



# THE TAJI TIMES

Supporting the Rock in Southwest Asia



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## Renegades teach Iraqi Soldiers combat medic skills

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Pollard, Executive Officer  
550th Area Support Medical Company

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Medics with the Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division are helping to train the Iraqi Army in combat medic skills.

Sgt. Matthew J. Carver and Spc. Richard J. Fourroux, combat medics with the 550th Area Support Medical Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, DSB, are leading the efforts to train new Iraqi Army recruits to be full combat medics.

Carver, who is from North Wilkesboro, N.C., and Fourroux, from Denver, are directing a five-week course that requires Iraqi medics to train to a similar standard as U.S. Army combat medics.

The first class graduated 15 medics on July 26 to add to the Iraqi fighting force.

Fourroux said his experiences in Iraq have come “around full circle.”

Today, his mission is vastly different from that during his rotation in Operation Iraqi Freedom 1. When he deployed to this country for the first time, Iraqis were the enemy. Now, he is preparing them for the future security of their nation with a more stabilized force.

As of July 26, the course has now shifted to the “train the trainers” phase—instructing qualified Iraqi Soldiers to teach their own forces, said Carver.

Sgt. Qiass Al-Jobory, who has worked as a medic in Iraqi Army clinics for years, is an Iraqi leader in the Train the Trainer course.

Qiass said he “loves training soldiers.” His goal is to give these new medics the experience they need to return to their unit, conduct missions, and save lives.

In fact, Qiass said their team motto, “a healthy mind for a healthy body,” is an example of the students’ excitement to receive the training.



Photo courtesy of 550th ASMC

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Sgt Qiass Al-Jobory, left, an Iraqi Army medic, and Sgt. Matthew J. Carver, right, a combat medic with the 550th ASMC, teach an Iraqi Army student medic the fundamentals of treating a patient with head trauma injuries. Carver, a North Wilkesboro, N.C., native, is now heading a “train the trainer” program for Iraqi Army Medical Instructors with Qiass as the lead instructor.

Enrollment for the Aug. 3 course tripled, compared to the first class.

In the next four weeks, Carver and Fourroux will take on the role of advisors when the second iteration of IA combat medic training begins. This allows those experienced medics like Qiass to step in and instruct the classes.

“We are trying to hand over the reins,” said Carver. “We are encouraging their leaders to set up their own classrooms to train their own medics.”

“It’s a tough course” said Qiass. “But, in the end, we learn what will enable us to save more lives while conducting operations out in the field.”

Other forward operating bases throughout the 3rd Inf. Div. area are scheduling combat medic courses to assist in increasing the survivability of the Iraqi Army as they assume responsibility for their own security.”

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## The Command Corner



**Col. Brian R. Layer**  
Commander

### Stories I tell friends

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe."

Are you spending enough time sharpening your axe? If soldiering is anything, it is an endeavor of disciplined preparation. However, it's not uncommon for a Soldier to lose patience for preparation as his or her task list grows.

I challenge you to assign time for preparation in everything you do. Leaders must plan time for pre-combat checks and inspections and everyone must make time to prepare their arms and equipment for their duties.

Roger's Standing Orders are a gem from the earliest days of our Army; they remind us, in a most colorful way, of the timeless value of Soldier preparation.

1. *Don't forget nothing.*
2. *Have your musket clean as a whistle, hatchet scoured, sixty rounds powder and ball, and be ready to march at a minute's warning.*
3. *When you're on the march, act the way you would if you was sneaking up on a deer. See the enemy first.*
4. *Tell the truth about what you see and do. There is an army depending on us for correct information. You can lie all you please when you tell other folks about the Rangers, but don't never lie to a Ranger or officer.*
5. *Don't never take a chance you don't have to.*
6. *When we're on the march we march single file, far enough apart so one shot can't go through two men.*
7. *If we strike swamps, or soft ground, we spread out abreast, so it's hard to track us.*
8. *When we march, we keep moving til dark, so as to give the enemy the least possible chance at us.*
9. *When we camp, half the party stays awake while the other half sleeps.*
10. *If we take prisoners, we keep 'em separate til we have had time to examine them, so they can't cook up a story between 'em. (See Ranger, Pg. 3)*



**Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy I. Pegues**  
87th CSB Command Sergeant Major

### The Soldiers Creed

**I am an American Soldier.**

**I am a Warrior and a member of a team.**

**I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.**

**I will always place the mission first.**

**I will never accept defeat.**

**I will never quit.**

**I will never leave a fallen comrade.**

**I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.**

**I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.**

**I am an expert and I am a professional.**

**I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.**

**I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.**

**I am an American Soldier.**

I challenge every Soldier in the Division Support Brigade to know and live by the Soldiers Creed. Always remember to place the mission first.

Our main objective is performing our various specialties supporting Iraqi stabilization as they establish a democratic form of government for their people.

Importantly, the Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Webster, often reminds us that we are all riflemen first.

Therefore, we must be prepared at all times to apply our basic combat training skills. We are indeed warriors and members of the time honored Army team.

As consummate professionals, we need to approach our remaining time of deployment with renewed energy and vigilance.

Unlike the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer, the Soldiers Creed applies to all Soldiers. As Soldiers, we should never accept defeat, never quit and never leave a fallen comrade behind. **(See Creed, Pg. 3)**

## It is character that tells. — Joshua L. Chamberlain

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**Ranger, continued from Pg. 2**

- 11. *Don't ever march home the same way. Take a different route so you won't be ambushed.*
- 12. *No matter whether we travel in big parties or little ones, each party has to keep a scout 20 yards ahead, twenty yards on each flank and twenty yards in the rear, so the main body can't be surprised and wiped out.*
- 13. *Every night you'll be told where to meet if surrounded by a superior force.*
- 14. *Don't sit down to eat without posting sentries.*
- 15. *Don't sleep beyond dawn. Dawn's when the French and Indians attack.*
- 16. *Don't cross a river by a regular ford.*
- 17. *If somebody's trailing you, make a circle, come back onto your own tracks, and ambush the folks that aim to ambush you.*
- 18. *Don't stand up when the enemy's coming against you. Kneel down. Hide behind a tree.*
- 19. *Let the enemy come till he's almost close enough to touch. Then let him have it and jump out and finish him up with your hatchet.*

Don't forget to sharpen your hatchet.  
You just might need to use it!

## Renegade receives Bronze Star

### Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A Soldier assigned to the Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division received a Bronze Star with “V” device Aug. 11 at the DSB Ministry Center.

Sgt. Eric G. Sullivan, a combat medic with the 550th Area Support Medical Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, DSB, was awarded the medal by Brig. Gen. Mark E. O’Neill, the assistant division commander for support for the 3rd Inf. Div.

“Someone once said, the difference between being courageous and not being courageous is the last decision you make,” said O’Neill, after pinning the medal on Sullivan. “When you’re in a really tough spot, and you’re scared, and there are a lot of things going on around you, those decisions can be very, very clear or they can be very muddled.

“We are all very fortunate to have leaders, noncommissioned officers of the caliber of Sgt. Sullivan who, in that moment when they had to make that one decision, they were very clear about what they needed to do.”

Sullivan, from Tampa, Fla., was honored for his actions April 20 during an attack on the convoy he was supporting.

A vehicle in the convoy was hit by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, said Capt. Kenneth A. Hoisington, the adjutant for BTB. (See Renegade, Pg. 4)

**Creed, continued form Pg. 2**

Remember, freedom is never free. Throughout history, many have paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Let’s not forget that sacrifice.

We should never forget the oath of allegiance we took to serve and defend our country. Soldiers always believe in your leaders and leaders always believe in your Soldiers. And again, Soldiers, never accept defeat.

On behalf of Provider 6 and myself, I would like to thank you and your families for their selfless sacrifice in support of our country during these trying times in our history.

Support the Rock!

**Once, they see you.  
Twice, you’re known.  
Three times you’re  
dead.**



**Don't be predictable.**



**STAY ALIVE**

**Renegade, continued from Pg. 3**

Sullivan's vehicle pulled alongside the burning Heavy Equipment Transporter and checked to see if the vehicle had been evacuated. Fortunately, the truck was empty.

However, the convoy was unable to move out of the area while engaged in a terrorist cross-fire. Heroically, Sullivan and his fellow soldiers dismounted and returned fire, Hoisington said.

During the engagement, Sullivan spent two magazines of ammunition defending his fellow Soldiers before noticing multiple Iraqi civilian casualties wounded during the attack.

Sullivan immediately designated a casualty collection point and started directing soldiers to collect the casualties, said Hoisington. He then decisively directed combat life savers and other Soldiers, and began to triage the casualties.

Because of his quick thinking, ability to remain calm under fire and knowledgeable treatment, 11 of the 14 casualties survived, said Hoisington.

Sullivan then helped evacuate the casualties to Camp Liberty where he continued to direct the patient carrying vehicles to various treatment facilities, effectively managing resources, said Hoisington.

After the ceremony, Sullivan modestly deferred honor to the 3rd Battalion, 117th Field Artillery Regiment, Alabama Army National Guard, for their force protection support during the ambush.

"Everybody in the Army is a warrior and a member of a team," said Sullivan.

"I think we'd all agree that if we were going outside the wire, we'd want you with us," said O'Neill.



*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick*

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Brig. Gen. Mark E. O'Neill, left, the assistant division commander for support for the 3rd Inf. Div., pins the Bronze Medal with "V" device on Sgt. Eric G. Sullivan, a combat medic with the 550th ASMC,**

## Transporter receives Purple Heart

### Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- A truck driver with the Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division was awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart Aug. 11 in a ceremony held at the DSB Ministry Center.

Staff Sgt. Khevin G. Smith, a heavy-wheel vehicle operator with the 104th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, DSB, was awarded the medal by Brig. Gen. Mark E. O'Neill, the assistant division commander for support for the 3rd Inf. Div.

Although this is the award that  
(See Transporter, Pg. 5)



*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick*

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Brig. Gen. Mark E. O'Neill, left, the assistant division commander for support for the 3rd Inf. Div., shakes hands with Staff Sgt. Khevin G. Smith, a heavy-wheel vehicle operator with the 104th Transportation Company, after awarding him the Purple Heart Aug. 11.**

**Transporter, continued from Pg. 4**

nobody wants to get, said O’Neill, “to be able to pin this award on a Soldier is a great joy.

“It means the equipment, the training, and circumstance, which none of us get to predict or script, allowed him to be standing here with us.”

Smith, of Dallas, got the award for wounds received in action April 20 when his convoy was ambushed on its

way to Camp Liberty.

Smith’s Heavy Equipment Transporter was struck by a vehicle-borne explosive device. He also managed to evacuate his truck commander, Spc. Morris Smith, who was sitting in the passenger seat. The two of them were picked up by Sgt. Eric L. Martin, who had pulled his HET next to them as they exited their damaged truck.

“The actions of Martin and the escorts from the 3rd Battalion,

117th Field Artillery Regiment, Alabama Army National Guard are the reason we’re here, said Smith, whose unit deployed from Fort Benning, Ga.” He praised God for their safety under fire.

O’Neill said it was a blessing that Smith’s equipment and training proved themselves. He also had advice for the Soldier.

“You don’t need to go get another one of those,” said O’Neill. ‘One’s enough.’”

## World War II footlocker continues to serve

### Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The old footlocker had been semi-retired for nearly 50 years. Oh sure, it had been used for storage. It had even seen a few Army National Guard annual training sessions.

But retired Master Sgt. Robert M. Rawls’ army-issue footlocker had not been to combat since World War II. Now it serves his son in Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.

“He had several,” said Capt. Charles R. Rawls, referring to his father’s footlockers. “This is the one he always used.”

The vintage storage box is complete, right down to the pull-out shelf, said Rawls, a fire direction officer with the 3rd Battalion, 117th Field Artillery Regiment, Alabama ARNG. His unit is providing force protection and convoy support for 3rd Infantry Division units here.

“I joined the National Guard in 1989,” said Rawls, who grew up in Troy, Ala. He was 27 years old at the time.

His father asked him to join at 18, but Rawls said he wasn’t ready then. He went on to Troy State University in his hometown, graduated and then started working for the Alabama State Forestry Commission.

Finally, after nine years, he joined the military his father had loved for 32 years.

Eventually, it came time for Rawls, who has lived most of his life in Troy, to attend annual training with his unit. It was before that yearly, two-week field duty that Rawls’ father gave him the footlocker. Rawls has used it ever since.

But the father and son warriors share more than an antique piece of luggage. They both mobilized for war from the same location.

Rawls said his father left for the Pacific theater of operations during World War II from Camp Shelby, Miss. He was on active duty at the time, having answered his

country’s call to arms.

When he returned from the war, the elder Rawls joined the National Guard and stayed until he retired, said his son.

Eventually, the camp, which is the largest National Guard training area in the U.S. changed its name to Mobilization Center Shelby, said Rawls. His unit has conducted many annual training exercises there and it’s where he and his unit mobilized from to deploy to Iraq.

If Rawls never gets deployed again, the footlocker may still see a few more annual trainings before he retires. Maybe the footlocker can finally settle into a garage for a well-deserved retirement.

Then again, Rawls does have a son of his own...



*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick*

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Capt. Charles R. Rawls, a fire direction officer with the 3rd Battalion, 117th Field Artillery Regiment, Alabama Army National guard, shows off his father’s World War II footlocker. Rawls, who grew up in Troy, Ala., was given the vintage box by his father before his first ARNG annual training.**

# From the Pulpit

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

## Love and Commitment

It was the 1700's in England. A mother is on a dock watching her two sons preparing to board a ship.

The mother, widowed a few years earlier, was dealing with the pain of seeing her sons sail away from her. She did not want them to go, especially her youngest son.

Unfortunately, the elder brother was unable to convince her of the virtues of Navy life. So, crying continually, she watched her sons prepare to embark on a new future.

But wait, the younger son suddenly leaves the ship and decides not to leave his mother.

Watching her cry was too much for him, so he traded a life of fortune and fame to serve at home.

Unknowingly, his sacrificial commitment to his mother and family would later serve him well during the deepest, darkest moments of the American Revolution.

The son was George Washington, father of our Country, and his actions teach us to be committed to our family.

In the Bible, one of the greatest stories of commitment in relationships between two friends is that of Ruth and Naomi in the book of Ruth, Chapter 1. I use this passage in many of the weddings I officiate.

The story goes like this. Ruth and her husband were living in the land of Moab during a time of famine.

However, her father-in-law and her husband both died. Incidentally, Ruth was left with her mother-in-law, Naomi, and her sister-in-law, Orpah.

As the story develops, Naomi urged her daughters-in-law to go back to their home land; but only Orpah left.

Ruth told Naomi, "**Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.**"<sup>17</sup> **Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.**" (Ruth 1:16-17 NIV)

Ruth and George teach us this simple lesson – commitment and love are the bed rock of a relationship.

Love is not always easy. It can be even more difficult during trying circumstances like deployments.

When distances compounds your problems, discipline yourself to strengthen your commitment to your spouse or friend, work through life's troubles and pushed forward.

Here is how I recommend strengthening commitment.

First, Naomi and Ruth were friends. Be a friend to that special person in your life.

Secondly, Ruth and Naomi worshiped together. So pray and worship with your spouse and friends.

And thirdly, Ruth met Naomi where she was hurting and stayed by her side. It's important to have empathy for those who are close to you.

If you are willing to reach out, you can have a great relationship.

**Blessings!**  
**CH Hoffman**

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Edward L. Lenore, a radio communications repairer with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, checks an amplifier adapter. Lenore, who calls Charleston, S.C., home, is a member of a unit that repairs electronic equipment for HMMWVs and Light Military Transport Vehicles.**



# Health Tips

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE  
 'CONSERVING THE FIGHTING STRENGTH'

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

## Gyms and Germs???

In a gym, good hygiene is a big deal. Especially in an environment filled with germs just waiting to attack. The gym is, without a doubt, one of the biggest germ and bacterial infected places you can be in. Just think about it, around the clock dozens of people are coming and going all day and everyday, sharing weightlifting machines, PT mats, dumbbells and all kind of gym equipment. Practicing good gym hygiene habits will not only keep you from getting sick, but it will also save you from a potentially uncomfortable

skin infections.

There are many different causes for skin infections. Some infections can be transmitted from person to person through skin contact or through items that touch the skin. While skin infections are not usually life-threatening, they can be detrimental to the Soldier's readiness. Here are a couple of examples of skin infections that can be transmitted by sharing contaminated gym equipment:

1. **Shingles** is an infection caused by the *varicella-zoster* virus, which is the virus that causes chickenpox. The first sign is usually a tingling feeling, itchiness, or stabbing pain on the skin. After a few days, a rash appears as a band or patch of raised dots on the side of the trunk or face. The rash develops into small, fluid-filled blisters which begin to dry out and crust over within several days. When

the rash is at its peak, symptoms can range from mild itching to extreme and intense pain.

2. **Warts** are a type of infection caused by viruses in the human *papillomavirus* (HPV) family. They can grow on all parts of the body: the skin, the inside of the mouth, the genitals and rectal area. Warts on the skin may be passed to another person from using objects that were used by a person who has warts.

My fellow soldiers, there is ONLY ONE simple recommendation to avoid all this and that is to be courteous toward others and ALWAYS WIPE UP THE MACHINE AFTER YOURSELF (NOTE: Make sure you use a disinfectant). No one wants to use equipment that is been marinated in someone else's bodily fluids. Again, it is better to be safe than sorry folks... Prevention is the key!!!

## 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 or Capt. Wright at davie.wright@us.army.mil Don't forget the photo and vital statistics



Jessica Ashley Wyatt, born Aug. 10, at 9lbs, 3.7 ounces and 19.5 in., to Spc. Gregory B. and Sabrina C. Wyatt

# Reenlistments

**87th CSB**  
 HHD

- Spc. Boggs
- 104th Trans. Co.
- Spc. Williams
- 226th QM Co.
- Spc. Jackson
- Spc. Smith
- Spc Souder
- Sgt. Wiggins

- 396th Trans. Co.
- Spc. Goss
- Sgt. Brissett
- Sgt. Graham
- Sgt. Rogers
- Staff Sgt. Alford

- 632nd Maint Co.
- Spc Fisher
- Spc. Kline
- Sgt. Chestnut
- Sgt. Johnson
- Staff Sgt. Lenore

- Staff Sgt. McNish
- Staff Sgt. Pullicino

- 94th Maint. Co.
- Spc. Knueppel
- Sgt. Lara
- Sgt. Mulet
- Sgt. Nicholas

**BTB**  
 HHC

- Spc. Noel
- Spc. Rosas
- Spc. Thigpen
- Sgt. Choice
- Sgt. Colon
- Sgt. Haley
- Sgt. Ledford
- Sgt. Lovett
- Sgt. Moultrie
- Sgt. Waite
- Sgt. White
- Staff Sgt. Baez
- Sgt. 1st Class Sanchez

# Promotions

## 87th CSB

Pvt. 2 Ball  
 Pfc. Ash  
 Pfc. Brooks  
 Pfc. Dixon  
 Pfc. Dorsey  
 Pfc. Hunt  
 Pfc. Jenkins  
 Pfc. Li  
 Pfc. Lynch  
 Pfc. McKinney  
 Pfc. Tinney  
 Pfc. Tubens  
 Spc. Cotton  
 Spc. Johnson  
 Spc. Kline  
 Spc. McGee  
 Spc. Neilson  
 Spc. Northrup  
 Spc. Rogillio  
 Spc. Sanchez  
 Spc. Walrath  
 Spc. Yang  
 Sgt. Davis  
 Sgt. Chambers

Sgt. Fotias  
 Sgt. Lawler  
 Sgt. Melli  
 Sgt. Meyer  
 Sgt. Ramirez  
 Sgt. Romero  
 Sgt. Staudenmayer  
 Sgt. Thompson  
 Sgt. Souder  
 Sgt. Orjuelatenorio  
 Staff Sgt. Ramirez  
 Staff Sgt. Wiggins

## 3rd SSB

Pfc. West  
 Spc. Gonzalez  
 Spc. Lopez  
 Spc. Reyes  
 Spc. Swiatkowski  
 Sgt. Goodwin  
 Sgt. Barnes

## BTB

Spc. Estrada  
 Spc. Miller  
 Sgt. Kintchen  
 Staff Sgt. Mantooth  
 Staff Sgt. Palomo

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From:

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MAIL

To:

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