



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 Spc. Eric Odel

Ever Vigilant! CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Spc. David E. Duren, a radio communications security repairer with the Brigade Troops Battalion, Division Support Brigade, looks out from the turret of his M1114 HMMWV during a recent visit to a local community. Duren, who is from Detroit, Mich., is a member of the BTB's personal security team and was providing protection during the battalion's visit Oct. 3. Soldiers from the BTB brought school supplies and water to a group of displaced people who have set up a temporary village in the Taji area. The battalion has a special rapport with the community.

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The Command Corner



Col. Brian R. Layer
DSB Brigade Commander

Stories I tell friends

The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will.

--Vince Lombardi

When I was a sophomore in high school, I played on our school basketball team. One night late in the season, I had the unenviable task of playing head to head against an All-American.

For three quarters, we played pretty even but in the fourth quarter as I began to tire, he seemed to hit another gear.

I remember little from that quarter except the nightmarish vision of the back of his jersey as he dropped the ball in the basket time and time again.

I was embarrassed but I learned a valuable lesson that night: in a competitive environment, how you finish matters much more than how you start. This lesson has served me well throughout my life.

I've learned that champions win because they refuse to quit no matter how great their lead or deficit.

As we enter the fourth quarter of our deployment, we need to remember that we'll be remembered for how we finish too.

It's still far too early to rest on our accomplishments and far too dangerous to let down our guard.

Just like a great athlete who has the ability to lift his game in the fourth quarter, we must continue to improve as we get ready to leave Iraq.

Experience tells us that risk increases at the beginnings and ends of a deployment. So this is the right time to intensify our battle focus and finish our mission the way we started—by being professional in everything we do and tireless in our pursuit of excellence.

I am an American soldier...I will never quit.



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

Taking care of Soldiers

Soldiers assigned to the Division Support Brigade now have a chance to enhance their professional and personal growth.

This is largely due to the opening of the new Taji Education Center.

Ever since we've been deployed, Soldiers have asked numerous times "how can we take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test in order to raise our General Technical scores?"

Soldiers want opportunities to qualify for more reenlistment options, or to apply for Officers Candidate School or Warrant Officer training.

Thanks to a group of noncommissioned officers within the DSB, Soldiers now have additional assets to pursue these great opportunities.

Initially the closest place for a Soldier to attend the GT improvement course was Forward Operating Base Anaconda.

However, Camp Taji based Soldiers who desire these seminars were challenged by transportation and billeting issues.

In addition, the four-week Anaconda course would have taken Soldiers away from their mission and put a strain on operational resources.

Despite these challenges, Sgt. Maj. Gloria D. Farrow, the DSB S-3 sergeant major, went to Anaconda and gathered all information and resources needed to establish a GT Improvement Course here.

Farrow then turned this information over to the DSB Human Resource NCOIC, Master Sgt. Dymetra L. Bass.

Bass then gathered a team of professional NCOs and Officers to be instructors with the help of the 87th Corps Support Battalion command (See ASVAB, Pg. 4)

Pull the string, and it will follow wherever you wish. Push it, and it will go nowhere at all.

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

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DSB machinists make creative team

Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The two Soldiers couldn't be more different from each other. One is from the West Coast; the other is from the East. One sold retail before entering the Army; the other was a welder.

However, today the two are partners supporting the 3rd Infantry Division's mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.

Pfc. Julius G. Jimenez, a machinist with the General Support Equipment Platoon, 632nd Maintenance Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, joined the Army after spending a few years at a national retail store in his hometown of Corona, Calif.

His partner, Pfc. William I. Frazier, also a GSE machinist, was a welder in Barnwell, S.C., before enlisting in the service.

Now the two Division Support Brigade Soldiers work out of the Service and Recovery shop, producing a variety of needed tools and equipment.

"A lot of people don't realize what we can do," said Frazier, who was going to go to school to be a machinist before he decided to get his training with the Army.

For example, they have produced a rivet tool, a specialized wrench and hose fittings, said Jimenez, who was born in the Philippines.

As long as the two machinists get the specifications for the tool or part, they can make it.

Chief Warrant Officer Alton M. Malpass, the Allied Trades Warrants Technician for the GSE, said the two Soldiers have been a tremendous help in the Multi-National Division-Iraq area of operations.

"It's hard to tell how many total man-hours they've saved," said Malpass, a Mount Olive, N.C., native.



Photo by Sgt. Victor Soto
CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Pfc. Julius G. Jimenez, a machinist with the General Support Equipment Platoon, 632nd Maintenance Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, checks the milling machine. Jimenez, who calls Corona, Calif., home, said he likes making something out of nothing.



Photo by Sgt. Victor Soto
CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Pfc. William I. Frazier, a machinist with the General Support Equipment Platoon, 632nd Maintenance Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, sets up the lathe for his next project. Frazier, who hails from Barnwell, S.C. where he was a welder, said he loves building things.

He said the machinists saved more than 50 man-hours alone just by manufacturing a pin to fix one of the Heavy Equipment Transport vehicles.

It's the creative part of the job that appeals to Jimenez the most.

"I like to make something out of nothing," said Jimenez, who has just a little more than a year in the Army.

Frazier's enjoyment of the job is similar.

"I just like building things," said Frazier.

Most importantly, they rely on each other for each project; and Jimenez said Frazier often advises him on projects.

"Most everything we do, we get a second opinion from the other one," said Frazier, who was in the class behind Jimenez in advanced individual training. "We share ideas—especially if it's something we've never done before."

This creative tandem got both what they came into the Army for: Frazier said he enlisted for job training;

(See Machine, Pg. 4)

ASVAB, continued from Pg. 2

sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy L. Pegues.

Consequently, the 10-day course was set up to accommodate 20 Soldiers.

With the dedication and hard work of the instructors Capt. Justin E. Follansbee, Sgt. 1st Class Avery D. Wood, Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Davids and Staff Sgt. Lugo, many of the students have raised their scores tremendously.

For example, Sgt. Robert Kintchen, who attended the first course, took the ASVAB and the scored a class high 123. Kitchen then came back to the school house and tutored other students after duty hours.

Respectively, Master Sgt. Debra A. Fitch, 87th CSB logistics NCO, in spite of a heavy workload,

makes time after duty hours to coach and tutor students as well.

In addition, Sgt 1st Class Verna F. Bellamy, the course administrative NCOIC, has done an outstanding job in managing slots to ensure that Soldiers from all units here get sufficient opportunities to attend the course.

The Education Center has become one of the hottest topics on the installation for soldiers. In fact, the volume of enrollment requests exceeded the small building, where the course is held.

As a result, the Taji Education Center has moved to bldg 613A. The new center now accommodates 50 students.

Also, the course will be expanded to two weeks, eight hours per day, which will equate to the four week course in Anaconda. A study hall is

offered after class daily for those students who need additional help.

The Education Center offers additional services other than the GT Course. Bellamy also coordinates with the proctor from Anaconda to over-see testing programs such as the DANTES, AFCT, DLAB, TABE and CLEP. Finally, the center also assists with enrollment into university and college courses. Just another example of Soldiers helping Soldiers.

Machine, continued from Pg. 3

Jimenez came in looking for a chance to travel.

While they got what they wanted, the 632nd Maint. Co. got what it needed; two Soldiers creating equipment to keep the 3rd Inf. Div. fully mission-capable.



Photo by Sgt. Victor Soto

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Staff Sgt. Harrison M. Barr, second from left, with the 94th Maintenance Company, and Staff Sgt. Clayton Young, middle, with the 550th Area Support Medical Company, finished second and first, respectively, in their General Technical Improvement course. Command Sgt. Maj. Edward T. Brooks, left end, DSB command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Major Jimmy L. Pegues, 87th Corps Support Battalion command sergeant major, and Master Sgt. Dymetra L. Bass, DSB Human Resource NCOIC, were present to congratulate the course's 20 graduates Oct. 12. The results of the follow-on ASVAB test were not available at press time.

Equal Opportunity Focus



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

the Heart of Readiness!

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- The Division Support Brigade celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month outside Dining Facility 1, Oct. 6, here. This spectacular event was sponsored by the 87th Corps Support Battalion.

Lt. Col. Steve E. Lambert, the 87th CSB commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Pegues, the CSB command sergeant major, hosted this event.

“National Hispanic Heritage Month provides the opportunity to express deep appreciation to Hispanic Americans for their countless contributions to our society and to pay tribute to America’s distinctive diversity,” said Chief Warrant Officer Santiago Arroyo, the maintenance technician for the 94th Maintenance Company, 87th CSB.

Santiago, the event’s keynote speaker, reminded the audience that Hispanics are not just one race, color or nationality. Regardless of background or what country they migrated from, they are all Americans.

Santiago, who hails from Utuado, Puerto Rico, told how Puerto Rico has a special association with the 3rd Infantry Division.

“The 65th Infantry Regiment was created on 2 March 1899 as the Puerto Rico Battalion of Volunteer Infantry,” said Santiago.

The 65th is referred to as The Tip of the Spear and was a last-minute addition to the Marne Division as they set out for the Korean War in August 1950, said Santiago.

Special thanks to Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Merritt, the 87th CSB equal opportunity representative and his EORs



Photo by Sgt. Victor Soto

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Chief Warrant Officer Santiago Arroyo, the maintenance technician for the 94th Maintenance Company, 87th CSB, presents the key note address at the Oct. 6 Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, here.

throughout the battalion, for coordinating the program and making it a huge success.

Those EORs are: Sgt. 1st Class Verna Bellamy, 396th Transportation Company, Staff Sgt. Sequade Figueroa, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Staff Sgt. Tanisha Geter, 226th Quartermaster Company and Sgt. 1st Class Richard Gonzales, 94th Maintenance Company.

Sgt. Dorie Cartagena, also from the 87th, did an exceptional job teaching a variety of Hispanic dances to the Taji Latin Express. They danced the night away with music provided by The Taji Inmates, a local band here.

Thanks to the Division Equal Opportunity Office, Division Chaplain and Army Air Force Exchange System for the outstanding door prizes.

Lastly to the audience, we couldn’t have done it without your unwavering support.

The next observance, Native American Heritage, is scheduled for Nov. 10 and sponsored by the Brigade Troops Battalion. Volunteers are still needed for this program.



Wet and wild! (left to right) Chaplain (Capt.) Claude E. Hoffman, Brigade Troops Battalion chaplain, explains the rules of engagement just before the Chaplain’s Challenge Water Balloon fight Oct. 6. The 550th Area Support Medical Company Renegades took on the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, BTB, Warhorses in the “Showdown at the Motor pool.” Everybody got wet, but Spc. Tishawn Williams, a wheel vehicle mechanic with HHC, captured the renegade’s flag to win the match. Hoffman said the event was planned to give the Soldiers a chance to “just act like a kid again” and relieve a little stress. The proof of success was in the soggy smiles.

(Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick)

From the Pulpit

Chaplain (Capt.) Claude E. Hoffman
Brigade Troops Battalion Chaplain

Write a Song about Your Life

Have you ever wanted to be remembered for something? Do you want people to know who you are?

I suppose we all do at some point in our life. In England there have been many kings with the same name.

The only distinguishing difference in their common names were subsequent numericals such as Henry VIII etc.

Unless you are a student of history, it's hard to remember all these kings for the unique contribution they demonstrated during their respective reigns.

Incredibly, there is a third century king, who is remembered by most people today.

This king was known to be a kind hearted warrior.

He was a Roman king put in place to govern the Celts.

During his rule, The Anglos, Saxons and Jutes tried to move in on Rome's operation but he stopped them.

He was genuinely concerned about the welfare and people of his kingdom.

Contrast, the other kings of his day were known as unjust men, but not this particular leader.

The few that recorded him in history display him as a brave, even tempered man with a good sense of humor.

In addition, in modern day Colchester, an archeologist discovered an amphitheater that this multifaceted leader constructed.

Nevertheless, as obscure as this king is we will allways remember him by this popular poem:

Old King Cole

Was a merry old soul,

And a merry old soul was he.

He called for his pipe,

He called for his bowl,

And he called for his fiddlers three.

What will you be remembered for? King Cole was known as a merry old soul. Will people remember you as a merry old soul?

Believe it or not the choice is ours.

Take for instance Cornelius, the Centurion, in Acts, Chapter 10.

He and all his family were devout and God fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly (ACTS 10:2). The Bible describes what kind of person he was.

Retrospectively, he was an uncommon man for his day. because the Romans were not fond of Christians.

As a matter of fact they are known for killing believers. However, Cornelius took a chance and loved those deemed unlovable by the main stream of his day.

Importantly, he was noted in the Bible first for his faith and then for putting his faith to work.

You see, a follower of God is one who demonstrates the love of God each day.

Yes, they have good and bad days but on average they are loving people.

The person is kind and compassionate.

The person loves as the Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13.

Think about it – what do people say or write about you?

What will your rhyme say?

Blessings, CH H

Baby Parade

Congratulations to the new parents in
the Heart of the Rock

Daniel Marrero

9:42 a.m.

Aug 30, 2005

10 pounds, 4 ounces

To Sgt. 1st Class Marrero

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

Don't forget a photo and vital statistics.





Celebrate! CAMP TAJI, Iraq —A Christian celebration was held at the Division Support Brigade Ministry Center Sept. 30, starting at 7:30 p.m. The theme for the 2-hour event was “Bringing Camp Taji’s Christian Community Together.” There was singing by choirs, duos and solos, as well as dancing. The participants came from the various units and ministry teams located here. Pictured at the left, Sgt. Audrey Chestnut, Left, and Sgt. Dwayne Sims, both from the 396th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support battalion, DSB, dance to “He still loves me.” Upper right, Capt. Craig Bender, left, with the 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armor Division, and Capt. Jim Gannon, 94th Maintenance Company, 87th CSB, sing “Your name is Holy.” Lower right, Spc. Brian King, 396th Trans. Co., sings “because he loved me.” More than 300 Soldiers and civilians participated .



Iron Warriors show their metal

By Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – More than 40 contestants entered the Camp Taji Ironman and Ironwoman Bench Press Competition Oct. 2, held at Moral, Welfare and Recreation’s Base Warrior’s Gym, here.

This was the last weight lifting event hosted by the 87th Corps Support Battalion during this deployment, said Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Pegues, the command sergeant major for the 87th CSB, Division Support Brigade.

The event was dedicated to Staff Sgt. Jude R. Jonaus, a pharmacist with the 550th Area Support Medical Company, who was killed while performing duties as a member of the brigade headquarters’ personnel security team, said Pegues. A moment of silence was observed before the event kicked off.

Pegues said Jonaus had participated in every weight lifting contest hosted by the 87th CSB and he had entered to participate in the men’s 152-177 pound weight class for this contest.

Pegues, who finished with a best lift of 400 pounds in the male’s 204-229 pound weight category, presented his first place trophy to a member of Jonaus’ unit in his honor.

The other competitors finished as follows.

Of the five female contestants, the best lifter was Staff Sgt. Natasha Smith, representing Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th battalion, 3rd Aviation regiment. Smith finished with a best lift of 165 pounds in the females 152-177 pound weight category. Smith also set a meet record with her lift of 165 pounds.

The male best lifter of the contest was Staff Sgt. John Stull, 94th Maintenance Company, 87th CSB. Stull, whose unit is known as the “Hard Chargers,” finished with



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Staff Sgt. Natasha Smith, left, with HHC, 4th Bn., 3rd AVN, is presented the Top Female Lifter trophy from Lt. Col. Steve E. Lambert, the 87th CSB battalion commander.

a best lift of 425 pound in the males 178-203 pound weight category.

Stull also set a meet record with his lift of 415 pounds and 425 pounds respectfully. He was given a fourth attempt to break his own record of 425 pounds but fell short of making 435 pounds.

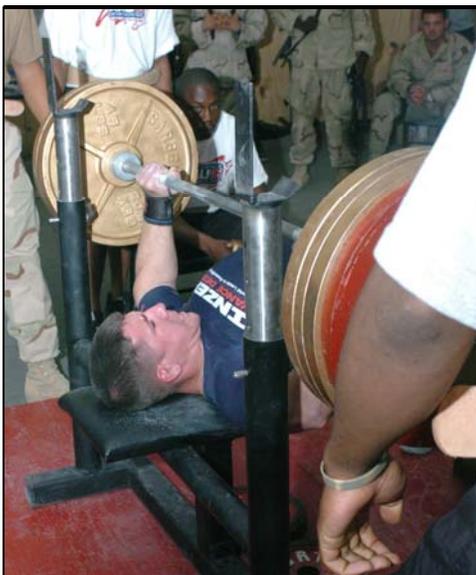
Even so, his record lift was a remarkable feat for a person weighing only 200 pounds, said Pegues.

Both Smith and Stull had participated in April’s bench press contest as well.

Respectively, other first place finishers were:

Sgt. Paris Johnson, from the 632nd Maintenance Company, 87th CSB, with a best lift of 145 pounds in the female’s 125-151 pound weight category.

(See Iron, Pg. 8)



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

Press on! CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Left, Staff Sgt. John Stull, 94th Maintenance Company, 87th CSB. Above, Sgt. J'vonda Figgs, 550th Area Support Medical Company. Right, Master Sgt. Thomas Rooyakkers, Division Ammunition Office, DSB.



Iron, continued from Pg. 7

Sgt. Kelly Brown, 2nd Detachment, 3rd Signal, Brigade Troops Battalion, finished with a best lift of 160 pounds in the female's 178-and above weight category.

Sgt. Matthew Irvin, 223rd Maintenance Company, finished with a best lift of 200 pounds in the male's 101-125 pound weight category. Irvin also set a meet record with his lift of 200 pounds.

Sgt. Lawrence Hayden, HHC 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, finished with a best lift of 335 pounds in the male's 126-151 pound weight category. Hayden also set a meet record with his lift of 335 pounds.

Staff Sgt. Terrence Wiggs, B Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, finished with a best lift of 350 pounds in the male's 152-177 pound weight category. Wiggs, also set a meet record of 350 pounds.

Spc. Kyle Adkisson, 632nd Maint. Co., finished with a best lift of

365 pounds in the male's 230-255 pound weight category.

Sgt. Terry Stanley, 46th Corps Support Group, 1st Corps Support Command, finished with a best lift of 330 pounds in the male's 256 and above category.

The 87th CSB weightlifting contest was fortunate to receive quality external support and interest from various groups.

Pegues said the two major sponsors for the contest were the Pentagon Federal Credit Union and First Command Financial. The PFCU provided trophies for the top three male and female finishers. First Command provided trophies for the top female and male finishers.

Pegues continued with a spe-

cial thanks to Jason Heider and Howard Rush for all of there assistance in supporting this event.

Other sponsors included; the Army Air Force Exchange System, Exchange New Car Sales, Universal Nutrition, Power Shack, American Amateur Union, American Power Lifting Federation, Titan Support Systems Inc., GEICO Insurance Company, Crain Muscle World Ltd., Wiley-X and Freedom Radio.

A final thank you goes out to the officials, spotters, loaders, announcer, time keeper and expeditors for all of their hard work to make this event a success.

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Minimize your exposure to IEDs.

Confirm from as far away as possible.



STAY ALIVE