



THE TAJI TIMES

Supporting the Rock in Southwest Asia



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Published for the Soldiers and Families in the Division Support Brigade

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Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ken Walker

Staff Sgt. Angela Lockett, 104th Transportation Company, 87th Combat Support Brigade, assistant convoy commander, gives an inspection and route briefing to all Soldiers prior to departure. Before Soldiers can leave in their Heavy Equipment Transports and military vehicles, they conduct pre-combat checks and lay out their TA-50.

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Taking Care of Business

By Capt. Jeremy Smith
CO, 226th Quartermaster Company

CAMP TAJI, Iraq –The 226th Quartermaster Company continues to prove that it is “Always on the Move!” by its many missions performed during Operation Iraqi Freedom Three.

As part of the 87th Corps Support Battalion, the 226th QM is responsible for operating the 3rd Infantry Division’s Division

Distribution Center, Division Class I/IV Yard, and a consolidated Supply Support Activity. Additionally, the 226th QM distributes JP-8 fuel to Forward Operating Base Honor, FOB Falcon and here. “The Soldiers of the 226th QM do outstanding work everyday,” explains 1st Sgt. Ernest R. Lee, the company’s First Sergeant who is from Hinesville, Ga., “No other company has such a diverse mission.”

He said their daily duties include delivering fuel, keeping all equipment up and running, processing parts for customers as well as receive shipments. Additionally, trucks are

(See 226 QM Pg. 6)

The Command Corner



Col. Brian R. Layer
Commander

Stories I Tell Friends

This Sunday we'll celebrate Fathers Day. And if you can help me keep a secret from the Command Sergeant Major, I plan to spend some of this Sunday out of uniform. I'll take a few moments to try on my annual gift—a T-shirt adorned with the footprints of my two children.

I get a similar gift every year and I'm always surprised by how much their feet grow in those twelve months. This year, it will be even more obvious because it's been a while since I've seen their feet; and my surprise will remind me, once again, of the magnitude of personal sacrifice we all make here.

I know that each of you would rather be somewhere else not only this Fathers Day but on most any day. All of us have a life outside the Army that we are missing and on some days, like holidays, it hardly seems worth it. But I'd like to remind you that now that we're here, we owe our best effort to our battle buddies so we can all get home safely.

Soldiering is a team sport and you're on the greatest team in the world. Each of you plays a vital role in our mission success and we need your battle focus every day. So this Fathers Day and every day, remember we do this for each other, and because it's our duty, and so we can spend next Fathers Day and all those that follow with the people we miss the most this year.

Happy Fathers Day to you and yours and thanks, again, for your outstanding soldiering and great sacrifice. I'm very proud to serve our country with each of you.

Heart of the Rock!



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

Heart of the Rock!

I have always said "I'll go where you go," and I mean this.

As I have been out on numerous convoys this week, I want to stress to my comrades and Soldiers, that combat stress is real. With the hot weather approaching and the work level increasing, Soldiers are facing combat stress.

I want everyone to be aware of combat stress symptoms and make sure that if they suspect someone is suffering from combat stress, they immediately try and comfort the Soldier and get them some help.

Combat stress is very serious. We are in a tactical environment and with that, consideration of others is very important. NCOs I challenge you this month to listen to your Soldiers. Ensure that they are taken care of.

Soldiers, I give you the buddy task, take care of your buddy. Listen and seek help for them if they need it. As I roll out on convoys, I see that it takes one team with one fight to get the job done. Soldiers and NCOs, you do that well.

I now challenge you to stand together helping one another during this tactical time. We are Soldiers, Marne Soldiers.

Let's all be a team and not a part from the team.

Remember "I'll go where you go" and with that we fight together.

People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society.

— Vince Lombardi

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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 Ken Walker



STAY ALIVE

Stop and Think!

IEDs are deadly killers.

Conduct 5 and 25 meter checks around your position.

0001

IEDs KILL

'5-25' campaign increases IED awareness

By: MNC-I Public Affairs

Improvised explosive devices are the number one killers of America's sons and daughters serving in Iraq, and the Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory is kicking off an information campaign in an effort to increase IED awareness and save lives.

The "5-and-25" campaign, as it is called, is designed to increase IED awareness and reduce the effectiveness of the mountain of makeshift bombs being produced by insurgents. Officials say the deceptive devices account for more than half of the coalition deaths that have occurred since the start of the Iraq war in March 2003.

Efforts to date have reduced the IED casualty rate by more than 45 percent during the period of April 2004 through February 2005 – but that is not seen as enough.

"IEDs are our number one killers here," said Eric Eglund, who works at the Iraq headquarters of Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory. The task force is responsible for developing innovative ways to rid the country of IEDs.

The deadly devices are considered a highly effective means of killing people because they can quickly be set up anywhere and be set to blow at any time. They have been disguised as virtually everything from tree trunks and dead animals to bicycles and pregnant women. Royal Australian Air Force Group Capt. David Stockdale, deputy chair of the IED Working Group at Multi-National Corps-Iraq, said there is no limit to what insurgents will use for IEDs.

Stockdale, who serves as the equivalent of a colonel in the American Air Force, has been actively working the issue of IEDs and their effects since arriving in Iraq a few months ago.

"The IED is one of the most dangerous threats to coalition forces," Stockdale said. "To mitigate their effects, we wanted to put together an information campaign that would make the IED reaction drill a normal part of daily activities for the coalition forces."

Eglund said several different counter-IED organizations were already delivering good messages and possible solutions out there, but with no real emphasis or impact to the troops who needed it the most. "It wasn't as good as it could be. Some channels just naturally don't flow as well as others," he said.

The working group, deputy-chaired by Stockdale, represents a cross-section of

coalition forces formed as a result of this issue.

The group's solution for getting vital information to the forces required three objectives: First, ensure information gets to those troops who need it most; second, develop an effective counter-IED organization that can take the fight to the enemy; third, produce pinpointed products from one organization which can be approved and delivered in a timely fashion.

"IEDs can be anytime, anywhere, any shape; the trends change," Stockdale said. "The aim is to get the message to the field. It's dangerous out there."

To push information to the troops anywhere and anytime trends change, the working group assembled a small team of designers to brainstorm effective ways to get the word out. The first idea also seemed the most obvious one to start the campaign -- military publications.

Task force members agreed they needed some common thread to tie all the messages together – like a logo.

"The [designers] suggested we needed to have [a logo] that everybody recognizes," said Lt. Col. Theodore Martin, field team leader, Joint IED Defeat Task Force-Iraq. "5-and-25" became that logo. "The most important thing coalition forces can accomplish is situational awareness when

(See 5-25 Pg. 4)

5-25, continued from Pg. 3

they're outside the wire; it is the most basic [tactic] that you have to master." "This seemed appropriate because 5-and-25 means awareness," said Master Sgt. William Johnson, one of three designers. "5-and-25 means checking the area around you for a threat. Every time you stop outside a secure area, you always should check. Not checking could get you killed."

More specifically, 5-and-25 requires that troops look for anything out of the ordinary within a five-meter radius of their vehicles, according to counter-IED policies. If halted long enough, forces

should then exit their vehicles and conduct a 25-meter sweep around their position. Halting for as little as four minutes can prove costly.

"Evidence shows that [many] Soldiers, who are at a short halt [for as little as] four to five minutes, are getting hit by IEDs near their vehicles," Martin said. Besides the recognizable 5-and-25 logo getting printed in military publications, the campaign will also produce messages to other outlets that could potentially reach as far away as the Department of Defense and Afghanistan.

"This time it's [newspaper ads], next time it will be commercials on TV and radio," Martin said. "After that, we're

looking at expanding it. The sky is the limit."

Included in the laundry list of ideas are bumper stickers, flash screens on Web sites, stress balls and even Frisbees, according to Martin.

Whatever the means, Stockdale said the message must stay focused with one purpose: to save lives.

"There's no predicting exactly where, when or how you're going to meet an IED when you're driving around," Stockdale said. "Practicing those basic methods and regularly using them significantly enhances your chances of survival."

DSB Winners!

Boxing: Top-
Spc James Harder
S-1, 87th CSB
"Buck"
Chicago, Ill.

Boxing: Middle-
Daniel Carmack
HHD, 87th CSB
"12 Gauge"
Tunnel Hill, Ga.

Boxing: Bottom-
Spc. Nathanael Ubri
HHD, 87th CSB
"El Dominiking"
Boston, Ma.

Ping Pong-
SFC Jose Urbaez
87th CSB
Santa Domingo,
Dominican Republic

Volleyball-
Capt. Jennifer Cave
Assistant S-1, DSB
Chillicothe, Ohio

5K Marathon-
2 Lt. Racel Springer
550th ASMC
Evac. Platoon leader
Kissimmie, Fl.
5K 19:09
1st Place Females



Soldiers Attend Patching Ceremony on Memorial Day

By Sgt. 1st Class Ken Walker
Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Over one-hundred and fifty Task Force Baghdad Soldiers from Division Support Brigade's Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division attended a memorable combat patch ceremony here on Memorial Day.

Eight Soldiers representing four different units stood at attention as Col. Brian Layer, Division Support Brigade commander, and Lt. Col. Ron Long, Brigade Troops Battalion, battalion commander, attached the 3rd Inf. Div. "Marne" patch to the soldiers' right shoulder.

The soldiers receiving the patch were the youngest and the oldest members of the 3rd Battalion, 117th Field Artillery; 2nd Detachment, 3rd Signal Company; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, DSB; and 550th Area Support Medical Company.

In his opening remarks Layer said, "One of the great things about being a soldier is that we've been passed a tremendous legacy by those who have gone before us. They have passed us the greatest army in the world. We have the privilege of being a soldier in our nation where we get to defend the greatest country in the world."

"Today we celebrate those people who paid the ultimate sacrifice, and never made it back," he said.

"Regardless of where these units and these soldiers serve, they will walk away from here wanting to put the 3rd Inf. Div. patch on,"
Command Sgt. Maj. Edward T. Brooks,
DSB command sergeant major.

Long continued the tribute to fallen soldiers. His first comment was, "Memorial Day, what a fitting day to honor those that have gone before us by presenting the combat patch."

Long explained the origin of soldiers wearing a patch on the right shoulder. The first shoulder sleeve insignia for an Army unit was the image of a Bobcat sewn on a piece of army blanket and worn by the 81st Infantry Division in World War I.

A unique experience led to the creation of the patch worn on the right shoulder. A Bobcat blocked a platoons' course of

travel and forced the platoon to cross father downstream, away from the originally planned route.

Later, the men joked about how the Bobcat had whipped the hardened infantry soldiers. They devised the idea to fashion a patch to signify their bond as a platoon from this unique experience they had shared. They decided on the form of the bobcat. The design was sewn onto the small piece of army blanket and attached to the right shoulder.

Today, wearing of a combat patch is a right of passage, signifying the soldier has been in a combat environment. The combat patch brings the soldiers, the teams, the squad, and the units a little closer when it comes to taking care of each other.

Command Sgt. Maj. Edward T. Brooks, DSB command sergeant major said, "This is a significant day as we honor the men and women who came before us and lost their lives. It is fitting that these soldiers have earned the combat patch." He continued, "Regardless of where these units and these soldiers serve, they will walk away from here wanting to put the 3rd Inf. Div. patch on."

2nd Lt. Robert Schlau, 550th ASMC, hails from Deerfield, Illinois. He explained, "It is a feeling of honor to be awarded this combat patch. I have been part of a bigger thing. I am honored to be a member of a group who has been in a combat zone and share the traditions of everyone who has ever been in a combat zone." Also from the 550th ASMC, Sgt. Troy Gaddis, from Camden, New Jersey explained what the patch meant to him. He said, "When my squad receives a tasking to go out and provide coverage, it is usually for two weeks at a time. I have five people in my squad. During our turn, we will go "outside the wire" perhaps four trips. We have received enemy fire and are all susceptible to receiving fire at any time, Gaddis added.

Schlau and Gaddis's unit from Fort Bragg, North Carolina has the mission of providing medical coverage for the DSB and for convoys that go off the Forward Operating Base.

"The donning of the patch is something that I will be able to hold with me the rest of my life. This is my first combat tour. So every time I see this patch, it will remind me of what I did, who I came out here with, who I helped support," Gaddis added.

Far left: Col. Brian Layer, Division Support Brigade commander, and Lt. Col. Ron Long, Brigade Troops Battalion, battalion commander, attach the 3rd Inf. Div. "Marne" patch to soldiers right shoulder. Left: The cinema was filled to capacity, "standing room only". Below: The colors from the units receiving the combat patch.

Photos By: Sgt. 1st. Class Ken Walker



From the Pulpit

By Chaplain (Capt.) Claude E. Hoffman

Why Are You Here?

For many, being tardy is an unpardonable sin. If you are like me, you will find some comfort in the following story. Mrs. Paul led the choir at West Side Baptist Church in Nebraska. The time is 1900 hrs and practice begins in thirty minutes. At 1915 hrs, her daughter, the choir's pianist, is taking a nap. For the first time, Mrs. Paul and her daughter will be tardy. All eighteen members of the choir will be late today.

Mrs. Vandergrift had to help her daughter with her homework. The Estes sisters' car would not start. Mrs. Shuster was preparing for a missionary meeting and Herb Kipf had to write an important letter delaying him. Mrs. Black waited because of the cold weather, while Harvey Ahl had children to look after. Pastor Klempel's watch was five minutes slow, causing him to be late for

the choir practice.

All of them were late.

For all of you critical of the late, the choir members were always on time. But tonight, they were late.

Unknown to anyone, there was a natural gas leak by the furnace directly below the choir loft. It ignited at 1930 hrs and started a fire.

The fire demolished the building. Not one person was hurt.

Yes, they were all late.

A miracle had occurred.

Do you see the world positively or negatively?

It makes you wonder, are you really at the wrong place at the wrong time when things are not going right?

Do you ask the question, what am I doing here? It is all right to ask.

My answer to you is that you are here because you are supposed to be here.

God has called you to the vocation you chose.

226 QM, Continued from page 1

loaded at the DDC and Class I & IV yard with all nine classes of supply for delivery to every FOB in Baghdad.

Assisting the 226th Soldiers in the DDC and Class I & IV Yard are Soldiers from 94th Maintenance Company, 104th, Transportation Company, and 632nd Maintenance Company.

"This is truly a team effort," explains Capt. Curt Hinton, DDC Officer-In-Charge from Peoria, IL. "We operate day and night and put together a team that takes care of business. We have trucks delivering supplies at all hours and we upload trucks for customers here and to the other FOBs. Most nights we even load helicopters for aerial re-supply." Conducting aerial re-supply missions was a rarity during OIF 2. However, air missions occur nearly every night during OIF 3.

"The air missions usually work out great," says 1st Lt. Lowell Harris, from Providence, RI., Harris, the OIC of the air missions remarked, "Our Soldiers build and weigh up to twelve Air Force 436L pallets for air movement. We can get three pallets on a CH-47 Chinook

during a flight. Sending them by air means fewer trucks needed to travel outside the wire. With all the supplies being sent throughout the division each day, we like to do whatever we can to lessen the number of trucks placed potentially in harms' way."



Working with Harris, are a small team of Soldiers from the 94th, the 104th, and the 226th.

According to Lafayette, AL. native, Sgt. Kevin Joiner, a Retrograde Yard Non-commissioned Officer in Charge who assists in aerial re-supply missions, "During nights we do missions where we have to load the pallets onto trucks and drive them and two large forklifts to the airfield. With the crew we have now, and all the practice we have had,

The negative person would look at the above story condemning the people for being late. They might say, they could have discovered the leak and tuned off the furnace.

The positive person would thank God for being alive, because the smallest of sparks could have blown up the church. The choice is yours, how do you see the situation?

In Philippians 1:14, Paul explains that others were encouraged to speak the word of God fearlessly. He found comfort in knowing that others gained courage from his courage.

Where are you today?

Paul realized that his calling meant that he would not always be happy and comfortable, but he was willing to make the sacrifice to benefit others. He found great comfort and satisfaction in that.

Are you allowing yourself to be used by God to mold and shape the lives of others around you? Are people drawing strength from how you deal with trouble? Do you have joy in serving? Are you at peace with God?

Please meditate on these questions.

we load the first two helicopters quickly. When they return for the second leg, we do it over again. The wait can be boring, but we like doing the mission, especially when we load the Chinooks."

While the aerial re-supply mission is an important part of the DDC's mission, the Soldiers have many other daily tasks.

"Everyday we upload military and Qatar International Transportation trucks for their missions to FOBs all over Baghdad," says Hinton. "We don't just push supplies; we download whatever the trucks backhaul."

"We also download corps and theater pushes for the 3rd Inf. Div. Most everything the division uses will come through here first."

A new mission for the DDC is to receive and breakdown division buys for distribution to the FOBs. The DDC personnel work closely with the division G-4, Division Support Brigade, and 87th CSB to count and separate items such as the Enhanced Small Arms Protection Insert plates for distribution.

"We seem to be adding missions," says Hinton. "It keeps our Soldiers pretty busy and they do different things almost everyday."

Health Tips

*PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
'CONSERVING THE FORCE
FIGHTING STRENGTH'*

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

Histoplasma

Probably the first thing that came to your mind when you read the title of this article was 'these Preventive Medicine guys are trying to terrorize us again....' But believe us when we say that we're here to keep you healthy and ready to fight... so that's what we're going to do!!! Now let's talk a little bit about bird excrement in your work areas.

Camp Taji is comprised of more than 100 buildings that were built before most of us were born. Most of the buildings in our footprint were repaired before they were occupied, and some of them due to mission requirements were engrossed before renovation. As a result from years of poor infrastructure maintenance we have buildings that have served as living areas for bats and birds. This situation has originated a sanitary issue resulting from the accumulation of bird and bat feces inside the facilities. A health threat comes into effect when Soldiers are exposed to contaminated bird or bat feces. Fungus grows naturally in soil and is often picked up by birds and bats and passed on in their feces (guano). The resulting disease is called Histoplasmosis.

Histoplasmosis is transmitted through inhalation of airborne fungal spores of

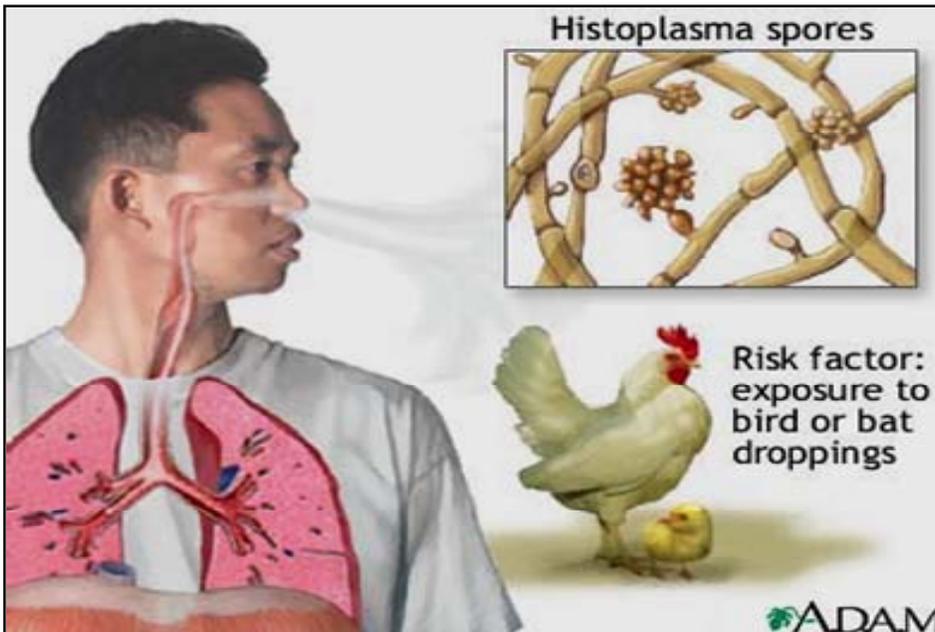
Histoplasma capsulatum. The primary means of exposure is contact with **large amount of guano**, although naturally occurring infections from inhalation of dust are possible. *Histoplasma capsulatum* usually develops only at bird roosts that have existed for 3 years or more. Although *H. capsulatum* grows well in excrement-enriched soil, it **cannot** form spores under the acidic conditions of **fresh droppings**. An active bird roost may only produce a few spores. However, when the droppings have dried and/or been leached by rain, massive amounts of spores can be released, especially if the soil is disturbed under dusty conditions. Once established, *H. capsulatum* will remain in the soil under a roost for many years after the birds have abandoned it.

in contaminated environments, such as bird or bat infected attics and caves and the surrounding soil.

2. Use respirators or protective masks if required to enter contaminated areas.
3. Wet down area with water to eliminate the dust.
4. If cleanup of large amounts of guano is required, decontaminate the guano with a 5% sodium hypochloride (liquid bleach) solution.

The best protection against Histoplasmosis is the exclusion of birds and bats from the buildings. Repair any cracks and crevices in the interior of the structure. Cracks as small as the size of a dime can allow bats access to the interior of the building. If cracks are present in the exterior, windows are broken or screens are in disrepair, contact the appropriate maintenance authority.

During contingency operations, avoid using bird or bat infected structures when ever possible. If the building must be used, spray down the guano with Liquid bleach (3 tablespoons per gallon of water), or a 0.5% calcium hypochlorite solution to eliminate the dust.



Anyone can get Histoplasmosis. Chronic lung infections are more common in males than in females, and particularly in persons with chronic lung disease. Histoplasmosis transmission from person to person is possible only if an individual is inoculated with tissue from and infected patient. Because of this, the risk of person to person transmission is considered negligible.

If you are wondering how Histoplasmosis can be prevented follow these recommendations:

1. Minimize exposure to dust

Do not dry sweep.

Mop up the areas and dispose of the guano by burying or incineration. Personnel involved in the cleanup should wear respirators, rubber gloves and disposable coveralls. If coveralls are not available, uniforms should be disinfected with bleach and thoroughly laundered.

If bird or bats have already accessed your building, contact Preventive Medicine for further information and assistance. BLDG 562 (242-6102).

Promotions & Reenlistments



Promotions

24th Ordinance Company

Spc. Lim Ik

87th Combat Support Brigade

Capt. Vernetta Warner
Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook
Sgt. Herman Shaw
Sgt. Jonathan D. Alexander
Sgt. Erica M. Little
Sgt. Michael Lambert
Sgt. Tiffany Jones
Sgt. Benjamin A. Cobb

94th Maintenance Company

Pvt. Leslie Dixon

104th Transportation Company

Pvt. Wheytoniah Brooks
Pfc. Zachery Lopez
Pfc. Daniel Quirk
Staff Sgt. Herman Shaw

226th Quartermaster Company

Spc. Tommy Dorsey
Spc. Daniella Hutchinson
Sgt. Adrian N. Ray
Staff Sgt. Loksley A. Pennyfeather

Brigade Troops Battalion

Master Sgt. John A. Wilcox
Sgt. 1st Class Remon Allen
Sgt. Stacey M. Abdurrasheed
Sgt. Nichele James
Sgt. Brandon A. Lovett

Sgt. Juanton Knight
Spc. Alexander Noel.
Spc. Cameron A, Jordan
Spc. Matthew J. Ricca
Spc. Byron D. Wesley
Pfc. Shamar W. Mitchell

Reenlistments

24th Ordinance Company

Spc. Jenecia Brooks
Spc. Delby Legarda

87th Combat Support Brigade

Sgt. Craig Overholt
Sgt. Tara Lewis

94th Maintenance Company

Sgt. Sean Alsbrook
Sgt. Rebecca Devellier

104th Transportation Company

Sgt. Fredrick Hamilton
Staff Sgt. Harold Gray

Brigade Troops Battalion

Sgt. 1st Class Remon Allen



DSB Birthdays:

1Lt Sandra Keeton	May 2nd
HHC XO, DSB	
Maj. Timothy Phillips	May 15th
S-3, 87th CSB	



What do the red, white, and blue of the flag represent?

The Continental Congress left no record to show why it chose the colors. However, in 1782, the Congress of the Confederation chose these same colors for the Great Seal of the United States and listed their meaning as follows: white to mean purity and innocence, red for valor and hardiness, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice. According to legend, George Washington interpreted the elements of the flag this way: the stars were taken from the sky, the red from the British colors, and the white stripes signified the secession from the home country. The 50-Star flag became the official flag of the United States on July 4, 1960.

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.

Parker Thomas Smith was born to Capt. Jeremy Smith (226th Quartermaster Company) and his wife Mary Beth at 0354 on 17 May (Local), or 7:54pm on 16 May back at Fort Stewart. Parker was 6 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 19 inches long.



Send the Taji Times Home

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