



THE TAJI TIMES

Supporting the Rock in Southwest Asia



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Photo by Lui Jin, AFP

Friday night lights! CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 117 Field Artillery Regiment, receive their safety brief before a recent convoy escort mission, here. The Alabama Army National Guard unit, based in Troy, Ala., are assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division to provide force protection in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

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The Command Corner



Col. Brian R. Layer
Commander

Stories I tell friends

We've heard these all before; axioms that remind us of our responsibility to be ready.

And they are all worth repeating. They remind us that our effort, our attentiveness, our concentration all make a difference.

Tighten your chin strap.

Keep your dog tags on.

Lace up your combat boots.

Keep your powder dry.

Keep your head up.

Keep your head in the game.

As the deployment surges on, complacency becomes as big an enemy as the insurgents. Our enemies hope we get a little too comfortable here--too comfortable to stay in the right uniform, too comfortable to clean our weapons, too comfortable to conduct thorough pre-combat checks and inspections.

Our enemy is cunning, clever, and committed to killing us. We need to remain more alert, more disciplined, and more ready for whatever comes our way. This effort, attentiveness, and concentration will save your life. So stay ready and remember when you start feeling a little too comfortable:

Tighten your chin strap.

Keep your dog tags on.

Lace up your combat boots.

Keep your powder dry.

Keep your head up.

Keep your head in the game.



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

Battle drills, battle drills, battle drills

Sgt. Patricia Brissett, a heavy wheel vehicle operator with the 396th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, recently shared some important observations regarding her job.

First, she wanted to stress the importance of wearing seatbelts, OTV w/plates and Kevlar while operating a tactical vehicle. On March 4, she and Spc. LaBoy were on a convoy in route to Rustamiyah.

Brissett said they were challenged by adverse weather conditions. The rain had created slippery roads and they suddenly found themselves sliding and rolled over on the side of the road. Brissett said she felt it was through the grace of the "Man up above" that both Soldiers were wearing their seatbelts and had stayed in the proper uniform. She is certain it's why they are both here today.

Secondly, Brissett said she wanted to emphasize the importance of going over battle drills. "On April 13, Spc. Bordelon and I were on a convoy in route to Camp Liberty," said Brissett. There were a number of parked cars on both sides of the street they were traveling on. "The street was crowded with men, women, and children," she added. "Suddenly, we heard this ticking noise."

Suddenly, the car parked along side of the road detonated next to their vehicle. Fortunately, she accelerated and drove about three miles out of the kill zone to safety before the security team secured the area.

Providing assistance, the vehicle directly behind them, driven by Staff Sgt. Alford, stopped to make sure they were okay, she said. An assessment of the vehicle showed it had three flat tires and broken mirrors. However, once they had re-grouped and reorganized, the transporters continued the mission to Liberty.

All those who think battle drills are not important, think again. They save lives.

Hoo-ah, Sergeant!!

The safety of the people shall be the highest law.— Marcus Tullius Cicero

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Hard Chargers sustain division RX program

By Capt. John Gubitosi, Executive Officer
94th Maintenance Company, 87th CSB

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- "Waste not, want not," states an old English phrase.

Also translated, if you don't waste things, you are less likely to end up lacking.

The 94th Maintenance Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, Division Support Brigade, and the attached Component Repair Platoon, has the mission to return serviceable repair parts to the divisional supply system in order to maintain vehicle and weapon system readiness. The mission is called the repairable exchange program and the 94th Maint. Co., nicknamed the "Hard Chargers," has an excellent track record thanks to the combined efforts of the Shop Office and its four subordinate sections.

During the past three months of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, the unit has provided outstanding maintenance support to the 3rd Inf. Div., also known as the "Marne Division," on a daily basis.

In supporting the division supply system, the maintainers returned nearly 6 million dollars worth of repaired parts to the supply system, ensuring the division's ability to maintain its lethality.

It all starts with the nerve center of the operation known as the Shop Office. The section proved itself by handling more than 500 work orders and turning 100 percent of them around on time for 12 consecutive weeks. In addition to that grueling pace, the section conducted a shop stock review resulting in the turn-in of 200 lines of excess parts. By doing this, the Soldiers made room in the storage areas for additional supplies tailored toward their support of missions in Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Pfc. Gerardo Gallardo, a metal worker with the 94th Maintenance Company, welds a bench support at the Service and Lift Section. The San Antonio, Texas, native and his co-workers have repaired and constructed parts for vehicles in support of the units repair exchange program.

Astoundingly, the automotive repair section made major contributions to RX, repairing more than 25 Bradley Fighting Vehicle transmissions. More significantly, the majority of the transmissions were in house, but there were four on site repairs conducted by unit mechanics in three months

"My duty position affords me the opportunity to make a difference to the readiness of armor units in the division on a daily basis," said Sgt. John B. McBride, the Bradley transmission shop noncommissioned officer in charge from Peoria, Ill. "Soldiers in 3ID armor units can be sure that my shop is doing everything possible to ensure they have functional transmissions on their Bradley's when they roll out."

Subsequently, the repairs conducted in this section maximized the Marne Division's ability to keep those fighting vehicles mission capable during OIF III.

The fuel and electric repair section of the Automotive Shop has also made significant contributions to the company's RX mission with more than 60 vehicle generators repaired. The 94th Maint. Co.'s Starter Repairs Section followed suit with nearly 150 work orders completed. The shop was able to keep up with the continuous need for these items at division motor pools.

Repairing and keeping the parts in the system allowed front line motor pools to have what they needed, when they needed them and therefore keeping their armored convoy vehicles up and on the road. The diverse Automotive Section also conducted on-system general support repairs. A primary example of on-system repair is when M-1114 HMMV's are transported in from other service units for vehicle body and wiring harness repairs. The Hard Chargers were able to troubleshoot and return these vehicles to customer units with

(See RX, Pg. 4)



Photo by Sgt. Victor Soto

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Dennis G. Chandler, left, a transmission mechanic from Muskegon, Mich. and Sgt. John B. McBride, a Bradley transmission mechanic with the 94th Maintenance Company, repair a transmission in their shop here. Chandler, a civilian contractor, works with the Peoria, Ill., native to keep the 3rd Infantry Division combat ready.

RX, continue from Pg. 3

minimal downtime.

Another critical section, the company's Service and Lift Section supported the RX program by repairing radiators while keeping the tactical vehicles fully functional. The Soldiers in this shop were also able to fabricate repair parts when needed. More significantly, they were able to create a geared steering shaft for a dead lined Rough Terrain Container Handler belonging to 226th Quartermaster Company's consolidated supply Support Activity.

The RTCH is needed to move 20-foot containers of supplies required to sustain division combat operations. M1114 bumper fabrications were made for divisional and non-divisional customers to ensure that convoys were able to safely maneuver through traffic congested areas in Baghdad.

"The deployment to Iraq has given me a chance to work on a lot of different fabrication projects," said Spc. Gerardo Gallardo, a metal worker with the Service and Lift Section. "Over the past three months I have repaired radiators for tracked vehicles and I've also been able to make armor plating for vehicles that are used in convoy escorts."

"I know jobs like these are making a difference in daily operations and safety of 3ID Soldiers," said the San Antonio, Texas, native.

Respectively, the Integrated Family of Test Equipment section executed important repair operations for RX mission success, also. The IFTE Soldiers repaired more than 10 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems and critical repairs on several M109A6 Paladin 155mm self-propelled artillery pieces. These repairs assisted Task force Baghdad field artillery Soldiers by ensuring their weapon systems were functional and capable of conducting indirect fire. "The combination of my Soldiers and NCOs along their ability to operate the equipment in my section is a combat multiplier for the 3rd Infantry Division," said Sgt. 1st Class Paul Aymond, an IFTE operator and maintainer. "My IFTE section has provided continuous support to field artillery units operating in a deployed environment over the past three months."

"My entire section takes great pride in providing our 3ID customer units with quality LRU repairs," said the Plaquemine, La., native. "The driving force in our work ethic is to ensure that field artillery units in the division have the serviceable electronics equipment they need to direct fire on the enemy and destroy them."

Finally, the company's Armament Section intricately joined the other sections thru repair of components for the M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank and the Bradley. These repairs allowed armored vehicle Soldiers the ability to maximize "Show-of-Force" while operating in the 3rd Inf. Div. area of responsibility. The armament section also repaired Ground/Vehicular Laser Locator Devices for division customer units. These fire control mechanisms are used by artillerymen to accurately conduct their operations.

The company's versatile Shop Office and its four subordinate sections have excelled in maintenance support, playing critical roles in support of combat readiness.



Photo by Sgt. Victor Soto

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Sgt. 1st Class Paul Aymond, left, an IFTE operator and maintainer with the 94th Maintenance Company, discusses operations with Sgt. Benjamin Cobb.

DSB NCOs advise at IA Academy

By Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – There's a noticeable lack of Smokey the Bear hats, spit-shined boots and starched uniforms, but, nonetheless, basic training is conducted at the Iraqi Army Training Academy, here.

Training troops at the academy, here, has been the focus of five 3rd Infantry Division noncommissioned officers for the past four months.

Specifically, these Division Support Brigade Soldiers are there to assist the Iraqi instructor in making IATA training more proficient and effective, said Staff Sgt. Nathaniel C. Thompson, a tank turret repairman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, DSB.

Thompson, a Pittsburgh, Pa., native, said the 13-day training is a little different from what the U.S. Army Soldier is used to.

(See BCT, Pg. 5)



Photo by Sgt. Victor Soto

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Staff Sgt. George G. Butler, standing left, works with his Iraqi Army counterpart, right, to show an Iraqi Army trainee how to properly search a vehicle.



Photo by Sgt. Victor Soto

CAMP TAJI, Iraq —Sgt. 1st Class Verna F. Bellamy, a senior food service operations sergeant with the 396th Transportation Company, 87th CSB, discusses training with her Iraqi Army counterpart at the beginning of the day's instruction.

BCT, continued from Pg. 4

Actually, they're only taught what they'll need as soon as they get to their unit, said Thompson. The academy zeros in on tactical movement, room clearing, traffic control points, riot control and basic rifle marksmanship, said Thompson.

The marksmanship training is mostly familiarization, said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Hindle, a mental health NCO with HHC, BTB.

Interestingly, the Iraqi Army weapon of choice is not the M-16 used by the U.S. Army.

"As far as the weapon goes, the Iraqi Army uses the AK-47," said Hindle, who is from Melbourne, FL. The DSB Soldiers had to become familiar with the weapon themselves before they could assist the instructors.

"At first I was hesitant," said Hindle, a former drill sergeant. "But, a weapon's a weapon. You learn to break it down, learn its strengths and weaknesses."

Just as weapons are pretty much the same, it seems the Iraqi trainees are no different from their U.S. equivalent.

American and Iraqi Soldiers are the same, said Sgt. 1st Class Avery D. Wood, a water purification sergeant with the 226th Quartermaster Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion. Some need more motivation to train than others.

However, the Iraqis are all focused on the end result.

"They tell us everyday they want to fight for their country," said Staff Sgt. George G. Butler, a wheel vehicle operator with 104th Transportation Company, 87th CSB. "They want to be here."

Consequently, they respond well, said Hindle. Both the trainees and the instructors enjoy receiving new knowledge. The instructors are really hungry for training techniques.

One training technique they adopted was the U.S. Army style of physical training.

They would start with running and come back for exercises, said Sgt. 1st Class Verna F. Bellamy, a senior food service operations sergeant with the 396th Transportation Company, 87th CSB. "We got them to stretch first and then run," said the Monroe, La. native.

Training techniques weren't the only adaptation the Iraqi Soldiers had to make.

Having Bellamy, a female, as an advisor caused the Iraqis to adapt culturally, also.

"They weren't so sure about me in the beginning," said Bellamy. But, she won them over by showing she cared about them.

"The Relationship is excellent now," said Bellamy.

The combined cadre began their professional relationships in March.

For the support Soldiers, The advisor positions began with a selection process by their perspective leaders..

Wood, a former Advanced Individual Training instructor, said he was told by his supervisor to report to brigade headquarters where he faced a room full of sergeants major from throughout the brigade.

"They asked me how I'd feel about helping to train Iraqis," said Wood. "I said "no problem, too easy."

Hindle, who was selected over four peers from his unit, heard they were looking for former drill sergeants and instructors for the assignment. He said he went through his chain of command and asked for the opportunity. He's glad he did.

"It's been a once in a life time opportunity," said Hindle.

Mostly, he said he enjoyed taking all the Soldier training skills he learned in the states and using them to train Iraqi Soldiers.

Training the Iraqi soldiers is helping them to protect their own country, said Hindle.



Photo by Sgt. Victor Soto

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Sgt. 1st Class Robert Hindle, center, uses a trainee to demonstrate a proper procedure.

Equal Opportunity Focus



by SFC Tanya Toussaint
Division Support Brigade
Equal Opportunity Advisor
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Equal Opportunity...

the Heart of Readiness!

On 26 Aug, we will celebrate Women's Equality Day.

This year, the 85th anniversary of women winning the vote, gives us an excellent opportunity to honor the amazing organizing work of the thousands of women who worked to secure the vote for women in the United States.

The story of how this change was created is a remarkable testimony to the unrelenting tenacity and spirit of women and what they can achieve in a democratic society.

Women who were seen as powerless changed America in powerful ways.

To win the right to vote, women conducted a 72-year political campaign. This political campaign began at the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls in 1848 and ended with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

DSB newest EORs are: Staff Sgt. Nail, 3/641 Postal Det.; Staff Sgt. Sexton Clark, HHC and Sgt. Cohen,

A Co, 3rd SSB; Staff Sgt. Walker and Staff Sgt. Williams; 396th Trans. Co., Staff Sgt. Bacon, 632nd Maint. Co., Staff Sgt. Curry, 24th Ord. Co., Staff Sgt. Bell and Staff Sgt. Simmons, HHD, 87th CSB and 2nd Lt. Springer and Staff Sgt. Witt, 550th AMSC.

I encourage each of you to apply what you have learned in the course to ensure everyone in your unit is treated with dignity and respect. If you are interested in become an EOR, please contact your BN representative.

The next course is scheduled for 10-16 Sep at Camp Liberty.



Photo by EO

Command Sgt. Maj. Edward T. Brooks, DSB command sergeant major, presents Staff Sgt. Julie Witt, 550th Area Support Medical Company, with a Certificate of Appreciation, awarded by her peers as the "Most Valuable Contributor" during the Equal Opportunity Representative Class #05-07.

From the Pulpit

Chaplain (Capt.) Claude E. Hoffman
Division Support Brigade Chaplain

The "Big Game" 1982, California verses Stanford. With 31 seconds to go, John Elway, Stanford's stellar All-American quarterback, steps up to the center. The play is a pitch. Mike Dotterer, the back, is dropped at the 18-yard line.

Elway and company have 23 seconds to go. The drive was stalled and Mark Harmon, the kicker, comes out to kick a field goal. The game is all but over.

The California Golden Bears are going to loose.

During the next play, Stanford kicks off and then the "Big Play" of "The Big Game" occurs.

The Bears receive the ball and begin to toss it around from player to player. One player would run toward a crowd

of defenders only so he could pass it off to another team mate. Determined, the team, with only seconds left in the game, scored a touch down.

But wait. They had a little help. The Stanford Band, so sure of the win, started marching on to the field and ended up inadvertently blocking for the Bears.

The Band helped the bears win! Who would have expected the other team's band to help? Sometimes the most unlikely person or group will help you accomplish goals.

In Joshua Chapter Two, we are introduced to Rahab. She is not a woman that many would expect to be used by God. She was a prostitute. She was a citizen of Jericho.

Joshua sent out two spies to recon the city of Jericho and she hid them in her home.

She provided aid and comfort to the spies. As a result, this care allowed

them to gather information that boosted the morale of the Israelites. Word had spread about God parting the Red Sea. She realized who God was:

"When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below." (Joshua 2:11)

Rahab risked all that she had and her family to serve God. As you can see, in the process, she discovered God. She was now a part of the team. Life is like the "Big Game;" look around and see who God might use.

Maybe He will use the person next to you to accomplish a goal or maybe you should look into the mirror because He is calling you. God, who knows all, is not exclusively interested in your background.

He already knows who you are. Consequently, you could be the one he chooses to score the big one.

Health Tips

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
 'CONSERVING THE FIGHTING STRENGTH'

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

Tuberculosis, should we be concerned?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a chronic bacterial infection that is spread through the air and usually infects the lungs. About 2 billion people worldwide are infected with the TB bacterium, a condition called latent tuberculosis infection, about 8 million people develop active TB, and 3 million die.

However, we know that after looking at these numbers, it will be difficult to convince you that there is nothing to worry about. That is the intent behind this article. On the July 20th edition of the European and Pacific Stars and Stripes an article titled, 'Army studying 1st Infantry Division's unusually high rates of TB exposure' brought up this significant public health problem and at the same time it

brought up the facts of this absolutely-controllable disease. The article revealed that up to five percent of the troops returning from Iraq have tested TB positive. If you had the chance to read the article, it says that the five percent reacted positively in the tuberculin skin test. A positive skin test only means that the bacteria is just lying in the lungs. This does not necessarily mean he or she has the active disease. If the skin test is positive and subsequent medical exam and chest X-ray are negative, they have been infected with TB, but do not have the active disease. Even without treatment, one in 10 infected people may develop the full-blown disease. TB is spread from person to person in tiny microscopic droplets when a TB sufferer coughs, sneezes, speaks, sings or laughs. Again, only people with active disease are contagious. It usually takes lengthy contact with someone with active TB before a person can become infected. On average, people have a 50 percent chance of becoming infected if they spend eight hours a day for six months, or 24 hours a day for two months, alongside someone with active

TB. After drug treatment for at least two weeks, people with TB are no longer contagious and do not spread the germ to others. Third Infantry Division soldiers were tested for TB within 12 months of this deployment, and they will be retested immediately upon redeployment and again three to six months after redeployment. In addition, Soldiers working in detention facilities are tested for TB twice a year while in theater, and upon redeployment as above. Treatment usually combines several antibiotic drugs, which are given for six to 12 months. The Army mandatory nine-month treatment regiment using the drug *isoniazid* has proved to be an effective way to eradicate the disease. Now the bad news.... After redeployment if you happen to be "encouraged" to follow the Army mandatory treatment....are you ready for this???.....NO BEER for nine months!!!! Sorry.....Again... do not worry about TB, have fun and enjoy the rest of this deployment. If you want more information about TB or have any preventive medicine question or concern call us @ 242-6100 or visit us our office is located in BLDG 562.

Division Support Brigade NCO; and Soldiers of the Month for July



Staff Sgt. Phillip Palomo
 Support Operations, BTB



Spc. Anthony Zavala
 Div. Ammo. Office, BTB



Spc. Donald Crowe
 632nd Maint. Co., 87th CSB



Sgt. John McBride
 94th Maint. Co., 87th CSB

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



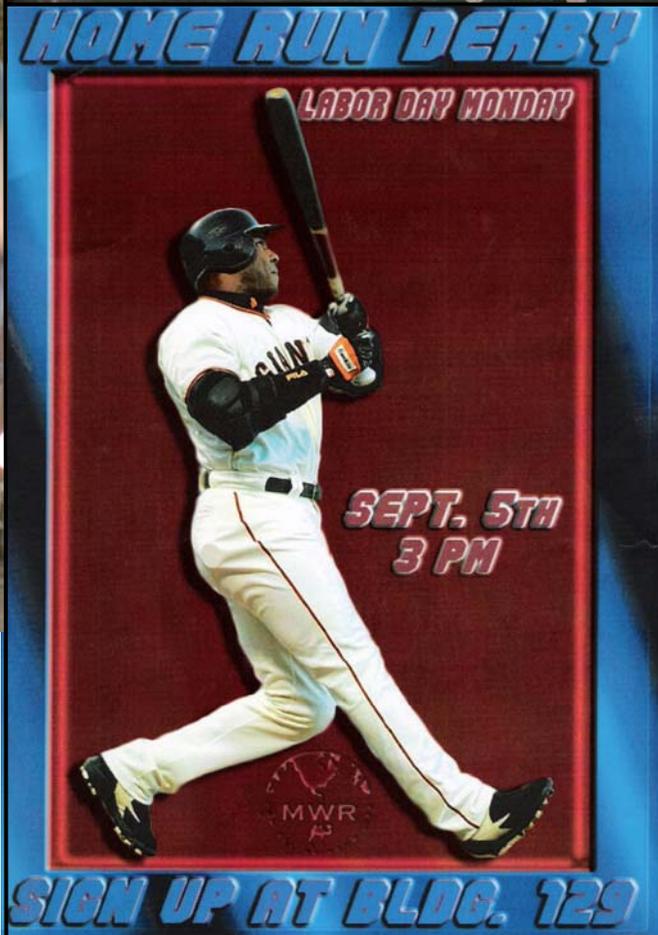
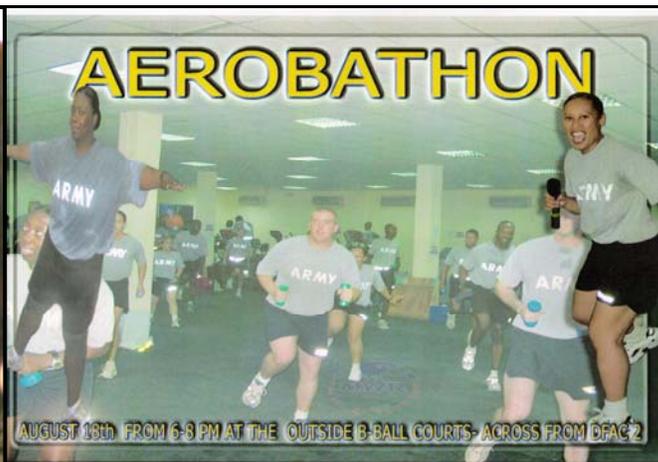
Eden Jo Camacho was born July 23, 2005, at 7 pounds, 13 ounces and 19 3/4 inches to 1st Lt. Steven and Amanda Camacho

If you have had a new arrival since coming to Camp Taji, contact Sgt. 1st Class Chadwick at ter.chadwick@us.army.mil or Capt. Wright at davie.wright@us.army.mil



Photo by Sgt. Victor Soto

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Second Lt. Alisha G. Vaughn, the platoon leader for 1st Platoon, 396th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, sings at the talent show, here, July 23, at the PX Arena. Vaughn, who hails from Florence, Ala., crooned Alicia Keys “If I ain’t got you” on her way to winning first prize. The Vanderbilt University graduate took home a new television donated by the Army Air Force Exchange System, one of the sponsors for the camp wide event. Special warm-up and intermission music was performed by “The Edwin Reyes Band”, and “Charles Cannon and U3.”



Send the Taji Times Home

From:

FREE
MAIL

To:

Find the potential
Improvised
Explosive Device.

Answer: E
All of the above.

