



# THE TAJI TIMES

Supporting the Rock in Southwest Asia



Vol. 1, Issue 13 Published for the Soldiers and Families in the Division Support Brigade October 1, 2005

## Transporters make million mile mark

By Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – There was no celebration or huge fanfare.

No one really paid much attention until it had long passed.

How could something so monumental just slip by? “We’ve been so busy, we didn’t realize it,” said Staff Sgt. Delasie M. Wynter, the assistant truck master for 396th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion.

“I’m not surprised the way we’ve been rolling.”

The Division Support Brigade unit “rolled” passed the 1 million mile mark before Aug. 1, according to the 87th CSB records.

The road to the milestone began in March when the 87th CSB, known as the “Base Warriors” assumed the duties from the 27th Corps Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, said Wynter, who hails from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Since then, three platoons of transporters from the 396th have averaged 70-75 convoys a month.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Spc. Travis M. Goss, a driver from 396th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, checks the load on a Palletized Loading System trailer in preparation for convoy.**

Even with all the missions, some of the newer transporters were surprised the 396th Trans. Co. had hit the mark already.

“I figured by the end of the deployment, we’d make the 1 million mile mark,” said Spc. Timothy W. Owens, a driver with the 2nd Platoon who has nearly 1 1/2 years in the Army.

“I didn’t figure [it would be] this early.”

Although Owens, from Effingham, Ill., has been in the Army a short time, he’s very familiar with chalking up a lot of miles.

He came into the Army with almost five years experience as a truck driver, said Owens.

He hit the million mile mark almost every year.

Although the mileage mark went unnoticed, the more veteran Army transporters were not surprised.

“We did it last time too,” said Spc. Travis M. Goss, a driver from 3rd Platoon.

Goss, who calls Oshkosh, Wis., home, said when he was with the 396th during Operation Iraqi Freedom 1, they hit the million mile mark sooner.

But, they had more long haul missions back and forth to Kuwait then.

This time, the mission is moving everything from Meals Ready to Eat and water to repair parts and ( See million, Pg. 4)



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Spc. Timothy W. Owens, a driver with the 396th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, puts on his gear before attending the pre-convoy brief and inspection. The Effingham, Ill., native, had nearly 1 million miles a year for five years as a civilian truck driver.**

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## The Command Corner



**Lt. Col. Shawn M. Morrissey**  
Deputy Commander

### Finishing as a team

“Heart of the Rock” .....and that we are!!!  
I am so proud of all of you for your hard work and dedication.

The team continues to impress us daily with remarkable attitudes and performances in support of this great Division.

Noteworthy, and with much gratitude, the command wants to personally thank all our team members, Soldiers, spouses, and families for your remarkable professionalism, commitment, and sacrifice during this deployment.

We must NOT rest and become complacent. We must remain focused and resolved during this next crucial quarter, as we continue to provide outstanding logistical support to Multi-National Division-Baghdad and the Rock of the Marne.

We have been very fortunate throughout this deployment, in mitigating potential safety risk, associated with our daily operational activities while winning the war on terrorism.

However; and more importantly now, we must remain ever disciplined, focused, and vigilant in caring for each other's well being and safety.

I want leaders to commit themselves to a relentless emphasis and focus regarding the practice of wearing seatbelts, reducing vehicle speeding, preventing negligent weapon discharges, and reinforcing basic pre-combat readiness checks.

While our team prepares together to cross “the goal-line” of mission accomplishment and a safe return back home to our families and friends, we must not lose sight of the dangers (preventable dangers) that lie ahead.

“Team, keep your Kevlar helmets strapped tight on and off the battlefield (FOB), as we continue to support Iraq's democracy during its upcoming (See Team, Pg. 4)



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

### The importance of CLS

Some Soldiers may think attending the Combat Life Saver course is not important because they believe they will never have to use it.

Soldiers whose daily mission doesn't take them off the forward operating base may feel it is a waste of time and training because they feel safe from incident while on the FOB.

Case in point, I have a Soldier who had never left the FOB, but I sent her to CLS class anyway.

Consequently, we were on a convoy recently and that Soldier was with us when one of our vehicles was hit by an armor piercing rocket. Two Soldiers were killed and two seriously injured.

Those two Soldiers would have died if it were not for the fact that all the members on the convoy team, along with my Soldier who was a passenger in one of the other vehicles, had been to CLS training.

Here in Iraq, no matter how safe you think you are, you must be prepared to function as a combat Soldier at any given minute. Combat Life Saver is just that, it is designed to train the non-medical to save lives in a combat situation.

In the course, the combat medics, physician's assistants and doctors tell the class that the CLS qualified Soldier will invariably be the first on the scene. Importantly, the actions the CLS takes in those first few minutes after an incident can mean the difference between life and death for a casualty.

This class teaches the basic life saving techniques that Soldiers can employ as first responders.

Additionally, the knowledge through training makes the Soldier feel more confident if something were to occur. They would know how to take care of a buddy if necessary.

Remember, the first thing to (See CLS, Pg. 4)

**Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.**

— John F. Kennedy

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**DSB mourns fallen comrades**

By Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Friends and fellow Soldiers of two fallen Division Support Brigade Soldiers attended a memorial ceremony at the DSB Ministry Center at 7 p.m., Sept. 10, here.

More than 500 comrades-in-arms gathered to bid a fond farewell to Staff Sgt. Jude R. Jonaus, a pharmacy technician with the 550th Area Support Medical Company, and Sgt. Franklin R. Vilorio, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, both with the Brigade Troops Battalion.

Jonaus, who was born in Haiti, and Vilorio, who was from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, were killed when their vehicle was struck by an armor piercing rocket Sept. 6 while they were performing duties as the brigade headquarters’ personal security team.

The PST team is where Sgt. Leo Arong, a laboratory technician with the 550th ASMC first met Jonaus.

“We were both selected to be on the PST team,” said Arong, who

was born in Nigeria.

“During the PST training, I came to know [Jonaus] as a dedicated, intelligent and motivated Soldier and [noncommissioned officer].”

Arong further explained how Jonaus had joined the Army after witnessing its assistance to his own country during Operation Uphold Democracy.

Arong also shared some personal memories of his friend.

“Each of us will remember him in our own way; for he touched each of our lives differently and profoundly,” said 1st Lt. Jennifer A. Pollard, the commander for the 550th ASMC.

“Some shared his love of jazz and Miles Davis; some joked around in

wigs and silly hats together in the clinic.

“But mostly, we will remember him because he was a brave and courageous Soldier who never backed down from a mission.”

Mission accomplishment was also important to Vilorio.

“Sergeant Vilorio was a great Soldier who dedicated his life to completing the mission and taking care of Soldiers,” said Staff Sgt. Jose F. Magana, a pharmacy technician with the BTB.

“I will miss him dearly and I will never forget him.”

Magana, the brigade PST non-commissioned officer in charge, said Vilorio will be remembered for his laid back attitude and **(See Memorial, Pg. 4)**



*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick*

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Lt. Col. Ronnie W. Long, the battalion commander for the Brigade Troops Battalion, Division Support Brigade, honors Staff Sgt. Jude R. Jonaus, 550th Area Support Medical Company, and Sgt. Franklin R. Vilorio, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, at the memorial ceremony held at the DSB Ministry Center Sept. 10, here.**

*Photo by Spc. Matthew Wester, 3/1 AD PAO*

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Sgt. Cristen M. Kwiatkowski, left, and Sgt. Georgina M. Kirkland, both combat medics with the 550th Area Support Medical Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, present a last salute to Staff Sgt. Jonaus and Sgt. Vilorio. The two sergeants joined more than 500 comrades-in-arms in memorializing their fallen comrades.**

Memorial, continued from Pg. 3	Team, continued from Pg. 2	CLS, continued from Pg. 2
<p>infectious smile.</p> <p>“He was a wonderful friend, father, son, and leader,” said Magana.</p> <p>“Sergeant Vilorio was a compassionate leader who did his job beyond well,” said Capt. Jennifer R. Cave, the commander for HHC. “[He] now belongs to the ages, but we preferred it when he belonged to us.</p> <p>“We all look to that fine day when we will see him again, strong and sure, and smiling; that day when the sorrow of his leaving will be gone from us, forever.”</p> <p>“The loss of one such Soldier diminishes us all,” said Lt. Col. Ronnie W. Long, the battalion commander for BTB. “The loss of two is truly hard to bear.”</p> <p>Long summed up his remarks with a charge.</p> <p>“I conclude with the words of General Creighton Abrams, former Army chief of staff,” said Long.</p> <p>“What this country needs, it cannot buy.</p> <p>It needs dedicated Soldiers who see service to their country as an affair of the heart.”</p> <p>“No finer words could possibly sum up the convictions shared by Staff Sergeant Jude Jonaus and Sergeant Franklin Vilorio.</p>	<p>constitution referendum on 15 October and governmental elections in mid December!”</p> <p>Continue to make us proud... and the best way you can do that, is to be safe, take care of one another, and return home safely.</p> <p><b>“Heart of the Rock”</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Million, continued from Pg. 1</b></p> <p>ammunition throughout the 3rd Infantry Division area of operation in Iraq, said Wynter, who is a member of the Headquarters Platoon.</p> <p>Wynter went on to say the transporters have started moving equipment and small vehicles to supply the Iraqi Army units and help them to prepare to provide security for their country.</p> <p>Most importantly, the unit has not lost a Soldier or a piece of equipment, said Staff Sgt. James C. Terry, a squad leader from 1st Platoon and the assistant platoon sergeant.</p> <p>Terry, a 16-year Army veteran from Baltimore, Md., said their trucks had sustained some body and tire damage from shrapnel, but no total losses.</p> <p>Additionally, he expects to make the second million before the unit returns to Fort Stewart, Ga., said Terry, who has been with the 396th Trans. Co. for six years.</p> <p>When that happens, they will still probably be too busy completing the mission to notice.</p>	<p>remember in a buddy-aid situation is to stay calm. That is the first step to saving a life.</p> <p>Secondly, assess the situation so that you know what injury you are treating. Then, make sure the casualty can breathe, whether they are conscious and check for bleeding.</p> <p>Thirdly, keep your patient calm and coherent. You can do this by talking to them and by keeping them talking to you.</p> <p>Make sure that all wounds are visible and, if not, remove the clothing around the area without causing more damage to your casualty.</p> <p>Again, these are just a few things that one should do when they come upon some one who is injured.</p> <p>While the Combat Life Saver class is arguably the most important class a Soldier can take while deployed to an environment like Iraq, it also has practical application at home.</p> <p>A Soldier who has attended this training will not have to wonder what to do if a battle buddy here or a loved one at home becomes injured.</p> <p>They won’t have to stand there trying to figure out what to do because they are already trained, prepared and confident in taking positive actions in saving a person’s life.</p>

**Your equipment can't save your life if it's not turned on.**



**STAY ALIVE**

# Promotions

## 3rd SSB

### 1/341 Postal Det.

Sgt. Butler  
Sgt. Daugherty  
Sgt. Hilterbrand

## 3rd Finance Co

Sgt. Maj. Hall  
Capt. Ludeman

## 888 Postal Co

1st Lt. Wible

## B Co

Spc. Wierson

## HHC

Staff Sgt. Bryant  
Maj. Johnson

## 87th CSB

### 94th MC

Pfc. Dixon  
Spc. Clark  
Spc. Cotton  
Spc. Gallardo  
Spc. McGee  
Spc. Reese  
Spc. Walrath

## 104th TC

Pfc. Ash  
Pfc. Brooks  
Pfc. Hunt  
Pfc. Jenkins  
Pfc. Lynch  
Pfc. Tinney  
Spc. Johnson  
Spc. Northrup  
Spc. Sanchez

## 226th QM

Pvt.2 Ball

Pfc. Li  
Spc. Frees  
Pfc. McKinney  
Spc. Neilson

## 396th TC

Pfc. Tubens  
632nd MC  
Spc. Kline

## BTB

### HHC

Spc. Cole  
Spc. Miller  
Spc. Oxedine  
Spc. Singletary  
Spc. Watts  
Sgt. Meyer  
Staff Sgt. Ward  
Spc. Rogillio  
Spc. Yang

## From the Pulpit

Chaplain (Maj.) Paul Yacovone  
Division Support Brigade Chaplain

### True heroes, where have they gone?

I believe there is a hero in all of us. But, somehow, we have been discouraged from breaking out into the heroic because of the tremendous pressure from society to settle for the quick and easy, "as you pleasey," mentality.

Are you saying, let some other poor sucker kill himself trying to make a difference. I'm out for what's mine; what's coming to me, myself! And, I don't have time for all the abuse and criticism that comes from being a true patriot for a true cause. A true cause worth fighting for, isn't that a crock of butter? Who cares any more?

"Be not afraid of greatness," Shakespeare once said. "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." How do we find courage to stand out from the crowd to be a hero?

When I think of the people who made a difference in our world, seldom do I remember their biography printed on the tabloid page. With only a few exceptions, perhaps, the faith stories found in the Bible, or extraordinary lives found throughout history, aren't likely to show up on the cover of People magazine or on prime time television.

They're real heroes, not celebrities. Their lives are defined by extraordinary faith, commitment, courage, heart, character and strength—qualities that can decisively lift anyone head and shoulders above the ordinary crowd.

From faith to fearlessness; from boldness to sacrifice, from conviction to tough love; we can develop the passion to make a difference in our world. Many have accomplished great things frequently despite nearly impossible odds.

Consider Mother Teresa, tireless servant of the poor; Billy Graham, this century's greatest evangelist; Eric Liddell, exceptional Olympic athlete and uncompromising servant of God; Mary Slessor, courageous missionary

to Africa; or how about Martin Niemoller and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, men of God who dared to defy Hitler; or Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., or all of the unsung heroes throughout the world. And the list goes on into eternity.

If you have ever spent any time in Hero Town, USA, you know there are monuments in memory of great leaders and heroes from the past, everywhere. In our nation's capital, Washington DC, whether walking along the Mall or crossing the Potomac from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington Cemetery, you can not help but to be moved by the sacrifice represented in concrete, marble and stone.

Lives of great men and women all remind us; we can make our lives inspiring. As we depart, leaving behind footprints on the sand of time.

Fred Smith, a businessman and consultant from Texas, said, "We cannot live fully without heroes, for they are the stars to guide us upward. They are the peaks on our human mountains. Not only do they personify what we can be, but they also urge us to be."

(See Heroes, Pg.6)

**Heroes, continued from Pg. 5**

Heroes are who we can become if we diligently pursue our ideals in the furnace of our opportunities. Heroes are those who have changed history for the better. They are not always the men and women of highest potential, but those who have exploited their potential on society's behalf. Their deeds are done not for the honor, but for duty.

Not long ago, I remember reading a featured story in a magazine decrying the fact that there are no real heroes for today. The article mentioned a survey of young people who were asked who their heroes were. Their answers included rock stars, sports legends and movie personalities. No scientists or educators or do gooders were included.

Thinking about my heroes, I have noted that they are not perfect individuals at all. Each was completely human, flawed in certain ways, yet, they all seemed to possess faith, courage, heart and an inner strength. They had the qualities of integrity, commitment to their ideals, character featuring a moral compass pointing to their true north and the willingness to stand apart from the crowd. They marched to the beat of a different drummer. The world could not force them into its mold, nor could it label them or box them in.

In every age there comes a time when leaders must come forth to meet the needs of the hour. Therefore, there is no potential leader who does not find his time. However, tragically, there are times when no leader arises for that hour. Lord, help us!

Nevertheless, each one of us can be a hero for God and Country, for family and friends, for the cause of love or for the cause of freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Booker T. Washington said, "The world cares little about what a man or woman knows; it is what the man or woman is able to do that counts." And what will we do for the sake of humanity? Let us push beyond the temporal into the eternal. Let us strive for excellence in human decency, instead of extravagance in materialistic wealth.

Let us labor to stop poverty, bigotry, and ignorance, instead of fueling the hunger for leisure, laxities and laziness. Let us allow our humanity to catch up to our technology so that head formed lust will be terminated and heart felt love will be regenerated.

Set the captives free. Break down some barriers. Loose some shackles. Make war on the prayer floor. Open some doors, move some mountains. Make a difference! Be a hero for somebody, anybody in need today. Don't wait for tomorrow. For tomorrow may never come. Be a Hero!

**SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**  
**OCTOBER 1-2nd, 7-9th, and 14-16th at 1400 hrs**  
*(one tournament with split dates)*

**Space Allotted For The First  
 12 Teams Only**

**Max Of 15 Players Per Team**

**Double Elimination**

**SIGN UP AT THE MAIN GYM - 129**

# Equal Opportunity Focus



by SFC Tanya Toussaint  
Division Support Brigade  
Equal Opportunity Advisor  
Bldg 543/242-6106

Equal Opportunity...

the Heart of Readiness!



Poetry and Comedy Night, Sept. 24, here. Wallace, who hails from Panama, was also part of a group of dancers who performed various Salsa steps to the Latin sound of "the Taji Inmates," a local group.

The evening began with the national anthem and an introduction to Hispanic American Heritage Month by Sgt. Dorie Cartagena-Rojas, from the 87th Corps Support Battalion.

Soldiers are encouraged to attend the DSB Hispanic celebration scheduled for Oct. 6. (see adjacent flyer)

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick  
**Hispanic Heritage kick-off !**  
CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Spc. Julie G. Wallace, a finance specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Brigade, recites her poem entitled "Mi Gente" (My People) at the

# Division Support Brigade Celebrates



15 SEP 05 - 15 OCT 05

6 Oct  
1800-1900  
DFAC 1

Guest Speaker  
CW4 Arroyo  
87th CSB

Hispanic Americans:  
Strong and Colorful  
Threads in the  
American Fabric.

Sponsored by:  
87th CSB

POC: SFC Merritt, Bn EOR  
SFC Toussaint, DSB EOA, 242-6106



SPACE ALLOTTED FOR THE FIRST 10 TEAMS ONLY

DOUBLE ELIMINATION

OCTOBER 21-27TH @ 6 PM

OUTSIDE B-BALL COURTS ACROSS FROM DFAC 2

SIGN UP AT THE MAIN GYM - 129



**DSB Soldier top in her category!** CAMP TAJI, Iraq — 2nd Lt. Rachel N. Springer, right, a medical administrator with the 550th Area Support Medical Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, Division Support Brigade, smoothly cuts the water at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Pool Sept. 19, here.

Springer, who hails from Kissimmee, Fl., competed in the Triathlon sponsored by Aviation Brigade and the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club here. Springer won top honors in the women's category.

Staff Sgt. Katie M. Hope, at the edge of the pool bottom left, the motor sergeant for the 550th ASMC, was on hand to render morale support and assistance. "She needed a buddy," said Hope, who comes from Pembroke, N.C. "I couldn't have done it with out her," said Springer, who deployed to Iraq from Fort Brag, N.C.

Hope was there to count laps, (bottom left photo) help with the transition from swimming to bicycle and then from bike to running (bottom right photo). Springer said Hope road a bicycle along side her during the running portion to provide encouragement.

This was Springer's first Triathlon.



**Reenlistments**

**HHD**

Spc. Fontana  
Staff Sgt. Reyes

**87th CSB**

**226th QM Co.**

Sgt. Ramirez  
Staff Sgt. Patterson

**BTB**

**HHC**

Staff Sgt. Stokes  
Staff Sgt. Williams

**632nd MC**

Spc. Hedberg  
Staff Sgt. Evans

**94th MC**

Spc. Porter

**2/3 Sig.**

Sgt. Jackson  
Staff Sgt. King

**396th TC**

SFC Bellamy

**550th ASMC**

Spc. Sagely  
Sgt. Knight  
Sgt. Lawson

Send the Taji Times Home

From:

FREE  
MAIL

To: