



THE TAJI TIMES

Supporting the Rock in Southwest Asia



Vol. 1, Issue 16 Published for the Soldiers and Families in the Division Support Brigade November 15, 2005



Photo by Lt. Col. William Keeton

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Capt. Stephen T. Koehler, an operations officer with the Division Support Brigade Iraqi Security Force Logistic Cell, reaches to check a child's shoe size during a recent visit to a local settlement near here. Koehler, along with Sgt. Leo O. Arong, center, a laboratory technician with the 550th Area Support Medical Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, DSB, were distributing shoes donated by Koehler's mother, Rita, and her sister Joanne Young, from Stanley, N.C.

Inside

DSB mourns two fallen comrades

Pg. 3



DSB prayer breakfast

Pg. 4



Renegades train IPs

Pg. 5



CAB ceremony

Pg. 8



The Command Corner



Col. Brian R. Layer
DSB Brigade Commander

Happy Thanksgiving!

I don't know one of you who wouldn't prefer to be somewhere else, with someone else, during this holiday season.

Still, despite our circumstance, there's much to be thankful for.

When you find yourself so far from home during the holidays, it is difficult to feel very grateful.

Yet, if you take the time to think about it, there are lots of reasons to give thanks. Here are a few of mine:

- I have the great honor of being your commander.
 - I serve in the world's greatest Army.
 - We have great officers who work, without rest, to solve the problems of our Soldiers and the Marne Division.
 - We have great non-commissioned officers who take care of our soldiers, live the Army values, and model the Warrior Ethos.
 - We have great soldiers who inspire us with their professionalism because they never quit, never leave a comrade behind, and always put the mission first.
 - We have great families who've given us love, support, and something to fight for.
 - We have an Army that invests in great medical care; we have great professionals who keep us healthy, make miracles routine, and preserve the lives of our soldiers.
 - We have chaplains who respect our religious freedom, pray with and for us, and keep us in the fight spiritually.
 - We have new friends who've taught us a lot about Fort Bragg, Fort Benning, and all of Alabama.
- We'll all be going home soon.

My list could go on but you get the point—we have much to be thankful for. **(See Thanks, Pg. 6)**



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

Member of a team

As we draw closer to the completion of our mission here in Iraq, I want to take the time to encourage you all; not to let down.

While packing up tuff boxes, closing offices and transitioning tasks over to the 4th Sustainment Brigade, we must continue to apply the Soldier's Creed to every facet of our redeployment.

"I am a warrior and a member of a team." It's going to take team work to move equipment and Soldiers back home. I charge you to pull together in making this move successful and safe.

"I will always place the mission first." As your old drill sergeant loved to say, "You haven't graduated yet!" That "Drill" was trying to keep you focused on the task at hand and not on graduation at the end of the week.

Equally, we still have missions to accomplish in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 while we prepare to go home. We can't start letting down now. Keep up the fire.

That leads me to "I will never quit." We must stay vigilant, especially with our fellow Soldiers relying on us for support. It takes discipline to stay the course.

"I am disciplined, mentally and physically tough..." It's been a long deployment. You may be starting to become weary.

Keep your head in the game and, as a member of a team, help your buddy keep his or her head in the game as well.

By lending a helping hand or offering a good word, you can encourage them and help them to brace for the next mission or task.

(See Team, Pg. 6)

I always believed no matter how many shots I miss, I'm going to make the next one. — Jonathan Swift

The Taji Times is published bi-weekly in the interest of the service members and their families of the Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

The Taji Times is an Army funded newsletter authorized for the members of the U. S. Army, under the provision of AR360-1.

The views in *The Taji Times* are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U. S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army.

DSB Commander
Col. Brian R. Layer

DSB Executive Officer
Lt. Col. Nathaniel R. Glover

DSB Public Affairs Officer
Editor *The Taji Times*
Maj. Davie L. Wright

Staff Writer
Sgt. 1st Class Peter J. Chadwick

Staff Photojournalist
Sgt. Victor Soto

DSB mourns two fallen comrades

By The Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers and civilians packed the Division Support Brigade Ministry Center here Oct. 31 at 7 p.m. to attend a memorial ceremony.

More than 500 people, representing the many of-fices and units here, gathered to mourn two fallen com-rades.

Master Sgt. Thomas A. Wallsmith, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Division Surgeon Cell, and Sgt. 1st Class Ramon A. Acevedoaponte, the NCOIC of the brigade personal security detachment, both assigned to the Brigade Troops Battalion, DSB, were killed when their M1114 HMMWV was struck by an improvised explosive device while performing their duties on a convoy.

“Tonight we are here to bid farewell to two outstanding Soldiers,” said Lt. Col. Ronnie W. Long, the battalion commander for the BTB. “They put their heart and soul in their profes-sion.”

Long’s sentiments were echoed by Capt. Jennifer R. Cave.

“Sir Winston Churchill once said, “We make a liv-ing by what we get, but we make a life by what we give,” said Cave, the company commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, BTB. “Master Sergeant Thomas

A. Wallsmith and Sergeant First Class Ramon A. Acevedo gave more than was expected or required, and gave it with little thought to worldly reward.”

Wallsmith’s devotion to duty was described by his long time friend, Master Sgt. Albert Lee.

“Master Sergeant Wallsmith was dedicated to whatever task he was given,” said Lee, a member of the Future Operations cell, DSB. “He didn’t mind going the

extra mile to ensure it was accom-plished.

“The smile on his face, and the com-petitiveness in his heart, was an indi-cator that no matter what the situa-tion presented, he could handle it with his can-do attitude.”

Cave said Acevedoaponte’s smile and attitude were contagious quali-ties, but Staff Sgt. Jose F. Magana spoke of his NCOIC’s paternal ap-proach to leadership.

“[Acevedo] was a great Sol-dier who was like a father to some, and a grandfather to others,” said Magana, a pharmacy technician with the BTB. “[He] dedicated his life to taking care of Soldiers.

“He always kept his door wide open when he was in his room. [I know] it really meant my door is always open for you to come and talk to me.”

“They were good Soldiers,” said Long. “We will definitely miss them.”



(Above) 2nd Lt. Alisha Vaughn, right, and Staff Sgt. Canady Matthews sing “Precious Lord, Take My Hand.”





Just for laughs! CAMP TAJI, Iraq — (photos from left) Spc. Gerado Gallardo, left, a welder with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, Division Support Brigade, enjoys a laugh at “The Comics on Duty World Tour” show held at the PX arena, here. (Center) Comedian Dave Mishevitz “mugs” for the crowd during his performance. Mishevitz was one of five comedians on the “Back in Iraq” tour which stopped here Nov. 5. (Right) Cpl.

Campos, a human resource noncommissioned officer with the Brigade Troops Battalion, DSB, joined the crowd of more than 200 Soldiers and civilians attending the event which took place shortly after two boxing matches. The entertainment was presented by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office, United States Army, Europe,

Photos by Sgt. Victor Soto

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — The Division Support Brigade held a prayer breakfast Nov. 4 at 6:30 a.m. at the DSB Ministry Center here. Command Sgt. Maj. William M. Grant, the 3rd Infantry Division command sergeant major, presented the key note message.



(Clockwise, from top left) Staff Sgt. Selena Higgs reads scripture. Staff Sgt. Katie M. Hope, right, enjoys the breakfast catered by Dining Facility #1. Staff Sgt. Stuart Williams, foreground, joined nearly 100 Soldiers in prayer. Command Sgt. Maj. William M. Grant delivers an inspirational message. The Taji Gospel Choir performed special music.

(Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Peter



Renegades train IPs in triage, transport

By Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- “WAHID! (One) ITHNAYN! (Two) THALATHA! (Three)” was called out by the Iraqi Policeman stabilizing the casualty’s neck.

The injured person was carefully rolled onto his side and then back down onto a backboard, the first responders keeping his neck and head in line.

The team of Iraqi Police then hoisted the casualty to their shoulders, enthusiastically carried him out of the room and through the police station, and placed him into the back of an IP pick-up truck for transport to a nearby hospital.

The casualty was 1st Lt. Robert Schlau, the platoon leader for the Treatment Platoon, 550th Area Support Medical Company, nicknamed “The Renegades.”

Schlau, who hails from Ill., was a volunteer training “casualty” during the unit’s Iraqi Police Basic First Aid Course.

“They had me packaged like a big burrito. I couldn’t move,” said Schlau, complimenting the Iraqi Policemen’s immobilization techniques.

Through the month of September, medical personnel from the 550th ASMC, a Fort Bragg, N.C. unit attached to the Brigade Troops Battalion, Division Support Brigade, made nine visits to the five IP stations near here. Their mission was to train the policemen in skills that one day may save their lives, and the lives of the citizens they protect.

The Renegade medics were invited to accompany the 4th Platoon, 860th Military Police Company, Arizona

Army National Guard.

These citizen soldiers, including many civilian policemen mobilized to support Operation Iraqi Freedom 3, bring many years of experience to mentoring their Iraqi counterparts.

The 860th MP Co. has advised the local Iraqi police stations, here, since May. Spc. Bruce Ferguson, a military policeman with the ARNG unit, approached the medical company with the idea of incorporating medical classes into his unit’s IP training plan.

Ferguson said the training was already paying off.

“An [oil field worker] gunshot victim was brought into the police station during the referendum,” said the San Angelo, Texas native. “The IPs were able to do everything needed to treat the worker and evacuate him to the hospital, without our assistance.”

The 550th ASMC has been in the area since February and has trained nearly 300 Iraqi Policemen during more than 28 on-site classes.

Capt. David Hamilton, a physician assistant with the Renegades, said the classes are helping the Iraqi people by training the IP’s as first responders.

“The IP’s are usually the first on the scene of accidents and explosions,” said the Black River, N.Y., resident. “They need these tools to safely treat and evacuate the injured to Iraqi hospitals and clinics when ambulances are too far away or not available.

“By sharing our skills with Iraqi first responders, we are reinforcing the sense of community service in the policemen.”

This is the second round of training that the 550th ASMC has conducted with the 860th MPs and the IPs.

The first round, conducted in June and July this year, concentrated on basic casualty assessment, bleeding control, burn and chest wound treatment.

The current training opportunity not only allows the IPs to review skills learned during the previous class, But it also adds neck and spinal injury treatment, packaging and transport, triage and management in a mass casualty event.

The policemen are excited about the instruction and thrive on the performance oriented training exercises the medics use to teach complex medical techniques.

Showing the policemen these techniques and then coaching them in practical exercises transcends the language barrier, as the medics are assisted by excellent translators.

“This was good training,” said Shawkat Satar, an Iraqi policeman who participated in the training. “It will help me out in the future.”

The IP’s see many explosion and gunshot wounds from insurgent attacks, and need this training to assist the villagers caught up in insurgent attacks.

(See Medical, Pg. 6)



Courtesy photo from 550th ASMC

CAMP TAKI, Iraq — 1st Lt. Robert Schlau, the platoon leader for the Treatment Platoon, 550th Area Support Medical Company, allows himself to be immobilized for transport during Iraqi Police medical training at a police station near here.

From the Pulpit

Chaplain (Maj.) Paul Yacovone
Division Support Brigade Chaplain

There is hope!

In my office on Camp Taji is a poster that has the caption "There Is Hope."

On the poster is a peaceful seashore, complete with a traditional lighthouse, as the sun sets on the distant horizon. It is a picture that speaks volumes, as my eyes read a message to my soul.

It communicates clearly a message of hope when I consider the Author who is behind the very therapeutic viewpoint. My thoughts race to the words of the great hymn of the church, "*Because He Lives!*"

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living – just because He lives."

The Apostle Paul was thankful for the Churches at Ephesus, Colossae and Thessalonica because they possessed Faith, Hope, and Love.

Now faith is the instrumental quality of the church and love is the indispensable quality of the church. And right between Faith and Love is the inspirational quality of the church, Hope!

What is hope?

Hope is a confident anticipation of good things to come with the corresponding effort to reach and attain them.

Hope is defined in Webster's Dictionary as "to wish for something with expectation of its fulfillment; to look forward to with confidence or expectation. Desire accompanied by confident expectation of its fulfillment."

In our Bibles, hope is described as an inspirational quality. It is realizing that God's will, will come to pass, because we have hope as an anchor for our soul.

Hope is a good ingredient to have in our Christian character because it motivates us to keep going. Hope keeps spiritual desire alive. It motivates us every day to get up and give life another try. It keeps us going, when circumstances are screaming at us, "Give up! You'll never make it, why try any longer?"

Hope does not disappoint because it brings us to the point of our deliverance. The Psalmist exhorts: "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord"(Psalm 31:24, NKJ). Never give up!

"Now hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us"(Romans 5:5). In Psalm 71:14 we read, "But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you, Oh Lord, more and more." When it's hard to cope, in the Lord have hope- Chaplain Yac paraphrase. In other words, have steadfast endurance.

Hope is only as good as its source. (see Hope, Pg. 7)

Medical, continued from Pg. 5	Thanks, continued from Pg. 2	
<p>Iraqi police stations are often the only emergency services available in rural areas, for these villages. The closest hospital is in Baghdad, more than an hours drive away.</p> <p>As a result of the 550th's medical training, several of the IP's have already proudly used their training to treat their fellow officers and citizens.</p> <p>In addition, a few outstanding students at each station are mentored to be future trainers, so the skills are passed on to new IP's when they arrive at the station.</p> <p>Progressively, the next step in assisting the Iraqi Police in their new role as first responders is to assist them to procure ambulances for remote police stations to enable them to rapidly transport seriously ill or injured citizens to distant hospitals.</p>	<p>So if you're feeling a little blue during the holidays, take a moment to count your blessings. You might find that you really do have much to be thankful for.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Heart of the Rock!</p>	<p>individual to take care of those things that are dragging you down, as well as for the team that's counting on you.</p> <p>Let's all pull together to bring this deployment to a satisfactory conclusion and look forward to a safe home-coming.</p>
	<p>Team, continued from Pg. 2</p> <p>"I will always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself."</p> <p>You must continue to conduct primary checks and services on the equipment you use.</p> <p>But, more importantly, keep checking yourself. If you find you're not functioning as well as you used to, if you feel you're moving slower or your motivation is beginning to decline, find some help.</p> <p>There's no dishonor in getting assistance. Better to be safe than sorry. It's beneficial for you as an</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"Heart of the Rock"</p> <p>To the Soldiers of the DSB,</p> <p>I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your overwhelming generosity in my time of grief.</p> <p>We often speak of team work and helping out our battle-buddy in the Army, but you put action to the creed.</p> <p>Thank you for making me feel a part of the DSB "family."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Muchas Gracias!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sgt. Victor Soto</p>

Hope, continued from Pg. 6

And the source of hope is Almighty God.

It is our God who never changes. We need to bank on Him.

We are to be encouraged, not discouraged. Our hope in Jesus Christ is like an anchor for the soul.

The anchor was a popular symbol in the early church. At least 66 pictures of anchors have been found in the ancient catacombs.

The Greek stoic philosopher Epictetus wrote: "One must not tie a ship to a single anchor, or life to a single hope." To that I say, hogwash!

Christians have but one anchor and that anchor holds. Jesus Christ is our anchor. He is our hope.

Of course, the spiritual anchor is different from the material anchors on ships.

For one thing, we are anchored upward – to heaven- not downward. We are anchored, not to stand still, but to move ahead! Our anchor is sure –it can not break – and steadfast –it can

not slip. No earthly anchor can give that kind of security.

The substance of hope is in believing. It is faith. If you lose your faith, you lose hope.

Faith is our light that keeps our hope in Him. So believers must go on to maturity and God has made it possible for us to do so.

If we start to drift from the Word, then we will also start to doubt the Word. Before long, we will get dull toward the Word and become lazy believers. The best way to keep from drifting is to lay hold of the anchor. Anchored heavenward!

How more secure can you be? May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. By the power of the Holy Spirit!

The supply of hope is not positive thinking. It is not enthusiasm. It is not in our blessings or the gifts you possess. The supply of hope is in the Holy Spirit. We need the power of the

Holy Spirit.

The power of the Holy Spirit gives you surviving power to continue. Hope is spelled H.O.P.E., Holding On Praying Expectantly.

The power of the Holy Spirit gives you striving power to face temptation. It gives you diving power to get into battle. It gives you driving power to motivate you. And the power of the Holy Spirit gives us arriving power.

It is looking back and seeing God took us through as a winner. If God be for us, every body else ought to be.

Are you looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our Faith? Do you have this inspirational quality in your life? Are you looking for hope? Then, grab hold of the rope of hope.

It is as strong as God's character and as long as your faith. Hope is the inspirational quality of the church.

Grab hold of it. Possess it. It is needed to face today and to be ready for tomorrow.

Home on the range! Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, Division Support Brigade, sponsored an M-16 Rifle Range Nov. 1.

Photos by Sgt. Victor Soto



The firers practice muzzle awareness as they head t the firing line.



Draw! Soldiers gather magazines of ammunition to support the shooters on the firing line.



Keeping score! Staff Sergeant Stuart Williams, right, collects Sgt. John Barrett's target.



Ready in the middle! Yellow equals white, or ready to go. Safety was the watch word of the day at the range.



Chamber check! A firing line safety non-commissioned officer makes sure the shooters weapon is clear and on safe.

87th CSB Soldiers awarded CAB

By Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Soldiers from the 87th Corps Support Battalion, Division Support Brigade, were awarded the Combat Action Badge in a ceremony held at the 87th CSB Basketball Court Oct. 28 at 10 a.m. here.

Twenty Soldiers were selected to have the CAB pinned on during the actual award ceremony.

Once these representatives were pinned, the subsequent awardees, formed behind them, uncovered their CABs.

After the presentation, Lt. Col. Steve E. Lambert, the battalion commander for the 87th CSB, shared a few thoughts.

During his remarks, Lambert further expounded the ideal of sports figures who are often characterized as tough and heroic.

Lambert said Soldiers are the true representation of these qualities.

“The CAB represents a standard of tough, heroic, and selfless service for deserving Soldiers [who] when faced with the possibility of death, have a greater determination and commitment to completing the mission,” said Lambert. “Our awardees embody what the CAB represents and we are here to pay tribute to them for a job well done.”



(above) Soldiers from the 87th CSB retire the colors at the completion of the CAB ceremony.

(right) Lt. Col. Lambert present the ceremonies key message.

(Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick)



(above) Soldiers of the 87th CSB stand in formation at the CAB ceremony. (right) Lt. Col. Steve E. Lambert pins a CAB on Spc. Natanael A. Ubri, a human resource specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 87th CSB.

Send the Taji Times Home

From:

FREE MAIL

To:

The Taji Times is on the internet at <http://www.dvidshub.net> under Military Publications



Minimize your exposure to IEDs.

Confirm from as far away as possible.



STAY ALIVE