestock. Since 1998, DoD has administered over five million doses of vaccine to over 1.3 million military and civilian personnel serving world-wide.