

TAJI TIMES

MEDICS ENGAGE

In Mass Casualty Exercise P. 10

By Sgt. Alun Thomas



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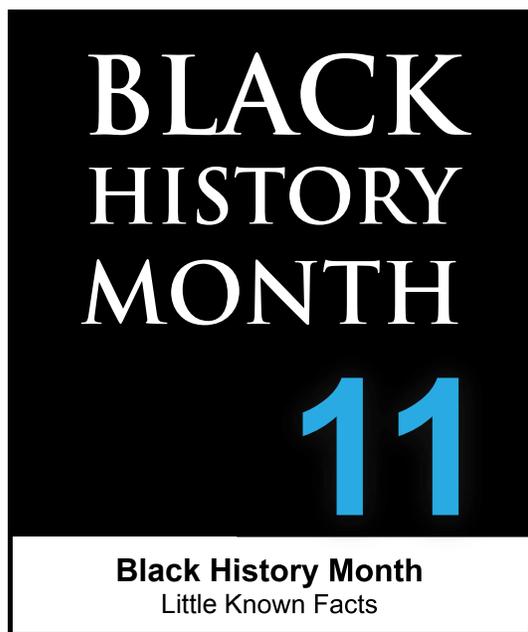
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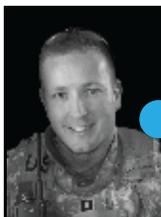
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On the Cover: Medics from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-Center, Feb. 5. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Alun Thomas, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div., USD-C)



FALLEN SOLDIER

— HALF MARATHON —

CAMP TAJI, IRAQ

FEBRUARY 27, 2010

To register, send rank, name, unit, age and sex to Master Sgt. Jovana Meyer, jovana.meyer@iraq.centcom.mil.
Incomplete registrations will be returned. Event begins at 7a.m. from Jon Schoolcraft Pavilion.
Route will be made available no later than Feb. 10. We need volunteers for road guard duty.
If we do not get the volunteers needed, we will require that each runner have a volunteer to sign up with them.

Final Words



Dear readers,

For three months, it has been my honor to serve as the managing editor of the Taji Times. Now, with a thankful heart, I have been granted a final opportunity to share some thoughts.

I am filled with gratitude -- to my family, who brought constant joy and love to my life while I was deployed; to the wonderful staff of the Times; and to Col. John Rhodes and members of the Camp Taji Garrison Command, whose examples have provided strength for a lifetime. And above all, I thank my fellow service members and civilians for the trust you have given me. I thank you for the compliments that have lifted my spirits, and for the countless acts of courage, generosity and grace that I have witnessed this deployment.

Like almost everyone in life, I have experienced setbacks and made mistakes. There are things I would do differently if given the chance. Yet I believe from experience we gain a sub-consciousness knowledge that empowers our actions.

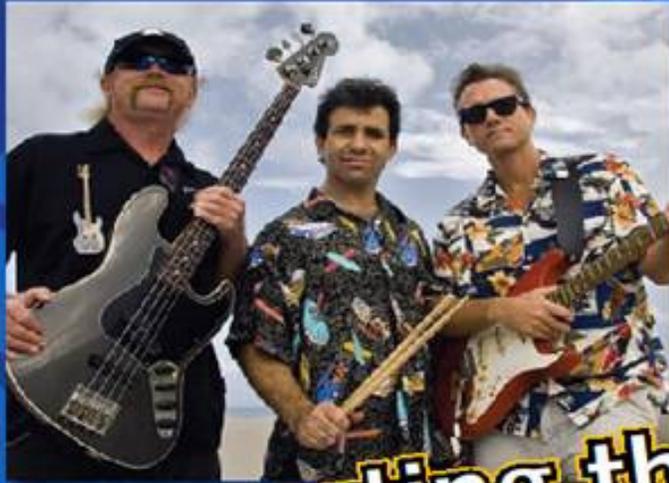
Former president Thomas Jefferson once wrote, "I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past." As I leave Iraq for the second time, I share that optimism. I believe, even through the toughest times, we must lift our eyes to the broad horizon ahead.

It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve with you. There have been good days and tough days, but every day I have been inspired by the greatness and goodness of my fellow service members and civilians. I have been blessed to witness the positive transformation of Iraq. I will always be honored to carry a title that means more to me than any other: American Soldier.

Roy Freeman

Sgt. Roy Freeman
Managing Editor

Danny Morris's Band



**Supporting the Troops
In Iraq & Kuwait
21-28 February**

**"Surf-Rock"
Rock-a-Billy
Blues**



**Camp Taji
Schoolcraft Pavilion
Wednesday, Feb. 24 - 1930 hours**

AROUND TAJI

A COLLECTION OF PHOTOS FROM AROUND TAJI

Clockwise from left top: At a town hall forum, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Schlitz speaks to an audience of 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division—Center, service members here Feb. 4 as part of Operation Proper Exit. Staff Sgt. Evan Tougas, a level one combatives instructor for 2-23 Infantry Battalion Recon Platoon, demonstrates a choke hold technique to fellow platoon members on the newly installed combatives pit. Iraqi Soldiers receive training at the pistol range. Airmen from Detachment 3 from the 732nd Expeditionary Security Force Squadron take time out from working with the Iraqi Police for a game of wiffleball.



FEBRUARY 2010

Clockwise from top left: From left to right: comedians, Felicia Michaels, Leighann Lord and Carole Montgomery, visit Taji on their comedy tour. Food preparation specialists, Spc. Nicole Day and Spc. Teresa Lovato, wash and sanitize pots, pans and utensils in a containerized kitchen. A member of the Iraqi Army qualifies with his pistol. Soldiers from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division–Center shake hands with wounded warriors who visited Taji as part of Operation Proper Exit. Service members stand and applaud following the Shelia Marshall Band performance.



Soldiers Run in Observance of MLK

By Cpl. Richmond Barkemeyer, 96th SBDE, Public Affairs

Nearly 400 runners turned out to compete in the 5K for MLK, held Jan. 18 at Camp Taji, Iraq, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Sponsored by the 1-227th Air Reconnaissance Battalion, the event featured commemorative t-shirts for the first 100 registrants, prizes for the top finishers, and a raffle following the race.

The top finisher was Capt. Louis Longhenry, commander of B Co., 2/107 Cav., and a Cincinnati, Ohio resident, with a time of 19:02. Coming in second was Capt. Robert Lejawa, a Chicago, Ill. native and a flight surgeon for the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, with a time of 20 minutes, five seconds. Finishing third was Cpl. Terrance Clausell, a vehicle operator with the 498th Transportation Co., 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade and a Mobile, Ala., resident, with a time of 20 minutes, 24 seconds.

The top three male and female finishers from each of the three age categories received \$40 Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift certificates. After the race, a drawing was held to award such prizes as a portable DVD player, gift certificates to the Green Beans Coffee shop and



the Movies 2 shop here on post, and a 30-day internet pass from U.S. Comz.

One participant representing the 96th Sustainment Brigade was Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Winn, the noncommissioned officer in charge of transportation for the brigade, and a Magna, Utah, resident. Winn has taken advantage of the many opportunities for races at Camp Taji, and has run in all of the 5Ks held here since his arrival, he said. Winn said he runs to stay in shape, to support the various causes associated with the events, and for the free t-shirts.

"It's a great opportunity for us to come and stay in shape a little bit, and also come to support the everlasting example of Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Winn.

Also representing the 96th was Spc. Christopher Read, an intelligence analyst from West Valley, Utah. The race was Read's second since coming to Taji.

He agreed with Winn's reasons for running, and particularly supported the reasons for the 5K for MLK.

"He was a great man, and obviously he helped out the country, not just African Americans," said Read. "Everyone started seeing things in a new light, and he helped to shift that paradigm, and bring about equality for all men, so he needs to be celebrated."

Several members of the Iraqi Air Force from Camp Taji were also present for the event. Iraqi Air Force Maj. Salam Asmeal Mustafa came to cheer on his troops, who were participating in the race. Although they had received little notice of the event, according to Mustafa, he was proud to support his Airmen in the race.

"This is a very good thing, especially since this is a new Iraqi Army," said Mustafa, with the aid of an interpreter. "The Iraqi Army with Coalition forces doing this kind of thing is very good." ■



Aviator Reaches 2,000 Combat Flight Hours

By Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB, 1st CAV DIV, USD-C



Ask Chief Warrant Officer 3 Anthony Potter what it takes to reach 2,000 combat flight hours and he'll tell you it requires the support of a loving family and fellow Soldiers.

Before being a senior in high school, the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter instructor pilot from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division - Center, said he always knew that he wanted to fly; that he wanted to be a pilot.

So when it came time to choose a college, he made it abundantly clear aviation would be in his future.

After graduating from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University with a degree in aeronautical science, a prospective employer told the Waldorf, Md., native, he lacked maintenance experience required for the job. The comment later became the push which led Potter to the military.

Enlisting in the Army as an aircraft engine mechanic, Potter felt flying rather than fixing helicopters would be a better fit for him, so he decided to turn in a flight packet for warrant officer school.

Four deployments and 52 combat zone months later, Potter enjoys the notoriety of having logged 2,000 flight hours in support of various operations in the Global War on Terrorism. To date, he actually has a total of 2,700 hours.

He sees the 2,000 hours as a symbol of not only the work he has done in Iraq, but the work done to protect his son from harm. Potter said it also symbolizes the special dates missed, to include anniversaries, birth

days and holidays, as well as his son growing up.

"I have not been home for Thanksgiving once in the last six years. I saw my son take his first steps via webcam: the potty training — I didn't have any part of that," said Potter. "It is just the little things like that that I have missed and I will never get back."

The support his wife has shown him over the years, though, has kept Potter at a point where he can focus on his mission at hand and not have to worry about affairs back home.

"I could not deal with issues out here and deal with issues back home; my wife shelters everything that is happening back home from me," said Potter. "She handles everything. She has basically been a single mom for the last four years — I have the best wife in the world."

Having been away from home for the majority of his five-year-old son's life, Potter takes every opportunity to talk with him and hopes to never take those moments for granted.

"I call my wife every night; she tells me what is going on and how my son is doing and I talk to my son as much as I can so he gets to know me," said Potter.

Potter's first and second deployments were spent working as a medevac pilot, dealing with routine calls for patient transfers to urgent assistance of casualties resulting from a combat engagement.

"In the first nine months of being a deployed medevac pilot, my crew had done 189 urgent calls and transferred over 400 patients," said Potter.

"I brought back seven dead Soldiers, and that sticks with me ... I can still see all of them."

One of the most horrific memories of his time as a medevac pilot was the aircraft washes, which had to be done on a frequent basis because of all the blood remaining inside the aircraft from their patients, said Potter.

"The year was set at a fast pace because of the short number of crews and the amount of calls — it basically became a year without sleep," said Potter.

Despite the hard memories, Potter still has solid reasons to enjoy flying in a combat zone as compared to flying in the United States.

"I actually like flying in Iraq better, other than the part of being shot at," he said. "To me, it is easier to fly out here; the flying is more tactical versus the technical flying in the States."

Now filling the role of an instructor pilot in an assault helicopter battalion on this deployment, Potter's duties include making sure the aviators within his company maintain their abilities to pilot a Black Hawk to the highest standards.

"My job is easy to help train these guys; they are better pilots than I was when I was at their level," said Potter. "My job is to make sure they take care of the mission, but they are the ones actually doing the mission."

Potter said the ability to help mentor younger pilots while being deployed, hopefully making them better and safer, may also allow him to move to different positions where he can spend more time with his family.

"I feel guilty about being gone for so long. I just want my son with me all the time when I am home," said Potter. "My wife tells me I spoil our son, but I can't help it because I am gone so much."

Gone or not, Potter still has high hopes for his son, as do most fathers: "I can't wait until my son is old enough to reach the pedals so I can teach him how to fly." ■

Medics Engage in Mass Casualty Exercise

By Sgt. Alun Thomas, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div., USD-C

Everywhere the medics looked, another casualty was found; some missing limbs, others suffering penetrating chest wounds or head trauma.

While the injuries were simulated, the sense of urgency wasn't, as medics from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-Center, frantically sought to deliver essential first aid to patients, just one part of a mass casualty exercise at the Forward Arming and Refueling Point Feb. 5.

The exercise was devised by Spc. Jennifer Sybert, from Morrisville, Vt., and a medic for 3rd Battalion, 1st ACB, who said the training was based on a presentation she created about potential mishaps at the FARP.

"This exercise demonstrates some of those mishaps, while at the same time getting the medics out of their chairs at the TMC (troop medical clinic)," Sybert said. "Having it at the FARP was intended to make it more realistic."

After a short foot march in full combat attire, the medics were put to the test by imaginary mortar rounds which had exploded at the FARP, leaving a slew of casualties, Sybert said.

"Mortar attacks are something we always have to be mindful of, so it was a good chance to have different types of casualties for a broader range of practice," Sybert explained.

Some of the injuries medics faced included burn and blast injuries from an exploded fuel truck, ranging from minor to severe.

"Considering we haven't had hands-on practice in quite a long time, our medics still remembered a remarkable amount," Sybert continued. "As with anything ... if you don't use it, you lose it."

Following initial treatment of the casualties, medics evacuated them onto waiting medevac helicopters, which Sybert said had been practiced



earlier in the deployment.

"We had a full day of practicing medevac rescue back in August, so we already knew our flight medics and what we had to do," she explained. "Nobody was dropped or injured further, which was beneficial to everyone."

Many senior medics have been through training scenarios and real-life situations similar to this exercise, but medics new to the Army haven't, making it more crucial for them, Sybert said.

"For most of us at the TMC, we haven't seen anything like this, so it's not going to come to us," she said. "Unless something really goes wrong, we won't be involved in something like this."

While the training was successful as a whole, there were still things that needed improvement, said Staff Sgt. Misty Spencer, from Reno, Nev., senior medic for the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st ACB.

"One of the biggest things we need to improve is our command and control," Spencer said. "We didn't have control of everything that was going on, and there wasn't one designated person in charge."

Despite the mistakes, the training was a good learning experience, she said.

"Now [the medics] realize that someone needs to be in charge," she added. "Someone needs to know what's going on, how many patients we have, who's going in the bird first, and who's calling it in."

Those involved in the exercise provided efficient aid to the casualties, with one minor discrepancy, Spencer said.

"Once they got to the patients and figured out what was wrong with them, there were no issues," she continued. "There were a few problems with the casualty collection point and where they were meeting but overall, the treatment went well."

Spencer also agreed the training was a valuable opportunity for the junior medics, who will learn from their mistakes.

"They're going to say, 'Okay, I remember this from last time and what went wrong and what we should have done,'" Spencer said. "I think that's going to kick in next time ... they really needed this experience and overall, I think it's going to benefit them." ■

BLACK HISTORY MONTH LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

BY SGT. ROY FREEMAN

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON • ROSA PARKS • MALCOLM X
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER • ROBERT JOHNSON • MILES DAVIS
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR • IDA B. WELLS • MAYA ANGELOU
JACKIE ROBINSON • BOOKER T. WASHINGTON • BARACK OBAMA
JOHN COLTRANE • JESSE JACKSON • AL SHARPTON
FREDERICK DOUGLASS • ALAIN LOCKE • SOJOURNER TRUTH
HARRIET JACOBS • W.E.B. DU BOIS • ZORA NEALE HURSTON
LANGSTON HUGHES • HARRIET TUBMAN • COLIN POWELL
NELSON MANDELA • ELLA FITZGERALD • CONDALISA RICE

Fact #1

Buffalo Soldiers is a name respectfully given to the African–American cavalries during the 1800s by the Native American Kiowa tribe. These soldiers received second class treatment and were often given the worst military assignments, but had the lowest desertion rate compared to their white counterparts. The Buffalo Soldiers served in the Spanish American war, various Indian wars and helped to settle the west by installing telegraph lines, and protecting wagon trains and new settlements. More than 20 Buffalo Soldiers have received the highest military award, the medal of Honor –the most any military unit has ever received.

Fact #2

Ray Charles Robinson (1930 – 2004) a musical genius and pioneer in blending gospel and the blues shortened his name to just Ray Charles to prevent confusion with the great boxer Sugar Ray Robinson. Ray Charles began going blind at an early age and was completely blind by the time he was 7 years old, but has never relied upon a cane, or a guide dog. He was one of the first inductees into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame at its inaugural ceremony in 1986.

Fact #3

Walker Smith Jr. (1921 – 1989) became known as Sugar Ray Robinson he borrowed his friend Ray Robinson's Amateur Athletic Union card and became the Golden Glove Lightweight champion in 1940 under the borrowed name. Smith's boxing style was described as "sweet as sugar" and the name Sugar Ray Robinson stuck. Considered the greatest boxer of all time, Robinson held the world welterweight title from 1946 to 1951 and was middleweight champion five times between 1951 and 1960 –the first boxer in history to win a divisional world championship five times.

Fact #4

Cathay Williams (1842 – 1892) was the first and only known female Buffalo Soldier. She was born into slavery and worked for the Union army during the Civil War. She posed as a man and enlisted as Williams Cathay in the 38th infantry in 1866. She was given a medical discharge in 1868.

Fact #5

Josiah Henson (1789 – 1883) fled slavery in Maryland in 1830 and founded a settlement in Ontario, Canada for fugitive slaves. His autobiography "The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada, as Narrated by Himself" (1849) is believed to have been Harriet Beecher Stowe's inspiration for the main character in "Uncle Tom's Cabin". Henson's cabin in Maryland still stands today and is a national landmark. Josiah Henson's grandson, Mathew Henson, was part of the first successful U.S. expedition to the North Pole in 1909.

Fact #6

Harriet Ann Jacobs (1813 – 1897) was a slave who published "Incidents in the Life of A Slave Girl" in 1861 under the pseudonym Linda Brent. The book chronicles the hardships and sexual abuse she experienced as a female growing up in slavery. Jacobs fled slavery in 1835 by hiding in a crawlspace in her grandmother's attic for nearly seven years before traveling to Philadelphia by boat, and eventually to New York. Jacobs was active in feminist anti-slavery movements.

AROUND TAJI

MWR COLLECTION

Clockwise from left top: Col. William Glasgow, commander of 155th Brigade Combat Team, competes in the Long Drive Competition, Jan. 16, hosted by Spc. Clifford Rich and Maj. Suk Kim of the TIFRC Ministry Team. Participants cross the finish line during the 5K for MLK run, hosted by Chief Warrant Officer Jason Hallman and the 1-227 Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. A Soldier displays a 5K for MLK t-shirt, Jan. 16 at the Jon Schoolcraft Pavilion.



LONG DRIVE COMPETITION AND 5K FOR MLK

FEBRUARY 2010

The Sheila Marshall Band performed for service members and civilians at Camp Taji Jan. 24. Sheila Marshall is an up and coming contemporary country music artist and song writer. Prior to the performance the band was given a tour of Camp Taji. They were taken to the MRAP rollover and EST 2000 trainers. During the show, Capt. Brent Lindley, 155th Garrison Command MWR OIC, recognized Soldiers and Airmen who had re-enlisted in Jan. Sheila Marshall personally thanked each service member for their service.



SHEILA MARSHALL BAND

AROUND TAJI

Clockwise from left top: comedians from the New York Underground Comedy Tour, Stephen Kruiser, Carole Montgomery, Leighann Lord, Felicia Michaels and Mark Riccadonna (center) performed for Camp Taji Feb. 4.



NEW YORK UNDERGROUND COMEDY FESTIVAL ALL-STARS

02.27.10



TAJI FITNESS COMPETITION



Jon Schoolcraft Pavilion at 7p.m.

Categories to be announced. The competition is open to males and females and is designed to promote health and fitness goal setting. Participants will have the opportunity to display their fit body to encourage and motivate their peers. Males must wear shorts at the minimum. Females must wear fitness outfits. Winners will be determined by crowd reaction and a panel of judges.

POC: Capt. Brent Lindley brent.lindley@iraq.centcom.mil

CAMP TAJI, IRAQ



CAMP TAJI INFORMATION

February Safety Tip

Think About It

By Sgt. Matthew Russell
155th HBCT

One of my favorite quotations in life is “think about it.” During or after an accident or incident, I wonder if someone thought about it. There is a reason that we look both ways before crossing the street, buckle the seat belt in a vehicle and review mission checklists prior to rolling out. Whenever shortcuts are taken, we increase the risk of an accident or incident occurring. I encourage everyone to think ahead and let’s continue to implement the necessary safety measures.

Phone Numbers

Support

Mayor Cell Work Orders	834-3116
Billeting	834-3194
Base Support Operations	834-3084
Dept. of Public Works	834-3180
Chaplain’s Office	834-3001
Safety Office	834-4306
Taji Times	834-4551
FBCB2 Support	834-3852

Medical

Sick Call	834-1358
Combat Stress	834-1050

Emergency Services

Emergency	911
Fire Department	834-1000
Military Police	834-3000
BDOC	834-3417

Camp Taji Fire Department gives fire warden classes every Wednesday at 0900 at Fire Station, building 150 The class is designed to teach assigned fire wardens their responsibilities, as well as proper use of a fire extinguisher, and how to identify fire hazards and fire safety. Malfunctioning fire extinguishers can be brought to Fire Station 2 (Bldg 507) during normal working hours for repair. If you have general questions about fire safety, extinguishers, smoke alarms or fire warden training, call: DSN: 834-3372 OR KBR: 713-970-5131

Upcoming MWR Events

Feb. 24	The Danny Morris Band 1930
Feb. 27	Fallen Soldier Half Marathon 0700
Feb. 27	Taji Body Competition 1900
Mar. 17	St. Patrick’s Day Run Details to be announced.

Hours of Operations

PX	0700-2300 (daily)
Green Beans Coffee	24 hours/7 days
Subway	0900-2200 (daily)
Burger King	0700-0000 (daily)
Pizza Hut	1000-0000 (daily)
Cinnabon	0600-0000 (daily)
Taco Bell	0900-0000 (daily)
Popeye’s	1000-2200 (daily)
New Car Sales	0900-2100 (daily)
Beauty Shop	0900-2100 (daily)
Barber Shops (3)	0900-1900 (daily)
Alteration Shop	0900-2100 (daily)
Photo Processing	0900-2100 (daily)
AT&T Calling Center	24 hours/7 days
Laundry Facilities (11)	0700-1900 (daily)
Post Office	0800-1800 (daily)
Finance Office	0900-1600 (M-Sa.)
Swimming Pool	closed for season

Level II Medical Sick Call

Mon-Fri	0800-1000	&	1900-2100
Sat-Sun	0800-1000	&	1900-2100
Emergencies	24 hours/7 days		

Patients MUST have a sick call slip signed by their First Sgt. or commander to be seen, unless an emergency.

DFACs

DFAC 1 - CSM Cooke

Breakfast	0600-0900
Lunch	1100-1400
Dinner	1630-2000
Midnight	2300-0030

DFAC 2 - Cantigny

Breakfast	0630-0930
Lunch	1130-1430
Dinner	1700-2030
Midnight	2330-0100

DFAC 3 - SGT Timothy H. Walker

Breakfast	0600-0900
Lunch	1100-1430
Dinner	1700-2030
Midnight	2300-0030