



# THE TAJI TIMES

Supporting the Rock in Southwest Asia



Vol. 1, Issue 4

Published for the Soldiers and Families in the Division Support Brigade

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Photo by Lt. Col. Ron Long

**Trucking in supplies!** Spc. Lisa J. Willis, lower left, parts clerk, helps a girl from Al Asarya village receive a packet of goodies from Spc. Kyle M. Lynch, Physical Security Team member, while Spc. Stephen L. Balyint, mechanic, looks on. These Soldiers from the Division Support Brigade's Brigade Troops Battalion, along with Support Operations members, took part in a humanitarian outreach mission providing bags of pencils, notebooks and other school supplies, as well as a beloved beanie baby, to Taji area communities. The supplies had been donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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## Renegades teach ING medics

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Nearly 20 members of the Iraqi National Guard were trained in combat medic skills in a class held May 2 thru 5 in Building 77, here.

The ING Soldiers were from the 4th

Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Division, located here and they came ready to learn.

"The attitudes have been great," said Col. John J. Lammie, a doctor with the 550th Area Support Medical Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, Division Support Brigade. "There's been a lot of enthusiasm and a fair amount of class participation. "They've done a very good job."

"They're fast learners, they're eager

(See Medic, Pg. 3)

## The Command Corner



**Colonel Brian R. Layer**  
Brigade Commander

### Stories I tell Friends

In 1986, Robert Fulghum wrote a best seller titled "All I Really need to know I Learned in Kindergarten." It was a simple little book that reminded adult readers that they already knew most of the important lessons of life.

He pointed out that those little lessons, taught to us as children, still apply. Lessons like: "Share everything. Clean up your own mess. Flush!"

Fulghum's lesson applies to soldiers too. One lesson, the *Golden Rule*, is particularly useful. I've always believed that in great units, leaders treat their subordinate leaders appropriately and in turn those leaders treat their soldiers right.

And in those same units, subordinates treat their leaders right by meeting their responsibilities and being sensitive to the burdens on their boss.

No matter where we are in the chain of command, we never graduate from the human responsibility of treating others as we'd like to be treated.

Clearly, soldiering is a tough, unforgiving, and dangerous business. Still, this doesn't excuse behavior that makes any member of our team feel unwanted, disrespected, or dispensable. It is because our business is so tough and pressure-filled, that we need to treat each other as we'd like to be treated.

So as the sun rises earlier, shines brighter and brings us the long, hot days of summer, I ask us all to remember to treat others as we'd like to be treated.

And if we do, we just might find that what we choose to say and what we choose not to say, might keep our performance up and our tempers down even as the temperature rises.



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

Mother's Day was first introduced in the United States by Julia Ward Howe in 1872 when she suggested a day dedicated to peace. In 1907, Grafton, W. Va., and Philadelphia, celebrated the first Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis, of Grafton, W. Va., began the custom of wearing a carnation and her seven year campaign resulted in President Woodrow Wilson's 1914 declaration, "I ... do hereby direct the government officials to display the United States flag on all government buildings and do invite the people of the United States to display the flag at their homes or other suitable places on the second Sunday in May as a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

Today, 15 percent of the total active duty force is made up of women, many of them mothers.

The commitment to join the armed forces is difficult for a mother to make.

Even when not deployed, the long days of training often require them to place their children in the care of another, trusting that they will be a good temporary guardian.

While deployed, the special bond mothers have is strained through extended separation, along with the stress of combat, including unpredictability, physical stress and harsh conditions.

Additionally, they endure strained marriages and relationships.

While defending their country and seeking better opportunities for their families, the sacrifice of a mother's commitment to serve their country should never be taken for granted.

Now, more than ever, Mothers Day is a time to express love and reverence for the mothers of our country... especially those who wear the uniform.

**"A winner is someone who recognizes his God-given talents, works his tail off to develop them into skills, and uses these skills to accomplish his goals."**

**— Larry Bird**

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

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learners,” said 1st Lt. Ronald A. Leach, a physicians assistant with the 550th. “They’re just an awesome group of people to work with.”

Members of the 550th, nicknamed the Renegades, have been working with some of the Iraqi Soldiers since the unit’s arrival here.

“We’ve been sending one of our providers, either a physician assistant or one of the physicians, almost every morning to work with them during their sick call,” said Lammie, who hails from Fayetteville, N.C.

Leach, from Hardinsburg, Ky., said the trainers don’t go over to conduct sick call, but to teach the Iraqi medics, walk them through and help them develop their skills as medics.

Lammie said the Iraqis also bring some of their cases to the 550th’s Troop Medical Clinic.

“They look to us to give them some guidance on the medical side,” said Lammie. “They do not hesitate to bring a patient over to our clinic for our help when they deem it necessary.” The visiting between the two clinics has been encouraging to the DSB doctors.

“We’ve seen a lot of improvements in the last few months,” said Lammie. Lammie said they’ve helped the ING medics with how to take vital signs, as well as developing an organized approach to getting the patients through. They’ve also assisted them in identifying what supplies and medicines are useful in treatment.

“They get a fair amount of their supplies from the Ministry of Health,” said Lammie. “They have an excellent medication selection; basic, but really does address the needs they tend to



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

First Lt. Ronald A. Leach, upper right, a physicians assistant with the 550th Area Support Medical Company show his Iraqi Army students how to make an improvised litter. Leach, from Hardinsburg, Ky., was one of three instructors for the four day course.

see.” Some of the students have already had experience tending to patients prior to the class. Lammie said one of the students has actually managed a clinic before. Several of them coming for the training are platoon or company medics, said Leach. Leach said the four-day training is a condensed Combat Life Saver course. Lammie said the training included starting intravenous lines, splinting fractures and litter carries. They also taught them how to approach a patient with multiple traumas and to evaluate those patients. “We’re trying to get them ready for future missions,” said Leach. Leach said these Soldiers, in the very near future, are going to be out manning posts and pulling security.

A Chief Warrant Officer 4, who is an adjutant in the Iraqi unit, translates both for the class and at the clinic. He said his Soldiers believe in the training their getting here and believe that the U.S. troops and Iraqis can work together for peace and security. Lammie said it’s been a real privilege to work with the Iraqi medics. There’s been a tremendous warmth and welcome that they’ve extended to the Renegades.

“I think each of us has enjoyed the experience,” said Lammie. “It certainly has boosted our Arabic a little bit and has boosted their English as well.” My prayer really is that the skills that were worked on together will be the ones that really will save their lives and make them more efficient in sustaining their fighting force.”

**A Safety clarification from last issue...**

In the May 1 issue of *The Taji Times*, there was some confusion as to which side of the road personnel serving on Camp Taji are to run.

According to the Taji Mayor’s Cell, pedestrian traffic, running or walking, is directed to move against the flow of traffic. (See photo at right)

Traveling in this manner allows the pedestrian to see vehicles as they approach the runner or walkers.



For more information, contact your DSB Safety Office at: Building 524 Phone: VIOP - 242-6448

## 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](mailto:peter.chadwick@us.army.mil)  
Don't forget the photo and vital statistics



Aniya Alexandria Noel  
January 24/ 8 Lbs., 2.5 Oz.



Melanthea Maureen Dorothea Ussery  
March 31 05, 7lbs 1.4 oz,



Israel Jon-Andrew Hall  
9lbs 7.4 oz April 16

## 87th CSB MWR Center Stress reliever

By Spc. Meon Smith  
HHD, 87th CSB

CAMP TAJI, Iraq—The 87<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Battalion, Division Support Brigade, has their Morale, Welfare and Recreation center up and running in building 546 here.

The combination internet café and gym was originally built by the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, Ft Hood, Texas. The 87th CSB took over the center February 21. Staff Sgt Lilia McNeill, a truck driver with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 87th CSB, said the gym and café are open to all military identification card holders and Department of Defense employees.

“The gym and café are both open 24 hours,” said McNeill, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the MWR center.

“The MWR is here to build morale for the soldiers of 87<sup>th</sup> CSB,” said Spc. Cassandra Thompson, a small arms repairer with HHD. “It’s our job to provide an environment where soldiers can clear their minds.

The gym is there to keep soldiers physically and mentally fit, said McNeill, who was born in Panama.

McNeill, said the gym consists of free weights, weight machines, and a ping pong table. There is also a basketball

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James R. White, 3rd Infantry Division chaplain, speaks to around 50 gathered for the National Day of Prayer breakfast May 5 at building 510. White said God answers prayer. He shared several examples where prayer had been used in military operations from Desert Storm, Kosovo and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The breakfast ended with the singing of “O Beautiful For Spacious Skies.” This years theme for the national observance was “God Shed His Grace On Thee.”

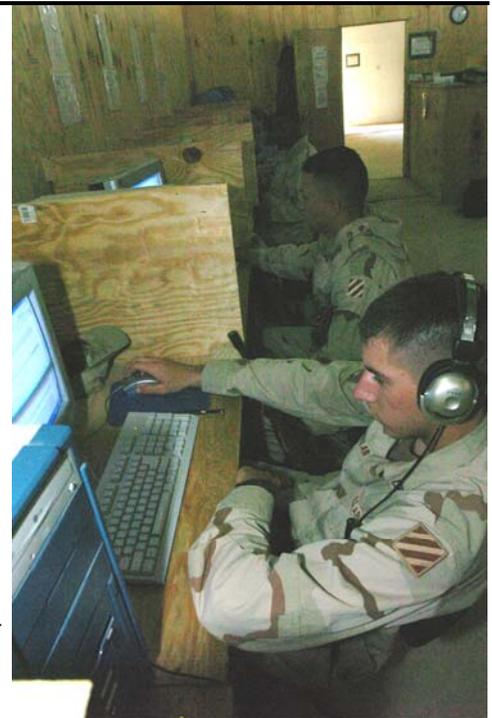


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick  
**Pfc. Harly Aguilar, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Brigade, checks in with family back home at the 87th CSG MWR Center.**

court.

To soldiers who were here before, the center is a welcomed improvement. Sgt. Kasiem S. Randall, who repairs vehicle starters and generators with the 94th Maintenance Company, 87th CSB, said they made their own weight room the first time he came over in Operation Iraqi Freedom I. They used heavy starters and generators for weight lifting, along (See MWR, Pg. 8)



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

## From the Pulpit

By Chaplain (Maj.) Paul J. Yacovone

### FROM THE WOLF PACK...

There is an old Native American story my father passed on to me some time ago. As I recall it, I remember a young boy who came to his Grandfather, filled with anger at another boy who had done him an injustice. The old and wise Grandfather said to his grandson, "Let me tell you a story. I too, at times, have felt a great hate for those that have taken so much, with no sorrow for what they do. But hate wears you down, and hate does not hurt your enemy. Hate is like taking poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times." "It is as if there are two wolves inside me; one wolf is good and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all around him and does not take offence

when no offence is intended. He will only fight when it is right to do so, and in the right way. But the other wolf is full of anger. The littlest thing will set him into a fit of temper." "He fights everyone, all the time, for no reason. He cannot think because his anger and hate are so great. It is a helpless anger, because his anger will change nothing. Sometimes it is hard to live with these two wolves inside me, because both the wolves try to dominate my spirit." The boy looked intently into his Grandfather's eyes and asked, "Which wolf will win, Grandfather?" The Grandfather smiled and said, "The one I feed." The Bible teaches us about a spiritual battle that rages on. It is a battle as old as time. It is a battle between good and evil, God and the devil. And our minds are often the battlefield. So we need to choose the right side, determined not to be double minded. In the days ahead,

we may face many challenges, many frustrations and many misunderstandings because of the situations, the tasks and marching orders we receive. We may not like the cards being dealt us and may want to react impulsively. Hate vs. Love? Bitterness vs. Joy? Right vs. wrong? Positive vs. Negative? Sinner vs. Saint? There is a choice that we make, a wolf we choose to feed. We cannot always control what is thrown at us in our day to day lives, but, we do control our attitude towards those 'dog days of summer' issues and events that come our way. Forrest Gump said, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get." But when you get it, whatever you get, choose right. Act right. Be right and have the right attitude. Life is worth the living! Don't let the enemy of your soul take that from you. It is your greatest gift.

## ISOPREP provides positive ID

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- On December 17, 1981, Red Brigade terrorists kidnapped Brig. Gen. James L. Dozier from his apartment in Verona, Italy.

Dozier, the highest ranking U.S. NATO officer in Italy, was rescued January 28, 1982 in Padua, Italy, by elements from the Nucleo Operativo Centrale di Sicurezza, an elite Italian anti-terrorist police unit.

Dozier looked nothing like his pictures after 42 days in cap-

tivity. The clean-shaven face and flat-top hair cut were camouflaged by a full beard and long hair. How can rescuers be sure they have the right person if their features have been altered?

Pfc. Ebony N. Davis, the mail and awards clerk for the Brigade Troops Battalion, Division Support Brigade, said in emergency cases, the units use the Isolated Personnel Report to identify Soldiers who've been detained for a long period.

If something happens to prevent a captured person from being recognized, they will use the information stored in the ISOPREP system, said the Raceland, La., native, who works in the battalion's personnel section.

Spc. Sarah E. Meyer, a signal intelligence analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, DSB, 3rd Infantry Division, said ISOPREP is a collection of information concerning a Soldier's personal life that is not recorded anywhere.

"We don't want them to use anything in their military records that could be readily available," said Meyer, who calls Edmond, Okla., home.

Capt. Kenneth A. Hoisington, BTB's adjutant, said his human resource Soldiers work in conjunction with the intelligence section to ensure 100 percent of the servicemembers have provided the required information. The intelligence section takes the finger prints and they collect the written data.

The Soldiers going through ISOPREP provide four short scenarios, such as first romantic



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

**Cpl. Graciella M. Campos, a BTB human resource sergeant, inputs important data during ISOPREP processing.**

(See ISOPREP, Pg. 8)

## 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 Capt. Davie Wright  
**Staff Sgt. Travis Arthur lights a remembrance candle.**

The 87th Corps Support Battalion sponsored the Days of Remembrance for Victims of the Holocaust Observance at 3 p.m., May 4, t building 510.

The purpose of the observance was to educate our soldiers about the history of the Holocaust.

This year's theme, "From Liberation to the Pursuit of Justice" was in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of Nazi concentration camps and the subsequent prosecution under international law of major Nazi war

criminals in Nuremberg, Germany.

It was an honor to have Chaplain (Capt.) Stanislaw Jasiurkowski, the 87th's chaplain, as the guest speaker. A special thanks to Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Merritt and all 87th CSB equal opportunity representatives for their hard work and support in making the program successful. Thanks to everyone who embraced diversity by participating and attending the observance.

The Brigade Troops Battalion, Division Support Brigade, will host "Asian Pacific Heritage month on 19 May. Anyone interested in participating, please contact Staff Sgt. Allen, BTB EOR, at [remon.allen@us.army.mil](mailto:remon.allen@us.army.mil).



Left, Chaplain (Capt.) Stanislaw Jasiurkowski, 87th Corps Support Battalion chaplain, was the key note speaker. The Polish born priest brought a heart-felt rendering through his reading of the Holocaust history. Below, the participants in the observance were:

Front l-r: Sgt. Lewis Crockett, 1st Lt. Alex Ramos, Spc. Jasmin Dawe, Spc. Tyrea Cespedes; 2nd row l-r: Pfc. Don Jones, Spc. Glen Spence, Pfc. Allen Reese, Staff Sgt. Travis Arthur and Spc. Joshua Schutte.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Tanya Toussaint



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

### ETHNIC OBSERVANCES

August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Women's Equality Day
Sept 15–Oct 15	Hispanic Heritage Month
November	Native American Heritage Month



**Celebrating Passover.** — Sgt. Roman Shneur, second from left, a petroleum supply sergeant from the 226th Quartermaster Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, celebrated Passover at the Seder held April 24, at 7 p.m. at Building 19 here.

The Rabbi Chaplain (Col.) Bonnie J. Koppell, an Inactive Ready Reservist from Chandler, Ariz., presided over the Seder, which means order.

Koppell was activated by the Chief of Chaplains for this event because of the low numbers of Rabbis in the armed forces.

More than 20 servicemembers participated in the traditional meal, here, during which the Hebrews commemorate the exodus of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. This was the second night of the two-night observance. The first night was celebrated in Camp Liberty. Shneur was recently promoted to sergeant.

# Health Tips

*PREVENTIVE MEDICINE  
'CONSERVING THE FORCE  
FIGHTING STRENGTH'*

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

## Is my water safe?

Soldiers often ask themselves if the water used at their shower points is safe, but getting an answer isn't as simple as looking and tasting. Since water tends to dissolve or suspend most substances it comes in contact with, it is impossible to determine if the water is safe without the proper bacteriological testing.

Some soldiers use the old adage--*If it smells and tastes like water and looks clean like water, then it's probably okay*, and THAT'S WRONG. Although taste, odor, color, and clarity are important, they only address water's physical aspects. The bacteriological and chemical content of water must be also taken in consideration. Potable water is water that does not contain

disease producing organisms, poisonous substances, and chemical or biological agents and radioactive contaminants at levels which produce disease or injury.

The control of biological pathogens is one of the most significant drinking water quality goals. Disinfection using chlorine is one principal method of water treatment used to ensure the biological safety of the water. If your water comes from a U. S. public water source then your concern may be minimal as this water must meet certain set criteria before it can be used for human consumption. However, if your water comes from a host nation source, such as a Baghdad water treatment facility, then it is your responsibility to follow the recommendations of the medical authorities on water quality issues.

City water is being used for showers and latrines (approximately 850,000 gals/day). The city water treatment process is not monitored or controlled by the U.S. government. Normally the host nation water quality criteria are well below US standards. The risk of an outbreak of waterborne disease can be present if recommendations about *not to*

*drink or brush your teeth with the tap water* are not followed.

We have soldiers claiming that they have been using the water for almost three months and nothing has happened to them, YET. We need to remember that the risk of exposure to waterborne parasites such as giardia, cryptosporidium, and amoebic dysentery is present in Camp Taji. It is all about PREVENTION, be proactive and take care of yourself.

Bottled water is FREE and the U.S. Military is expending millions of dollars on it for a reason. The reverse osmosis water purification unit (ROWPU) is the preferred method of treatment for all potable field water supplies because it reliably provides high quality potable water, even from a low quality, contaminated source.

Projects have been promoted to increase the production of ROWPU water to replace those 850,000 gals/day of city water but until then the water at the shower points is NON-POTABLE.... And the answer of the question.... Is my water safe????..... Please think about it....



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

## Happy Mothers Day!

— Staff Sgt. Linda D. Reid, left, the battalion truck master with the 396th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, receives a basket of presents from Command Sgt. Maj. Edward T. Brook, the Division Support Brigade command sergeant major, for being the oldest mother in the DSB stationed here.

Spc. Meon D. Smith, a battalion Support Operations Transportation clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 87th CSB, received her basket for being the youngest mother.

The two Soldiers, both mothers of two, were presented with their gifts May 8 at 1 p.m. in a special ceremony at Dining Facility #1.

The gift buckets, assembled by DFAC #1, contained a camera, as well as various soaps and lotions.

**MWR, Continued from Pg. 4**

with a small barbell set one of the Soldiers had managed to bring along. There is also an opportunity for Soldiers to workout to a Latin beat. Salsa lessons are held on Wednesdays by Sgt. Dorie Cartagena-Rojas, an ammunition sergeant with the 24th Ordnance Company, 87<sup>th</sup> CSB. Rojas, from Youngstown, Ohio, said she was an assistant dance instructor at the Boardman Dance Academy, Boardman, Ohio for three years. She brings 15 years of music experience to the center. There are also things for those who want to just relax. McNeill said the MWR center also has a TV room and reading areas. The

café has 20 computers, Web cameras, and microphone headsets for Soldiers. Randall, a Newark, N.J., native said they had one satellite phone for the battalion his first time here and it took half an hour to bring up one page on the internet. Pfc. Harly Aguilar, a wheel vehicle mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, DSB, said the WEB CAM is great for communicating with his family and girl friend daily. Pfc. Adolfo Martinez, a fellow mechanic with Aguilar, said he enjoys ordering parts for his '78 Chevy Nova muscle car and having them ready at home for when he gets back. In addition to the equipment available to Soldiers, there are some special

events being planned. Thompson, from Brooklyn, N.Y. said they are still in the process of coordinating sports for all of the soldiers to enjoy. The MWR coordinates events like the Iron man and Woman bench press competition as well as flag football and basketball games. They want soldiers to have a place to feel at ease during their deployment and to feel like they are at home, said Thompson, an MWR assistant. But the 87th isn't finished yet. Thompson said the facilities are undergoing some renovations and decorations right now. We want to make sure the Soldiers have a good place to release stress.

**ISOPREP, Continued fro Pg. 5**

crush or first car, as well as a code number that they might remember under duress, said Meyer. Hoisington, who calls Hinesville, Ga., home, said it's for the protection of the Soldiers who are out there. Staff Sgt. Manuel G. Maisonet, the BTB personnel non-commissioned officer in charge, said his section started collecting the information and taking unit member's photos for their files while they were still in Fort Stewart, Ga. "We have units that were attached to us that didn't do it before coming," said Cpl. Graciella M. Campos, a BTB human resource sergeant. The section built files on the 550th Area Support Medical Company, one of DSB's newly attached units, while in Kuwait, said Maisonet, who hails from Barceloneta, Puerto Rico. They took care of getting the 3rd Battalion, 117th Field Artillery Regiment, Alabama National Guard, when they joined the BTB here. Maisonet said Soldiers aren't the only ones his section takes care of. There are nearly 15 civilians working with his unit that also are placed in the data base. Campos, who comes from Miami, Fl., said it was the first time she'd ever processed this type of data. ISOPREP is not new to the military, said Meyer. Special operations groups have already been using the system.

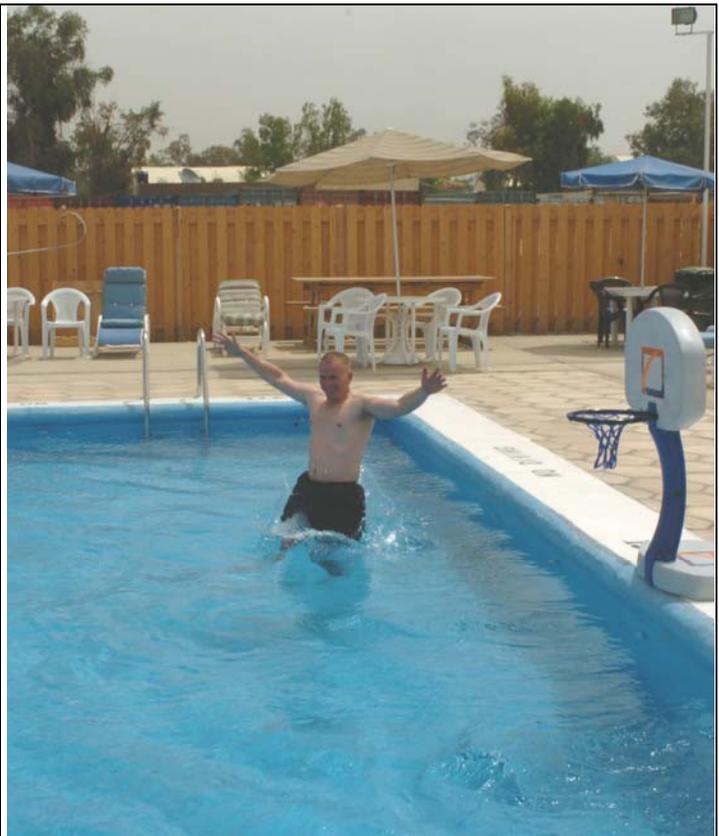


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

**Taking the plunge!** Sgt. John Barrett, Division Ammunition Office, Support Operations, Division Support Brigade, jumps into the Camp Taji Outdoor Pool at the May 1 Grand Opening. Col. Brian R. Layer, DSB commander, thanked the combine military and civilian workers for their efforts in providing a place of relaxation just before the ribbon cutting ceremony. Chaplain (Maj.) Paul J. Yacovone, DSB's brigade chaplain, asked for it to be a place of spiritual restoration in his invocation. The pool is located across from the softball field on 30th Street, here. Operating hours are from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

**Send the Taji Times home**

From:

**FREE  
MAIL**

To:

The Taji Times is found at on the internet at [www.stewart.mil](http://www.stewart.mil) under Division Support Brigade