

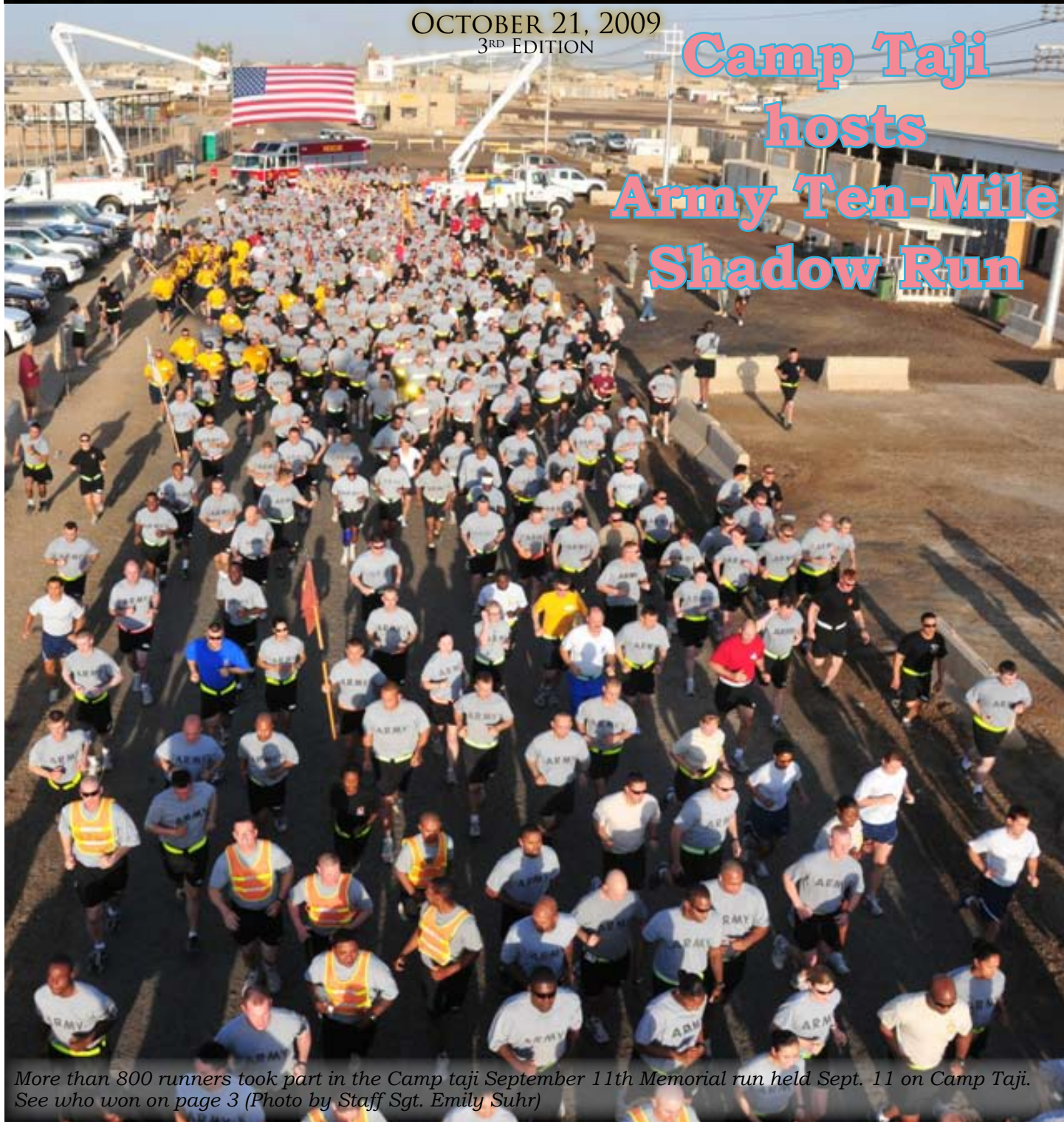


Taji Times

CAMP TAJI, IRAQ INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 21, 2009
3RD EDITION

Camp Taji hosts Army Ten-Mile Shadow Run



More than 800 runners took part in the Camp taji September 11th Memorial run held Sept. 11 on Camp Taji. See who won on page 3 (Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

October Contents

UNIT STORIES

- 4** 1-82nd FA Dragons Assess Twin Schools Project
- 8** Taji Times Creator Redeploys
- 8** A. Co., 115th BSB Basketball Champions
- 12** A Soldier Reflects: OBTS
- 13** 721st AEAS Brings Night Vision to IqAF helicopters
- 15** 705th MP BN Takes Charge Legal Assistance
- 16** Phase Maintenance keeping aircraft ready, 615th ASB
- 21** Camp Taji Sailors earn their anchors
- 25** 1-82 Dragons Foster Progress in Taji Market

BASE EVENTS

- 5** IBIZ at Camp Taji
- 7** Army Ten-Mile Shadow Run
- 11** Operation: Back to School Makes first delivery
- 15** New Education Center Grand Opening
- 18** Happy Birthday Navy!
- 18** Taji celebrates its third Senior Non-commissioned Office Course graduation

Every Month

- 3** Safety information
- 6** MWR News
- 9** Sudoku Puzzle, Provost Marshall
- 10 & 19** Camp Taji at a glance photos
- 20** Chaplain's Corner and Religious Info
- 23** This Month in History
- 26** Camp Taji Hours, Phone Numbers and Fire Department information
- 27** Combat Stress Info

Also This Month

- 3** Remembering 9/11
- 14** Legal Assistance
- 17** Five tips to earn your degree in the military
- 22** A dash of Southern Hospitality
- 22** After Your Breast Cancer Diagnosis: What next?

SAFETY NOTES

By Capt. Brent Lindley
Camp Taji Safety Officer

Safety of our forces is most important. 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 do mission checklists prior to rolling out. Whenever shortcuts are taken, we definitely increase risk of an accident or an incident occurring.

Items to think about:


- Use the Power Strips and Adapters available from the Garrison Command at Camp Taji. They are free, and you don't have to worry if they meet the standard.
- If you need a transformer/power converter, buy it from the PX.
- Don't "zig-zag" (walk) in between busses (especially at the bus stop in front of the Camp Taji PX)
- Never try to do electrical work by yourself. Even if you are an electrician back at home, you are not certified to do so here. Just about everything is different. Further, you cannot accept liability for work you do on the system.
- Never open a breaker box (see above). If there is an electrical problem, complete a work order so

that the appropriate personnel can fix it. Keep in mind that some panels at Camp Taji (referred to as "Legacy Panels") do not have a "dead front."

- When lifting weights in the gym, use a "spot." It's the rule! If you don't have a work out partner, ask someone in the gym to "spot you" when you get under the bench press. Everyone knows what happened to the running back at USC....don't let it happen to you. Just about anyone in the gym is happy to do so for you.

A few projects in the works to make Camp Taji a safer place:

- The bus stop in front of the Camp Taji PX area is being modified to make it a safer area.
- Lights are being put in at some bus stops that don't have adequate lighting.
- A running/walking track has been built along Razorback Avenue. All vehicles WILL stay out of this area (on and near the track). Thanks to RMS for building this for all tenants of Camp Taji. The lap is roughly 0.6 miles per lap. Signage is being made for the track.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Leaders at every level should take time to talk safety with their personnel and report safety concerns through appropriate channels. Conduct a walk through your area, looking for appropriate signage and safety violations. 

September 11th Memorial 5K Run



More than 800 Camp Taji tenants participated in the 9/11 Memorial 5K Run Sept. 11 on Camp Taji. Prior to the run, Chaplain (Capt.) Peter Stone, 4-227 ARB Chaplain, presented a 9/11 Tribute. Chaplain (Capt.) Chris Weinrich, 1-227 ARB Chaplain, led the runners in a prayer. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

Males

1st Place :
Sgt. 1st Class Jose Pereyda
(MNSTC-I)

2nd Place :
Petty Officer 2nd Class John Marotta
(NPDB)

3rd Place :
Petty Officer 3rd Class Matt VanAllen
(NPDB)

Females

1st Place :
Capt. Traci Yamada
(4-227th ARB)

2nd Place :
SpC. Sandra Osborne
(Co C, 107th CAV)

3rd Place :
2nd Lt. Monique Allen
(4-227th ARB)

'DRAGONS' ASSESS TWIN SCHOOLS PROJECT

By Pfc. Adam Halleck
1st BCT



Cambridge, Mass., native Staff Sgt. Carlos Madden (left), a civil affairs team leader assigned to 1479 Civil Affairs Company, attached to 1-82nd FA, and Whitewater, Wis., native, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien, the battalion's civil capacity and essential services officer discover running water as they open water faucets outside of the Twin Schools public works project in a village north of Baghdad Sept. 10. (Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck)

The troopers of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division understand that rebuilding the infrastructure of Iraq is mission number one.

In order to improve the quality of education in their area, the "Dragons" Soldiers regularly check on the progress of their public works projects to ensure all deadlines and standards are met. Providing ample education to the children of Iraq has become an objective of great importance for U.S. forces and the Government of Iraq.

"If we could educate the children now, the future of Iraq can be solidified," explained Whitewater, Wis., native, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien, the battalion's civil capacity and essential services officer. "With their education they can provide opportunities to create an independent future for

Iraq."

Lien's mission is to evaluate the construction progress of two schools. It is estimated that the two schools will educate over twelve-hundred students north of Baghdad.

As Lien walked the halls of the first school, his disappointment was evident. The two schools are already a year behind schedule; one reason why Lien was assigned to oversee the progress. In the week since his last visit, little work has been completed and the construction superintendent was not at the construction site.

"I told him to sweep these halls and make sure that the electricity is working," explained Lien as he walked through rubble-filled rooms at the first school. "At this point I am not happy about what I've seen. I can only hope that the second school is better."

As Lien proceeded to the next school, which was only a few hundred yards away, he clutched a checklist of building requirements outlined by the Government of Iraq's Ministry of Education. If the building meets all of the requirements on the list, the MoE will provide teachers, essential furniture, and supplies to make the school operational. Minutes after Lien arrived at the second school it became obvious that he was in better spirits.

"We got water!" shouted Lien as he and his counterpart, Cambridge, Mass., native Staff Sgt. Carlos Madden, a civil affairs team leader, tested an outdoor water faucet at the school.

"They got the water working, hopefully the

electricity is working inside as well," added Lien as he enters the school's hallway.

When they walked into the second school it was obvious that Lien and

"We got water!" Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien

his team had made progress in this project. Spotless-tiled hallways led to classrooms that were covered in fresh paint, while lighting fixtures and power outlets were emplaced and actually worked.

"I must say that I am impressed with this school at this point," said Lien. "If both of these schools had to open today, I can honestly say they could. Although the first school would be a scramble to clean up, it could be opened to educate the kids."

Lien and his team are happy to deal with the overwhelming number of hours they've invested in this project; provided the final product meets the standards of the battalion and the MoE.

"A lot of the time when we visit our projects we have to ride the con-

see WATER page 8



Whitewater, Wis., native, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien (left), the battalion's civil capacity and essential services officer, reviews his checklist with Fairfax, Va., native Maj. Robert Hensley, the battalion executive officer, both assigned to HHB, 1-82nd FA. The "Dragons" Twin Schools public works project will provide over 1,200 children a modern school to receive an education in a village north of Baghdad Sept. 10. (Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck)

I-BIZ: HELPING TO STABILIZE IRAQ'S ECONOMY

By Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr
155th BCT

While starting a business anywhere is difficult, starting one in Iraq can be especially difficult.

"Because of the security situation outside the wire, you are not going to be able to find an easy market," said Ziyad Nabeel, a shop owner whose business in Baghdad was forced to close due to the daily dramatic rise and fall of Iraqi market values.

"It's not stable outside," he said, "while here on the base, it's a stable market. We control the prices; we manage the prices. Outside you cannot manage anything."

Nabeel, a university physics professor, now owns and operates two thriving retail shops on Camp Taji, Iraq, a feat he could only dream about before moving his business to base. Like so many other Iraqi business owners, Nabeel owes his new-found success to the Iraqi-Business Industrial Zone program.

The I-BIZ program provides a secure plot of land to Iraqi business owners wishing to set up their company on a Coalition base. While the Coalition Forces benefit by having products and services at their convenience, the main idea behind the program is to set Iraq up for an economically secure future.

"By giving the Iraqis employment, we're fostering the local economy. As (Coalition Forces) transition out,

it allows the Iraqis to get stabilized," said Maj. William Walley of Brandon, Miss., the Garrison Command Operations Officer and I-BIZ Coordinator.

"When (Coalition Forces) actually leave, they're still here doing the same thing."

Camp Taji currently has 18 I-BIZ businesses, a number the Garrison Command would like to see double before they rotate out next year, said Walley. The businesses, which employ approximately 77 Iraqis, range from retail to maintenance to concrete batch plants and water bottling

"The whole goal is to have businesses set up that support the local economy"
Maj. William Walley

plants.

Applying for a spot on a Coalition base is as easy as setting up anywhere else. Business owners can pull an application from the I-BIZ website or come to the base and pick one up. After a thorough review process, the proposal is granted and they can get started. Business owners generally sign a contract for one year to start

with. Once approved, they are on their own as far as their business is concerned. They must provide their own buildings, power supplies and equipment. They are completely self sufficient.

The I-BIZ team, however, makes the effort to ensure the Iraqi businesses enjoy success by offering them guidance and helping them with formalities, such as access badges for their employees.

"Being a banker at home, I'm familiar with business concepts and things of that nature," said Walley, a Mississippi Army National Guardsman on his second deployment. "Using this experience, I've been able to underwrite the applications and hopefully steer them in the right direction when they start out here on Taji."

"It's been easy, it's been great," he added about working with the Iraqis. "They're very receptive to any and all that we have to give to them and, of course, they're just eager to get started."

As for Nabeel and his team, they have just opened up their second shop on Camp Taji, a retail store selling DVDs, shoes and other such things. While he hopes one day that his country is more secure and he can successfully run his businesses in town, for now he is grateful for the opportunities he has been given and optimistic about his future.

"It's been good for both sides," he said. 🇮🇶

Ziyad Nabeel poses in front of his new shop on Camp Taji, Iraq, Sept. 24 with his two partners and Maj. William Walley, the Camp Taji I-BIZ coordinator. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)



MWR EVENTS

Upcoming MWR Events
(see flyers in MWR facilities & sent on "Taji-All email" for more information)

October

Soccer tournament (see flyer on page 13)
Flag Football Tournament (begins Oct 24th)
Longest Drive Contest, Oct 24th.
"Variety/Talent Show," Oct 30th, Schoolcraft Pavilion.
Halloween Party, BLDG 680, Oct 31st.

November

"Great TIFRC Escape 10K Run." Nov 1st.
Turkey Trot 5K/10K. Schoolcraft Pavilion. Nov 26th.
Punt, Pass & Kick, Taji Sports Complex, Nov 26th.

"Great TIFRC Escape" 10km Run

Nov. 1st @ TIFRC MWR "Burn Pit"
0600 Registration
0700 Run begins

POC:
1LT Casey Schroeder
casey.schroeder@iraq.centcom.mil
NIPR: 318-834-3759
SIPR: 242-6114



Halloween Variety Talent show

Friday October 30, 2009

Jon Schoolcraft Pavilion @ 1900

Sign up by COB 25th October 2009
at : brent.lindley@iraq.centcom.mil

Rehearsals on 27th & 28th @ 1900
Jon Schoolcraft Pavilion



5 ON 5 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 35 & OVER



**STARTS NOV 21ST
Bldg # 621T**

**Coaches Meeting
Nov 15, 2009 @
1800 Bldg # 621T**
Referees come from the units

POC Ron.Scanlon@kbr.com

5 ON 5 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



**STARTS NOV 22
Bldg # 621T**

**Coaches Meeting
Nov 15, 2009 @
1800 Bldg # 621T**

The Longest Drive

Do you have what it takes?

Find out who has the best long game on Camp Taji during the camp-wide driving competition hosted by the 155th BCT Garrison Command

October 24, 2009

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Behind the RMJ Compound,
adjacent to Chanticleers
Avenue**

No registration required



Stick around after
the Long Drive
Competition for a
hole-in-one (Hit
the Hoovee)
Competition!

Point of Contact: CPT Brent Lindley, brent.lindley@iraq.centcom.mil

HALLOWEEN PARTY



**WHEN: SATURDAY OCTOBER 31, 2009
PLACE: MWR BUILDING 680 (NEXT TO MOVIE SHOP 2)
TIME: 1900-2100
COSTUMES ARE ENCOURAGED, BUT NOT REQUIRED!**

P.O.C. SHALANDA BRENT
SHALANDA.BRENT@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL

**WEBSITES THAT SHIP COSTUMES APO:
WWW.OCONUS.COM/SCARY**

NIRSA FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



**Coaches Meeting
October 11, 2009
Bldg 621T @ 1800 Teams must
have Officials**

**Starts October 24, 2009
Games played at the Taji
Sports Complex, across from
the swimming pool**

Poc: ron.scanlon@kbr.com

**CAMP TAJI MWR MEETING EVERY THURSDAY AT 10AM IN
BUILDING 103 CONFERENCE ROOM. ALL UNITS ARE IN-
VITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE.**

Army Ten-Mile Run

By Capt. Brent Lindley
Camp Taji MWR Officer

Four hundred ninety two Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and civilian contractors ran in the "Camp Taji Army Ten Mile Shadow Run." Camp Taji was one of only three sites outside of Washington, D.C. given the opportunity to participate in the event.

The Army Ten Miler is the largest 10-mile race in the United States. This year marked the silver anniversary of the Army Ten Mile Run in Washington, D.C. This is the third year the Shadow Run was held at Camp Taji. It is sponsored by U.S. Army Military District of Washington. The purpose of the run is to support all ambitions in maintaining good health, and boost interaction within the community, while still providing support for the Army.

The 115th Brigade Support Battalion was the sponsoring unit for the event, assisted by the 155 Garrison Command. Many other personnel helped make this year's event a success.

Sunday Asiku (SOC) from Uganda, won the race at Camp Taji in 58 minutes, followed by Staff Sgt. Jason Scornfield (96th Sustainment Brigade), and Sgt. Ryan Aston (MNSTC-IJ4). Sgt. Anna Vanderploeg with the 294th ASMC won the women's division, followed by Spec. Sandra Osborne (CO C., 2/107 CAV) and Spec Clarissa Anderson (E Co 2-227 AVN).



Capt. Tyler Cortner, company commander for Co C (MED), 115th BSB, runs the Army Ten Mile Shadow Run Oct 4th. (photo by Maj. Rob Edwards)

Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, Sailors and civilians came from various bases around Iraq to run in the Camp Taji Army Ten Mile Shadow run. Many service members have been training for this event for sometime at Camp Taji.

Sgt. Zachery Johnson of 1-82 FA, 1CD says, "the Soldiers in our Unit have put a lot of time and effort into training for the Army Ten-Mile Shadow Run, not to just run the race but to finish it in a respectable time. After finishing the race I waited at the finish line and as each one of my Soldiers crossed I couldn't have been more proud. Like



Oct. 4. Nearly 500 participants start the Camp Taji Army Ten Mile Shadow Run. (photo by SSG Beverly Price)

I tell my Soldiers all the time, physical fitness is not a hobby, it's a way of life."

Lee Davis, an MWR Supervisor at Camp Taji has been heavily involved with the Shadow run. Mr. Davis has been the interface between the organization that sponsors the Army Ten Miler and the Camp Taji MWR program. The requirements to hold the Shadow run are not easy to meet. This is one reason why Camp Taji was only three sites authorized to conduct the Shadow run.

Davis says, "for Camp Taji to be one of three ATM sponsored Shadow Runs is an honor. I am grateful to be a part of an event of this magnitude. To have our department work in collaboration with the military, the Army 10 Miler

team in Washington DC and the Garrison Command is quite a privilege and honor. It is one of the perks that make working in MWR special."

"The feelings after seeing how everything came together, thanks to the teamwork and commitment of many people who are beyond description. This was the best Taji 10 Mile run so far in regard to support and participation. The Oct. 4, 2009 Taji Army 10 miler will be the standard for future runs."



(photo by Maj. Rob Edwards)

Col. John Rhodes, Garrison Commander, and Capt. Brent Lindley, MWR OIC, congratulate the 2009 winners

Males

- 1st Place : Sunday Asiku (SOC)
- 2nd Place : Staff Sgt. Jason Scornfield (96th SB)
- 3rd Place : Sgt. Ryan Aston (MNSTC-IJ4)

Females

- 1st Place : Sgt. Anna Vanderploeg (294th ASMC)
- 2nd Place : Spc. Sandra Osborne (C Co. 2/107 CAV)
- 3rd Place : Spc. Clarissa Anderson (E Co. 2-227 AVN)

Taji Times Creator Redeploys

By Lt. Col. Scott Hubbard
Deputy Commander, 155 Garrison Command and 106th Brigade Support
Battalion Commander



Photo by Sgt. Amanda Gauthier

The Garrison Command would like to take this opportunity to thank a Soldier who established the "Taji Times".

While communicating with the 81st Brigade Combat Team during the 106 Brigade Support Battalion's mobilization, the 81st began sending copies of their publication "The Ramadi Star." A goal was established to continue publication of "The Ramadi Star" since that was our mission location until it changed about two weeks prior to deployment. With the location change, our

goal changed from continuing a publication to creating a publication. Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr completed her deployment with the 81st and volunteered to extend her deployment with the 155th BCT to join the Garrison Command team.

Staff Sgt. Suhr's profound talent has been seen by every Taji tenant who has been afforded the opportunity to read the first two editions of the "Taji Times". She has spent numerous hours taking many different articles and pictures submitted from the Taji community and created a publication that is second to none, in addition to writing numerous stories for the publication herself. Staff Sgt. Suhr has also trained the Garrison S1 and 155th BCT PAO sections on the techniques of producing a quality publication utilizing complex publishing programs. Unfortunately for the Camp Taji Garrison Command and the Taji community, Staff Sgt. Suhr will be redeploying later this month, creating an unfillable void in our PAO section.

As Commander of the 106th Brigade Support Battalion and Deputy Garrison Commander, I want to personally thank her for her service and the outstanding job she has done not only for the Garrison Command, but for the entire Camp Taji community.

Great job and thanks Emily!!!

A CO., 115TH BSB VICTORIOUS IN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

By Spc. Shalanda Brent
155th BCT

The Camp Taji Morale, Welfare and Recreation held a basketball tournament championship game at Gym 621 T Sept. 25. The two teams that participated in the tournament were from the 10th Sustainment Brigade and Alpha Company, 115th Brigade Support Battalion. After coming out of the losers bracket, A Co., 115th came out victorious at the end of the tournament, defeating 10th SB two games in a row. The first game's final score was 28-23. The score at halftime during the final game was 23-17. The final game was won in overtime 39-36 with a last second shot at the buzzer.

The full court basketball league has been in effect since March of 2008. Ron Scanlon of Syracuse, N.Y., the Camp Taji MWR sports coordinator, said he believes MWR sports are a great way to keep the Soldiers motivated and to keep the morale up. Next up for MWR sports: flag football. Flag football season starts this month (October 24th). If you have any questions, contact Mr. Scanlon at ron.scanlon@kbr.com, KBR, 713-970-4008.



WATER continued from page 4

tractors to do it to our standard," said Madden. "Once projects are complete and we can offer the people the essential services though, it's all worth our frustration."

The contractors assure Lien and his team that the Twin Schools project will be complete by the end of September. Lien and the "Dragons" will continue to monitor progress in order to ensure the children of the surrounding area of the small village north of Baghdad have the opportunity to receive education they deserve.





CAMP TAJI PROVOST MARSHAL

By Maj. Rob Edwards
Camp Taji Deputy Provost Marshal

With September being Suicide Prevention Month, I want to take a moment to discuss what the MPs role is in dealing with mental health issues. Overall, U.S. Forces have had more suicides than combat-related deaths and the military leaders are making an aggressive push to resolve the problem.

As a full time police officer back home, I have dealt with many people with mental issues over the past 12 years and have taken the extra steps to get them help when no one else would. My thought has always been, if you deal with the issue now by helping the person get help and not blow it off, maybe they will get the help that they need and you won't have to deal with them on a professional basis again. It is sad, though, that as a police officer I had to resolve the issue in court where in most cases, the family had washed their hands of the situation.


The same can hold true for the Soldiers in your unit. Don't wash your hands of them - help them to help themselves. If you don't, a small problem now can turn into a

bigger problem later if not properly addressed. We have had some unfortunate incidents in country that come to my mind, and I ask that you be mindful that a Soldier killed a civilian here at Taji earlier this year, four Soldiers were killed at Victory Base by another Soldier and a Soldier killed a civilian and wounded one on another base.

When a Soldier's stress gets to the point where we have to get involved, it has gone on too long. Make sure that you and your unit have exhausted all means of getting the Soldier help before you call us. When you contact one of our officers, explain in great detail your Soldier's history and any extra precautions we should use. Do not expect that the Soldier will be detained unless they have committed a crime or has threatened to hurt someone else. Even then, they can only be detained for no more than 72 hours, then either sent away for evaluation or released to the unit. In most cases, the Soldier is released back to the unit where they are placed on buddy watch, unit watch or suicide watch. You will have to determine your own SOP on how to handle each situation.

We are all stressed. We are away

from our families, on our first or fifth deployment, have to work with people who stress us out and are in an unfamiliar environment. If you are feeling stressed to the point where you think that you need help, get help. If you are a supervisor and you know of a Soldier who needs help, don't wait until it is too late. Do us and the Soldier a favor...take them to get help. You have an obligation to yourself, to the Soldier and to those around you to do so.

While you can count on the MPs to be there, it is always best to call prior to the situation getting out of hand. Exhaust all resources available to help your Soldier - they are your responsibility while you are here and they are under your command. MPs are trained in conflict resolution, not stress management. 

24-hour MP Desk

NIPR: 834-3000

SIPR: 242-6141

Combat Stress

NIPR: 834-1050

SIPR: 242-6950



When hippies have nightmares

SUDOKU PUZZLE

To Solve the Puzzle you must figure out how to place the numbers 1 to 9 exactly once each in every row, column and 3x3 box.

	3			6			9	
			5		9			
5			2		7			1
9		8				1		2
			9		3			
6		3				4		9
1			7		2			8
			8		5			
	4			1			5	

Answers on page 27

CAMP TAJI AT A GLANCE



(Left) Sgt. Matthew Russell of Monticello, Miss., an assistant human resources NCO with the 106th BSB, 155th BCT, places "Back to School" packages in a warehouse on Camp Taji Sept. 10. Hundreds of packages have poured in from around the U.S. containing school supplies for Iraqi children as part of "Operation: Back to School." (Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

(Below) Sgt. Marilyn C. Ortega (left), from Houston, the aviation life support equipment NCOIC for 1-227th ARB, assists Maj. Gen. James Hunt, the deputy commanding general of Multi-National Corps – Iraq, with his flight gear just prior to his tour of "First Attack's" area of operation and his very first flight in an AH64-D Apache attack helicopter. The flight is meant to give Hunt a pilot's point-of-view to help him better understand the capabilities of the aircraft – an important part of the 1st ACB's mission. (Photo by Sgt. Seandale Jackson)



2nd Lt. Sean Williams (front) from Eatontown, N.J., the OIC of a personal security detail for a military transition team, 1st ACB, stands guard during a water treatment plant inspection, Sept. 16. (Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski)



Capt. Brennan Speakes from C Co., 1st Battalion, 5th Cav., tries to get kids to smile before giving out backpacks at a school near Sheikh Hamad Village, Iraq, Sept. 16. (Photo by Spc. David Sharp)

OPERATION BACK TO SCHOOL

By Capt. Brent Lindley
155th BCT

Oct 7: In the early morning hours, a group of US military rendezvoused with elements of the 36th Iraqi army to conduct the first "Mission: Operation Back to School (OBTS)." Children at the Al Abar school were greeted by Soldiers of the 36/9 MITT team, 155th Brigade Combat Team and 1479th CA Company. Upon receiving the school supplies, the children's eyes lit up and smiles became abundant. School kits were provided to the children by U.S. and Iraqi army Soldiers.

Included in each kit: 1 composition notebook, 1 small box of Colored Pencils (NOT Crayons), 3 plain folders w/ pockets, 1 Package of Paper, 1 blunt tip Scissor, 1 ruler, 1 small pencil sharpener, 1 large eraser, 1 zipper pencil pouch and 1 dozen pencils. Back packs collected by Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Bailey (155th BCT) of Hattiesburg, Mississippi at the end of the school year from local children who wanted to donate their own back packs to Iraqi school children were also provided.

Lt. Col. Kent Wong, Director of Operations for the 821st Expeditionary Training Squadron, has served as the volunteer chairperson of the OBTS committee. After inviting others to serve on the OBTS committee, the group began the process of identifying which items would be in the OBTS kits and asking for help from families and friends at home. Over the past couple months, the response at home has been phenomenal.

Wong was very happy about the success of the first mission, "for me, being part of the OB2S project is definitely a labor of love. Needy school kids will benefit from this program right away. In the long run, these young kids will remember the generosity of the American people and the partnership of the American Soldiers and the Iraqi military personnel who helped deliver these school kits. This will definitely enhance and strengthen the relationship between our two countries."

Chaplain (Capt.) Weinrich of the 1-227 ARB, 1ACB and an OBTS committee member "loves being a part of the biggest humanitarian event in Iraq through the voluntary help of the Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, contractors and people across our great nation of the United States of America. As a Chaplain, it brings a sense of fulfillment to give of my talents, resources, and abilities for the improvement of the education and relationship

with the great children and teachers of Iraq."


Staff Sgt. Mike O'Connell, Team Sergeant 1479th Civil Affairs Company and also OBTS committee member says,

"Operation Back to School has been a great way for us to connect with the children here on a level different from the normal handing out of candy on a patrol. This is a chance to get people back home involved, and make a difference in the life of an individual child. Everything about this program is different from the way a humanitarian assistance operation would normally be run, because it is run by volunteers who value the donations of family and friends and strive to see that what they have worked so hard to give is distributed the best way possible. It's the right thing to do to honor the time, money and effort that people like my mother; Donna

Sparrow, my employer back home; Olympia Sports, and many, many others have made. We won't just take these supplies and hand them out at random. The kits get placed directly into the hands of each and every child at the schools that are chosen. We plan our operations well in advance to ensure the most impact is made and that our efforts are always consistent. The decision to involve the Iraqi army and put their face on this alongside ours was the right one to make. It shows the folks back home how things really work here now, and shows the people here that their military really is working with us. That first delivery was amazing to me, watching U.S. Soldiers unload the truck alongside Iraqis while an Iraqi Lieutenant Colonel and a U.S. Major moved side by side throughout the classrooms handing out the kits."

According to Wong, "OB2S is going very strong. Since OB2S is strictly a voluntary project. All our committee members are all volunteers. Our donors are all volunteers. Initially, we were slow to get started. However, in the past month, the momentum has picked up and it's gaining. We're receiving on the average of several hundred kits per week. To date, we have over 2,300 kits collected so far and many more kits are still in boxes ready to be counted. We also have 370 soccer balls."

On behalf of the OBTS committee, Lt. Col. Wong thanks those at home: "Without the support from our families and civic organizations like churches, ROTC units, and business back at home, OBTS would not have been possible. I would like to personally thank everyone that helped spread the word about the project. When we work together...we will all WIN together!"

If you would like to participate in Operation Back to School, please contact Chaplain Christopher Weinrich (christopher.weinrich@iraq.centcom.mil) or Capt. Brent Lindley (brent.lindley@iraq.centcom.mil). 



U.S. Soldiers and Airmen stop for a photo after transferring school kits to Iraqi Army trucks prior to OBTS mission. Photo by Maj. Rob Edwards.

A SOLDIER REFLECTS: OBTS

By Capt. Patrick Hanson
S2 Officer, 36th MITT Team

Editor's Note: The following article is an essay written by Capt. Hanson of the 36th MITT Team.

When we initially visited the Al Abar School to see if it fit the criteria for the Back to School program, there were very few citizens around. The school is quite isolated in a corner of the Taji-Nubai area and nestled among farmland. The nearby houses vary between grand structures and crumbling brickwork. We parked alongside the road where dump trucks streamed by with loads of gravel and tried to evaluate what we could from the roadside.

From the nearest crumbling brick house, a local farmer and his brother emerged to talk to us. We quickly gathered around him and began engaging him in a barrage of questions about the area, the school, the kids and about himself. He only held back at one point, when we tried to get his phone number. He hadn't done anything wrong, he said, and was not required to give us this information. We assured him that we were only interested in the school and were very glad that he had taken the time to talk with us. He calmed down a little and his children began to funnel out of the nearby home.

Ali, the oldest son, and his little brothers began to scoot closer and closer to us, hesitant and shy. When we began to snap pictures with the cameras, they gradually came out of their shells, eager to practice the English that they had learned in this very school. Their father finally warmed up enough to us to ask if we wanted to go into the school. He previously had stated that he didn't have a key, but now seemed willing to work with us. We enthusiastically headed for the gate of the school, where Ali's uncle promptly hopped the fence and opened the gate from the inside of the wall.

Ali wants to be an Engineer when he grows up. His little brother wants to be a teacher. Both are incredibly polite, shy and constantly smiling. But both were wearing mismatched sandals, with soles already worn half way off. Their feet were so calloused from walking on the ground that they had no problems kicking off the crumbling shoes and running barefoot to keep up with us as we toured their school.

Sheik Mohammed arrived at the front of the school as we prepared to leave. His father had originally built this school in 1970 and Sheik Mohammed proudly stated how he and the committee of citizens had worked to renovate the school, adding another wing with two stories to accommodate the influx of kids in this area.

When we returned three weeks later, we came bearing gifts. The Americans played a significant role in acquiring the school supplies that were donated to the children of the school. Donations from the States had poured into Camp Taji and the volunteers of the program had organized the supplies after their duty work day ended. The supplies had been loaded into an Iraqi Army truck early that morning so that the message would be delivered to the children and teachers of the school that the Iraqi Army Soldiers had delivered the supplies and the Americans had only come in support.

As the American and Iraqi Soldiers entered the classrooms, the children stood up from their desks and shouted together in Arabic, "Praise God for delivering these gifts!" The children were delighted with their new presents. The new backpacks contained paper, pencils, erasers, glue, scissors and folders among other items. Each child ran

OPERATION BACK TO SCHOOL KITS TO KIDS

Be a part of the "MOTHER OF ALL" school supply drives
by donating kits to Iraqi school kids



A SCHOOL KIT INCLUDES ALL OF THE BELOW ITEMS PLACED IN A 2.5-GALLON ZIPLOC BAG:

- One composition notebook
- One small box of colored pencils (not crayons)
- 3 plain folders with pockets
- 1 package of loose leaf paper
- 1 safety scissor
- 1 ruler
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 large eraser
- 1 pencil pouch
- 1 dozen pencils

Ensure there are no imprinted religious or political messages

To volunteer or donate supplies, contact:

CPT Brent Lindley
brent.lindley@iraq.centcom.mil

CPT (CH) Christopher Weinrich
christopher.weinrich@iraq.centcom.mil

Check out our Facebook page at Operation Back to School

DEC 16 IS THE DEADLINE FOR ALL DONATED SUPPLIES

to their friend to show off their new backpack and look at their friends' backpack. Each wanted to see the different types of candy that the American Soldiers had passed out. In total, the Iraqi Soldiers had passed out 131 boys packs and 81 girls packs.

While the Iraqi Army delivered their goods, American Soldiers walked through the classrooms, peering intently at each child in each room. "That one, look at his hand." Another Soldier agreed and the child was pulled out of the classroom and sent to the Iraqi medic around the corner. An American medic stood close by to supervise and provide any medical equipment or medicine not available in the Iraqi medicine bag. The children protested a slight bit, but only until they realized that they would not be left out of the gift giving, then more of them came forward with their infections, cuts and scrapes. The three medics treated 15 people at the school before they left.

Ali wasn't there unfortunately. He had become too old for this school and attended another school down the road, but his brothers were there and benefitted greatly from the supplies. The American Soldiers had a great time seeing the children smile; the teachers greatly appreciated the boxes of supplies specially made for them; the principal was thrilled at the twenty soccer balls dropped in his office; but the brightest light came from the faces of the Iraqi Soldiers who had delivered the school supplies to the children of their country. Their faces shined with pride and with a sense of accomplishment. This mission made a lasting impression on the lives of everyone involved, from the American and Iraqi Soldiers, to the children and the parents of those children. And we've only just started. 🇮🇶

721st AEAS Brings Night Vision to IqAF Helicopters

By Capt. Kacey Grannis
721st AEAS Air Advisor

The mission of the 721st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron is to train, advise, equip and assist the fledgling Iraqi Air Force's rotary-wing assets currently stationed at Al-Taji Airbase, Iraq. Recently, the 721st has reached a series of important milestones as four years of hard work begins to come to fruition. Within the last two months, 721st advisors have upgraded and certified four IqAF Mi-17 pilots as night vision goggle instructors.

"The majority of these guys have over 2,000 flying hours," said Maj. Chris Elam, a 721st AEAS Air Advisor. "But until recently, they never used NVGs. Because of that, their mission capability at night was much less than it is now. Basically, they could only fly from airport to airport. Limitations like that negate some of the unique advantages of flying helicopters."

The NVG capability, the IqAF 4th and 15th Squad-

rons will be able to utilize their Mi-17 medium lift helicopters to accomplish more diverse missions, which will significantly contribute to the security and stability of the Government of Iraq.

"By building an instructor corps first, we utilize the talents and experience that the IqAF already has in place," said Lt. Col. Mike Mc-Nerney, the 721st AEAS Commander. "These instructors will take their own knowledge base, add what we've taught them about operating under NVGs, and instill that skill set in the next generation of Iraqi helicopter crews. It's a different way of doing business than what they were taught, but it works. These new instructors see that, and they're the ones that will make the difference in the years to come. We're incredibly proud of them, and proud to have played our part in their development." (Capt. Kacey Grannis, a 721st AEAS air advisor, evaluates her IqAF copilot on his NVG instructor performance. Photo by Staff Sgt. Dale Mathews)



Soccer Tournament Starting Oct. 14 at the Taji Soccer Field next to MWR Bldg. 680



POC Damir.haracic@kbr.com

Camp Taji Touch Rugby

Every Sunday and
Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
at the Sports Field be-
tween the Power Plant
and Warrior Chapel





LEGAL ASSISTANCE

By Lt. Col. Robert Dambrino
155th BCT

So, you're here in Iraq and have a legal problem. Where do you go? What can you talk about, to whom, and how much does it cost?

The BLUF (bottom line up front) is that you can go to your friendly neighborhood Judge Advocate General (JAG) office and speak to a legal assistance attorney, and it costs NOTHING!

Legal assistance is a service provided by the military to help Service members, their families, retirees and, in some cases, DoD civilians and contractors with various legal matters. Although the Legal Assistance Program focuses on helping Service members get their legal affairs in order before they deploy or mobilize, the Program's attorneys also provide advice and services in other areas, such as domestic legal issues and civil suits. Legal Assistance Attorneys are not allowed to provide assistance on all legal matters and, in most circumstances, cannot represent clients in civilian courts of law.

The Judge Advocate General's office offers a variety of services in the area of legal assistance. They can provide eligible clients with a wide range of services, but these

services are subject to availability of resources and the expertise of the Legal Assistance Attorneys. Specific services offered by the Program may vary from installation to installation. Typically, Legal Assistance Attorneys offer advice and/or services on the following topics:

- wills, testamentary trusts, advanced medical directives (living wills), and estate planning
- domestic relations to include divorce, legal separation, marriage annulments, child custody, and paternity cases
- adoption and legal name changes
- notarization of documents
- financial nonsupport and indebtedness issues to include communication, correspondence, and negotiations with collection agencies, lawyers, or other parties
- immigration and naturalization issues
- basic tax advice and assistance on federal, state, and local taxes
- review of landlord-tenant contracts and leases
- civil suits to include preparation of legal correspondence, documents, and, in limited cases, preparation of pleadings
- Service members' rights and responsibilities under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act
- general advice on misdemeanor criminal matters or traffic offenses


Additionally, the installation Legal Assistance Offices may provide advice and/or services related to power of attorney, real estate, bankruptcy, contracts, and consumer affairs.

There are some circumstances

under which Legal Assistance Attorneys are not allowed to provide legal services to clients. These include:

- providing legal advice to opposing parties on the same issue
 - providing legal advice on business ventures or matters that are not of a personal nature
 - providing legal advice on issues or interests in conflict with or opposed to the interests of the United States
 - providing legal advice over the telephone or through email
 - providing legal advice on military justice proceedings (i.e., courts-martial, nonjudicial punishments, administrative boards or proceedings, etc.) This is handled by Trial Defense Service attorneys.
 - providing advice to third parties
- Generally legal assistance attorneys cannot represent legal assistance clients in court.

All communications between you and your legal assistance attorney are confidential. They are private and privileged under law and professional rules of conduct and guidelines. Information or documents related to a client cannot be disclosed to anyone unless the client provides specific permission to do so or the Legal Assistance Attorney determines that disclosure of the information is authorized or required by law or professional rules of conduct.

At Camp Taji, the 155th BCT JAG officers are Capt. Mark Lampton, located at the Mayor's Cell, and Lt. Col. Robert Dambrino, located at 155 BCT Headquarters. Legal Assistance hours are Thursdays from 1400-1600. 



Col. Rhodes, Camp Taji Garrison Commander, and Randy Phalen, Education Services Specialist, cut ribbon for the opening of the New Education Center on Oct. 5th. Photo by Capt. Brent Lindley.



CW3 John Bailey gets a smile from a student receiving a backpack full of school supplies. Chief Bailey brought hundreds of backpacks from the United States. The backpacks were donated by school children in the Hattiesburg, MS area at the end of the 2009 school year. Photo by Capt. Brent Lindley.



SSG Osorio, a medic with the 36/9 MTT team, examines the right eye of a child at a local school during the Oct 7th "Operation Back to School" Mission. Photo by Capt. Brent Lindley.

705th MP BN Takes Charge

By Spc. Clifford Rich, 705th MP BN



Lt. Col. Deadrich and Command Sgt. Maj. Hutchings unveil the battalion colors of the 705th MP (I/R). Photo courtesy of 705th MP BN.

The 705th Military Police Battalion (I/R) arrived at Camp Taji on the 28th of August ready to take on their mission and assume command and control of the Taji Theater Internment Facility Reconciliation Center (TIFRC). After a smooth Transition of Authority with the 508th Military Police Battalion (I/R) out of Fort Lewis, Washington, the TIFRC commander, Lt. Col. Deadrich, received laudatory remarks from the Task Force 134 Commander, Brig. Gen. Quantock, on the HHC, 705th MP BN Soldiers professionalism and knowledge of detainee operations.

"You should never have to prepare for an inspection, the standard should always be that you are ready for an inspection, and from what I have seen you are where we need to be," said Brig. Gen. Quantock.

Every Soldier of the battalion is playing their part, working 24 hour operations in increments of twelve

hour shifts providing support for over 2,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Civilians; additionally provides care and custody to over 4,000 detainees. With a battalion headquarters just short of 150 Soldiers, each operate under the guidance of their unit motto "Vigilance-Honor-Courage." The Soldiers of the 705th MP BN remain vigilant to the standard, honor the unit and have courage to do the right thing, even when no one is looking.

The year ahead will be filled with uncertainty, but as always, the 705th MP BN will continue to push forward and always place the mission first.

TROVATA ENTERTAINMENT
present

CRACKER
Sunrise In The Land Of Milk And Honey

appearing at
Camp Taji
Jon Schoolcraft Pavilion
Friday, November 20, 2009
2000 -2200 hours

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

Every Monday and Friday at 8 p.m.
at the Tigris River Chapel (Bldg 119)



Alcoholic's Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other to overcome their addiction to alcohol.

Buy and Sell on Camp Taji

Just arrived on Camp Taji and your room is looking bare? Getting ready to leave and need to unload some stuff? Visit

www.FOBexchange.com to buy and sell anything from refrigerators to bikes to video games. Register for an account, choose "Iraq" and "Camp Taji", then either post an

ad to sell, or browse for something you need. It's that easy!



Phase Maintenance Ensures Aircrafts Remain Battle Ready

By Sgt. Alun Thomas
1st ACB

While maintaining a constant presence in the skies to keep the local population safe from the threat of attacks from insurgents and criminals, aircraft of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade become well worn in the process.

To ensure aircraft remain in appropriate condition to continue their tireless missions, conducting phase maintenance is essential to make sure every part of the aircraft is in working order, a job which can be time consuming and strenuous.

This mission is an essential task for Soldiers of Company B, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st ACB, 1st Cavalry Division, who recently began 500 hours phase maintenance on a AH-64D Apache helicopter to help put the aircraft where it belongs – back in the skies.

The maintenance begins when the aircraft is received from the owning unit, who briefs Co. B on any major components on the aircraft that require an overhaul or replacement, said Sgt. Jona Cacdac, from Merced, Calif., phase team leader, Co. B, 615th ASB, 1st ACB.

"They give us a list of maintenance faults we need to complete and then the aircraft usually comes in the next day," Cacdac said. "The owning unit should prep the aircraft for us, wash it and do inventories on their property."

Once the aircraft is received, technical inspectors perform checks to determine any other faults which may not have been picked up by the owning unit, Cacdac said.

"My guys [Co. B] would then start our tear down and take off all the panels and major components," Cacdac said. "The bird is then going to basically be stripped bare."

Every action taken during the maintenance must be accounted for, Cacdac said, with a log book kept to document them.

"I have to fix the books for our workstations so we can do our write-ups and let armament know that we removed the black boxes, the turret and all the display units," Cacdac added.

It takes two weeks for the aircraft to be stripped, inspected and worked on until it is ready to be moved outside again, Cacdac said.

"Once it's outside we slap on the blades and check the engine and tail rotor rigs to make sure they are properly working," Cacdac said. "We then phase the blades, do an angle check and look at the aircraft again. Our [technical inspectors] then go over it for any minor discrepancies."

The maintenance is extremely time consuming but with two crews working days and nights, the job is always done, Cacdac said.

Helping get the job done is Spc. Son Le, from Tomball, Texas, an Apache Longbow mechanic, 615th ASB, 1st ACB, who said the job his team does is more demanding than most people realize.

"A lot of people don't know how stressful it can get sometimes because you're dealing with a lot of moving parts,"



Taping off controls and buttons, Spc. Zack Taylor from Stockton, Calif., an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter mechanic in Co. B, 615th ASB, 1st ACB prepares the crewstation of an Apache to be painted during a 500 hour phase maintenance inspection, Sept. 21. (Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski)

Le said. "People are moving up and down the aircraft all at one time."


The phase team undergoes a myriad of tasks to keep the aircraft in top condition, Le said.

"We remove the transmission, change out all the filters and make sure there are no cracks or overheating," Le said.

There are the odd problems the team runs into on a consistent basis, Le said.

"Sometimes there are a lot of showstoppers, like parts not being readily available and things like that," Le said. "The mission we are working on right now has been smooth and going pretty good."

It requires a team effort to complete the 500 hour maintenance, Le said, and it isn't one person who makes the difference.

"We have a lot of people working on this," Le said. "There's always someone to back you up with anything you need." 

Five Tips to Earn Your Degree in the Military

Courtesy of www.military.com

According to most surveys, education is the number one reason given for joining the military. Then why do so many service members put off their education goals until they leave the military?

Many veterans find it more difficult to pursue their education when they get out of the military and end up missing out on their education benefits. The truth is it's rare to find an employer that offers as much education support as the military and it is usually much harder to go to school part time as a civilian.

During the increased wartime optempo, it's difficult to focus on getting your education. But the Department of Defense is serious about helping you earn your degree. The military offers mobile testing sites, classrooms, the Internet and many other ways for you to pursue your education goals. In fact, I know an Airman who has earned three associate's degrees, a bachelor's degree and an MBA (Master of Business Administration)—all on active duty.

There isn't any great secret to earning your degree. It just takes some effort. Here are five tips I've learned along the way that will help you reach your education goals:

1. Visit your education services office. Starting is arguably the hard-

est part of college. Getting a degree plan, enrolling and choosing classes are just a few tasks that need to be done. Each branch of the military has education counselors who are there to help you. Visit your local military Education Services Office or Navy College Office. They're ready to help you get started.

2. There's strength in numbers. Sign up for classes with a buddy or your spouse. It is much easier to stay motivated and remain focused if you enroll and study with somebody.


3. Use every tool in the box. Sitting in a classroom for 16 weeks is not the only way to earn college credit. There are several non-traditional ways to earn your degree including distance learning (online classes) and College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST). CLEP and DSST are exams you can take to earn college credits without ever entering a classroom. Both CLEP and DANTES are free for military members (civilians pay \$65 to \$85). CLEP and DSST Study guides are usually available at your local military education center, Navy College Office, or at your military installation's library.

Applying your military experience credits toward your degree is another way to save time and money. But, it is important to understand how these credits can be used before you

begin developing your education game plan. Learn more about how the American Council on Education (ACE) college credits for military experience are applied.

4. Stay on target. Military life can be hectic, with so much going on it's often hard to stay focused. Prioritize; don't let less important activities distract you from your goal. Getting your education is important to your future. Make sure you keep it in your cross-hairs.

5. Speed kills. Getting a degree is not a race. Set a pace that works for you. Trying to cram too much into your busy life can kill your resolve. You'll be surprised how quickly you can earn a degree if you simply take classes at a slow, steady pace. Remember, not everyone can take three to four classes each semester. But, if you take a class and use CLEP and DSST exams to earn six or more credits a semester, you can shorten the amount of time it will take to complete your degree program.

A college degree combined with the outstanding leadership skills you've learned in the military will make you a marketable asset in the civilian workforce. The military wants you to be educated and gives you all the tools necessary to earn your degree. If you joined for the great educational opportunities, then you would be foolish not to earn your degree. 

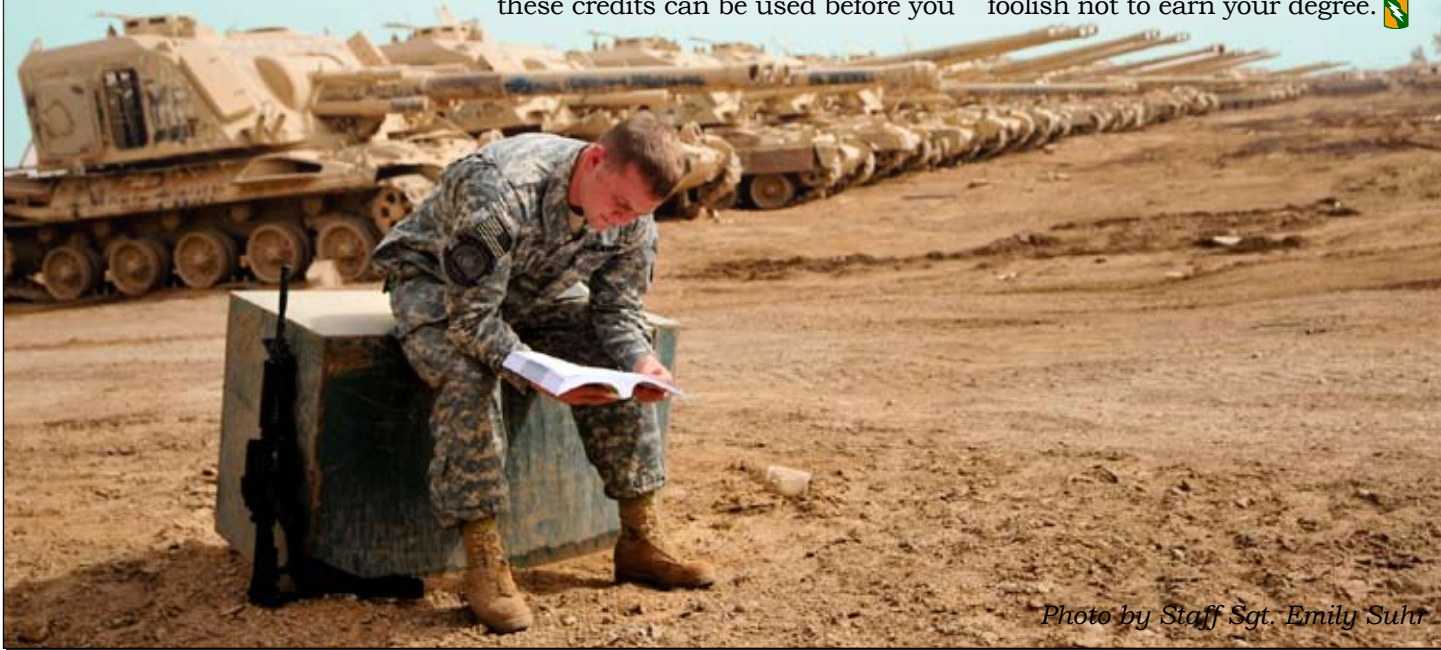


Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr

Happy Birthday Navy!

By Staff Sgt Emily Suhr
155th BCT

Teeming with rich traditions and a vivid history, the United States Navy celebrates its 234th birthday Oct. 13.

Though now the largest Navy in the world, the U.S. Navy is rooted in humble beginnings. At the start of the American Revolutionary War, the British Navy was the largest in the world and dominated the seas. Though the U.S. Army had been established, many


in the Continental Congress still hoped for a peaceful resolution and resisted the formation of a Navy. Many also felt that attempting to build an American Fleet that could take on the powerful British Navy was foolish and impossible.

Convinced a Navy could lead America to victory, John Adams and a small group within the Congress continued pushing for a fleet to protect their seaside cities and trade. In 1775, after receiving a letter from

Gen. George Washington stating he had acquired three schooners and was using them to intercept enemy supply ships, the Continental Congress finally caved and quickly voted in favor of a Navy Fleet. On Oct. 13, 1775 they voted to equip two sailing ships with weapons and 80-man crews, giving birth to the U.S. Navy. As the war persisted on, more than 50 ships would be sent to sea. The budding U.S. Navy seized nearly 200 British ships and effectively changed the momentum of the war.

While taking part in every conflict from the War of 1812 to the American Civil War, the U.S. Navy continued to grow, gaining a reputation as a fierce foe along the way. By World War II, they were larger than all the other combatant fleets combined.

Today, the U.S. Navy employs nearly 500,000 active duty and reserve Sailors and has a fleet of nearly 300 ships and more than 3,700 aircraft, making it the largest Navy in the world. They maintain a presence across the globe keeping the waters safe during peacetime and in war.

This year on the Navy's 234th birthday, we want to wish all the Sailors and their families a happy birthday and thank you for your service. Non Sibi Sed Patriae (Not Self But Country)! 

Taji celebrates its third Senior Non-commissioned Officer Course graduation

By Capt. Timothy C. Biele
MNSTC-I

The Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Camp Taji, Iraq graduated 51 senior noncommissioned officers Sept. 17 from its third SNCO Course. This course was unique because it included senior NCOs from every Iraqi army division and two Iraqi air force senior enlisted soldiers. The course consists of a 45-day program of instruction and is designed as a prerequisite for promotion to senior noncommissioned.


Training began on Aug. 5 with an opening day ceremony. The first two weeks of training consisted of classroom instruction on leadership, ethics, law of armed conflict and information technology. The remaining course schedule included practical exercises on staff procedures, administration, training management, operations, service support and map reading. Students were also required to participate in daily physical fitness activities consisting of calisthenics, an obstacle course and a road march. During the final week of the course, students completed M16 marksmanship training, a physical fitness test and a comprehensive final exam.

The graduation ceremony was planned and executed by the Iraqi instructors and staff. Distinguished guests included Lt. Gen. Hussain, the deputy chief of staff for training; Staff Maj. Gen. Samir, the commander of the Tactical Training Directorate and Staff Brig. Gen. Sabah, the Taji Location Commander. Hussain was the guest speaker and spoke to the students on the importance of ethics and values in the noncommissioned officers of the



Iraqi army senior noncommissioned officer graduates pose after the ceremony. (Photo by Sgt. Maj. Timothy D. White).

Iraqi army. The graduation also included a slide show of the students training throughout the course. Diplomas were distributed to all graduates. Additional gifts were presented to the top students and senior instructors of the course.

The graduates will incorporate the lessons learned from the course into their respective units at their home bases. The next senior noncommissioned officer course is scheduled to begin on Nov. 1 and end Dec. 24. 

CAMP TAJI AT A GLANCE



Lt. Col. Paul McDonald of Jackson, Miss., the 155th Brigade Comat Team Engineer, takes measurements of a bridge just outside Camp Taji, Iraq, Sept. 12. The bridge is routinely used by Coalition Forces to access Camp Taji. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)



The 419th CSSB's senior officer, Lt. Col. Kristan Hericks, of Irvine, Calif., looks over Iraq, and the land that the battalion convoys have traveled throughout for the last 10 months. "It's very rewarding to know that we made a difference through our presence here," said Hericks. "The battalion drove more than two million miles to deliver sustainment goods to U.S. Forces." (Photo by Sgt. Rex Tran)



On Sept. 5, 10th SB Commander, Col. Mark Drake, from St. Paul, Minn. and HHC, 10th SB Troops Battalion commander, Capt. Emily Rentschler, from Durham, N.H., lead from the front and take aim down Mulhair Range. (Photo by Sgt. Edward Monell)



As part of a preflight inspection, Chief Warrant Officer Terry Polivort (left) from Enid, Okla., an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter instructor pilot in 4-227th ARB, 1st ACB, and Chief Warrant Officer Edgar Lovitt from Ashland, Ky., also an Apache pilot in 4-227th ARB, inspect the main rotor head components for any faults at Camp Taji, Iraq, Sept. 24. (Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski)



620th CSSB, 10th SB Soldier, Spc. Brandon Hubbard (left), a Moses Lake, Wash., native, and truck driver/mechanic, receives mentorship by Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Allen G. Fritzsching, from Houston, during his battle field circulation, Sept. 9. (Photo by Sgt. Kory Smith)

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Capt.) Chris Weinrich
1-227th ARB



Who's behind that mask? Do you remember those great memories of growing up during the month of October? Everyone starts to turn their attention to outdoor activities, apple cider, and marshmallow roasts around the campfire. We recognize the heat of the summer months drifting slowly into the past with the sweet appearance of masks, candies, and memories.

During this deployment, the Soldiers continue to endure with the everyday situations that accompany the daily tasks of the military. Your fathers, mothers, spouses, and children exemplify the great standards that most people in the United States of America believe about their service members. Throughout our lives, most Soldiers have worn different masks with certain jobs before joining the military that are contrary to their MOS. Many Soldiers in the Guard and

Reserve have professional jobs outside their calling to serve in the military. Yet, with constant integrity and perseverance, our Soldiers take the mask of being an honorable person to the next level. Gone are the days with cardboard cutouts, cheap, plastic figures from the Halloween story in the local mall, and that crazy friend from work wearing his/her "unusual" costume. Now, the Soldiers on Camp Taji wear the masks of the brave men and women who have gone before us in the fight for our freedom against terrorism. They have not only conquered the missions of the past months on this deployment with their loyalty and duty, but they will "attack" the future with the same passionate determination to remember the memories of those who have given their all for freedom.

During this great time of the year when our children look for a possible costume to raid the local neighborhood for some candy bars and lollipops, let us continue to say thanks for our Soldiers' dedication to the cause of serving their fellow countrymen in the US Armed Forces. Please continue to write and/or email your loved ones in Iraq telling them about how proud you are of them during this deployment. The memories made during this deployment will last of lifetime!!

Who's behind that mask? 🧡

Chapel Service Times

Holland Hope (Bldg 97)

Sunday
1000 General Protestant
1300 Church of Christ
1600 Catholic Mass
Wednesday
1900 Bible Study
POC: SGT Clark 834-1124/1161

Warrior Chapel (Bldg 510)

Sunday
0800 Christian Worship
0900 Sunday School
1000 Contemporary Service
1200 Catholic Mass
1400 LDS Service
1500 LDS Bible Study
1800 Contemporary Protestant

Tuesday
1900 Catholic Mass

Wednesday
2000 Bible Study

Saturday
2000 International Service
POC: SGT Dinsmore 834-3329/242-6501

Spirit & Truth Worship Chapel(Bldg 639)

Sunday
1000 Gospel Service
1800 Contemporary Protestant
Monday

1830 Spirit & Truth Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday
1830 Bible Study

Thursday
1600 Ugandan Service

Friday
1800 Men's Bible Study
1900 Wicca Open Circle
POC: PV2 Schommer 834-1049

Holland Hope (Bldg 97)

Sunday
0930 Contemporary Gospel
1100 Traditional Protestant
1300 Church of Christ
1600 Catholic Mass

Tuesday
1900 Bible Study

Thursday
1900 Bible Study
POC: SGT Clark 834-1124/1161

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Friday
1800 Men's Bible Study
1900 Wicca Open Circle
POC: PV2 Schommer 834-1049

This schedule lists primary services only. See individual Chapel for other Studies, Rehearsals, and Special Programs
POC : geoffrey.wagner@iraq.centcom.mil



Newly promoted Chief Petty Officer David T. Spradlin passes through the sideboys, a Navy tradition done to honor the new Chief. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

Camp Taji Sailors earn their anchors

By Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr
155th BCT

The United States Navy is wrought with tradition, from the bells on ships to crossing the equator rituals, but none may be as exciting as the passage from Sailor to Chief Petty Officer, the most significant promotion in the U.S. Navy.

Eleven Sailors from the Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion R-3 were promoted to Chief Petty Officer (E-7) during a ceremony on Camp Taji Sept. 16.

"The Sailors you see before you have spent their whole careers working toward this moment," said the Master of Ceremonies Chief Petty Officer Eric Holmes during the time-honored pinning ceremony.

Achieving the rank of Chief Petty Officer holds far more significance than any other rank in the Navy. It is a rank reserved for only the best Sailors and one full of both privilege and responsibility. New chiefs say goodbye to their "Dixie Cup" Sailor hats and don the same uniforms worn by commissioned officers. They are given separate living quarters and dining areas, where

only other chiefs can enter. They also become a member of the elite "Chief's Mess."

"The biggest thing we impart on them is they are no longer an individual. (They are) a team," said Command Master Chief Ken Schmidt of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., the command master chief of the Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion, R-3. "If one of them is messed up, it reflects on them as a group. When they become a chief, it's not just the mess here; it's the Navy-wide Chief Petty Officer's Mess."

No matter where they are serving, Navy chiefs are always a part of that network, that support group. Camp Taji has its own Navy Chief Petty Officers Association where chiefs can get together and guide one another.

"You ever hear the saying 'ask

the chief?'" asked newly promoted Chief Petty Officer Darryll M. Dorceus of Phoenix, Ariz. "There's nothing that a chief cannot find out or know. He has other chiefs within the community that he or she can go to and say, 'hey I have a Sailor who has a situation, have you ever had something like that once before?'"

But it's not just privilege and camaraderie, the newly promoted chiefs are entrusted with much more responsibility. They become accountable for the junior Sailors and junior officers. They must train them, guide them and know them. They are also expected to work alongside them, leading by example.

"Not only are you responsible for your people, knowing your people, addressing any personal issues and helping them to succeed," said Schmidt, "but it's also being technically competent to where you're the expert now. As the proverbial saying goes, 'the buck stops here.' You're the chief, you are responsible for knowing."

Before pinning on the coveted "fouled anchor," chief selects must go through a series of evaluations rating their military bearing, leadership skills, knowledge, work ethic and teamwork during a five-week board process. It is the first time their record goes in front of a board, which consists of all Master Chiefs (E-9).

"Every Sailor strives to be a chief petty officer, but not all of them make it," said Schmidt.

"I'm blessed. I'm blessed that I have this opportunity. A lot of people don't get to this point," added Dorceus who has served for 12 years.

Of the 11 Sailors pinning on chief,

See CHIEF page 24





A dash of Southern hospitality

Staff Sgt Jamie McCumbee, Capt. Adam Harris, Sgt. John Ford, Spc. Lucas Quinn and Staff Sgt. Stevie Knox (Left to right), all members of the 155th Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi National Guard, hold up cans of "Slap Ya Mama" seasoning Sept. 1 at the Camp Taji Base Defense Operations Center. The Louisiana-based company sent the Soldiers a case of 12 four ounce cans and a bag of samplers free of charge after Knox sent them a letter.

"One day I tried some of the seasoning, loved it, and asked how I go about purchasing some," said Knox. "To my surprise the company sent the case and samplers for free. Talk about a motivator."

Greatly appreciating the gesture, the 155th Soldiers snapped this photo and mailed it back to the company. (Photo by Spc. Jamie Gonzalez)

Nutritional Services Available on Camp Taji

Group classes and individual counseling available for Soldiers on topics to include, but not limited to: weight loss/weight gain, sports/performance nutrition, supplements, general nutrition and healthy eating, eating healthy at the Camp Taji DFACs, etc.

For more information please contact Capt. Julie Hess, Registered Dietitian at the TIFRC Clinic.

DSN 834-4330

julie.hess@iraq.centcom.mil

After Your Breast Cancer Diagnosis: What Next?

by Tyler Patterson
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

"You have breast cancer." A diagnosis of breast cancer can be one of the most terrifying experiences of a person's life. Even if you're expecting it, you're braced for it and you're simply waiting for the confirmation, not much else in the world can change your life as completely as those four words.

In such a trying time, it's good to have the support of your family and your friends—and your TRICARE benefit.

TRICARE Prime, Standard and Extra beneficiaries are entitled to a preventive breast cancer examination every year beginning at age 40. Beneficiaries identified as being at high risk for breast cancer (due to family history, etc.) are covered for annual exams beginning at age 35. These exams offer your best chance at detecting breast cancer early, when it is most easily and effectively treated. In fact, when detected early, the five-year survival rate for breast cancer is 98 percent.

Following your diagnosis, your doctor will likely present you with several choices for treatment. TRICARE covers most options, including mastectomy (the surgical removal of the breast), radiation therapy and chemotherapy. Each of these procedures has its own unique risks and benefits; be sure to discuss your options in detail with your doctor.

TRICARE is also there to help with your post-procedure recovery. If your treatment option results in hair loss, TRICARE will cover the cost of a wig. If you elect to have a mastectomy, TRICARE covers reconstructive breast surgery, as well as two initial mastectomy bras and two replacement bras per calendar year.

Visit www.tricare.mil for more information on your TRICARE benefit. To learn more about breast cancer, visit www.cancer.org.

This month in history

October 1, 1908 - Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.

October 2, 1967 - Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first African American associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

October 3, 1995 - The O.J. Simpson double-murder trial ended with the former American football star acquitted of the murders of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her male friend.

October 4, 1957 - The Space Age began as the Soviets launched the first satellite into orbit, Sputnik.

October 6, 1927 - The first "talkie" opened in New York. *The Jazz Singer* was the first full-length feature film using spoken dialogue.

October 8, 1871 - The Great Fire of Chicago broke out. According to legend, it started when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern in her barn on DeKoven Street. Over 300 persons were killed and 90,000 were left homeless as the fire leveled 3.5 square miles, destroying 17,450 buildings. Financial losses totaled over \$200 million.

October 8, 1918 - During World War I, in the Argonne Forest in France, U.S. Sgt. Alvin C. York single-handedly took out a German machine-gun battalion, killing over a dozen and capturing 132. He was later awarded the U.S. Medal of Honor and the French Croix de Guerre.

October 11, 1939 - Albert Einstein warned President Franklin D. Roosevelt that his theories could lead to Nazi Germany's development of an atomic bomb. Einstein suggested the U.S. develop its own bomb. This resulted in the top secret "Manhattan Project."

October 12, 1492 - After a 33 day voyage, Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World in the Bahamas.

October 13, 1792 - The cornerstone of the White House was laid by George Washington. .

October 14, 1912 - Former President Theodore Roosevelt was shot by a fanatic while campaigning in Milwaukee. Roosevelt was saved by his thick overcoat, a glasses case and a folded speech in his breast pocket, all of which slowed the bullet. Although wounded, he insisted on making the speech with the bullet lodged in his chest and did not go to the hospital until the meeting ended. Roosevelt, a rugged outdoorsman, fully recovered in two weeks.

October 14, 1964 - Civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. He donated the \$54,000 in prize money to the civil rights movement.

October 16, 1995 - The Million Man March took place in Washington, D.C., under the direction of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

October 18, 1945 - The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial began with indictments against 24 former Nazi leaders.

October 19, 1781 - The British Army marched out in formation and surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown. More than 7,000 English and Hessian troops, led by General Lord Cornwallis, surrendered to General George Washington, effectively ending the war between Britain and its American colonies.

October 21, 1879 - Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp with a carbonized filament at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey, keeping it lit for over 13 hours.

October 22, 1962 - President John F. Kennedy appeared on television to inform Americans of the existence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. The President demanded their removal and announced a naval "quarantine" of Cuba. Six days later, the Soviets announced they would remove the weapons. In return, the U.S. later removed missiles from Turkey.

October 23, 1983 - Terrorists drove a truck loaded with TNT into the U.S. And French headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, exploding it and killing 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers.

October 24, 1861 - The first transcontinental telegram in America was sent from San Francisco to Washington, addressed to President Abraham Lincoln from the Chief Justice of California.

October 25-30, 1983 - The Caribbean island of Grenada was invaded by the U.S. to restore "order and democracy." Over 2,000 Marines and Army Rangers seized control after a political coup the previous week had made the island a "Soviet-Cuban colony," according to President Ronald Reagan.

October 27, 1904 - The New York City subway began operating, the first underground and underwater rail system in the world.

October 28, 1886 - The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

October 28, 1919 - Prohibition began in the U.S. with the passage of the National Prohibition (Volstead) Act by Congress. Sales of drinks containing more than one half of one percent of alcohol became illegal. Called a "noble experiment" by Herbert Hoover, prohibition last nearly 14 years and became highly profitable for organized crime which manufactured and sold liquor in saloons called speakeasies.

October 29, 1929 - The stock market crashed as over 16 million shares were dumped amid tumbling prices. The Great Depression followed and spread worldwide, lasting until the outbreak of World War II.

October 30, 1938 - The *War of the Worlds* radio broadcast panicked millions of Americans. Actor Orson Welles and the Mercury Players dramatized the story by H.G. Wells depicting a Martian invasion of New Jersey. Their script utilized simulated radio news bulletins which many listeners thought were real.

October 31, 1941 - Mount Rushmore National Memorial was completed after 14 years of work. The memorial contains 60 foot tall sculptures of the heads of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.



Chief Petty Officer Brian Rempe places a new cover on newly promoted Chief Petty Officer Troy Kapoi Sept. 16 as Chief Petty Officer David Henricks and Command Master Chief Ken Schmidt stand by. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

CHIEF continued from page 21

their time in service ranged from just over 10 years to 19 and a half years, just shy of the mandatory retirement age for E-6.

"It's never too late, so don't give up," advised Schmidt, a 26-year veteran. "The Navy rewards sustained superior performance."

The Sailors each prepared for this momentous promotion in their own way. Chief Petty Officer Troy Kapoi of Maui, Hawaii, one of the newly promoted chiefs said he prepared by "volunteering..., striving to be the best out of everybody, a lot of studying, reading take manuals, books, just to learn my rate and military bearing and other things.... And just being interactive with my junior Sailors and officers because they're the ones who actually got me here."

Once they have been selected, chief selects must go through a six-week induction where they learn about being Navy Chiefs. Working around their busy schedules, the Sailors and their mentors get together daily to PT and learn about mentorship, counseling, dealing with Sailors, recognition programs, time management and other leadership tools, as well as the history and significance of the rank they are about to earn.

"You sit with the seasoned chiefs and you talk to them and they enlighten you with the role of being of a chief, and you learn the history. It's interesting it's very good," said Dorceus.

"It's like history you're reliving every day," he added.

The Chief induction is also meant to build unity and camaraderie amongst the new chiefs.

"We all bonded together from day one and supported each other to make it through these past six weeks and it was a great feeling," said Kapoi.

The Selectees chose sponsors to help them get through the strenuous and time-consuming induction. The sponsors offered reinforcement and support.

"The sponsor is someone that the selectee can go to if they're not understanding or having a tough time. It's kind of like the voice of reason," explained Schmidt.

The selectees were also given charge book, a Navy tradition dating back to World War II. New chiefs are supposed to seek out seasoned chiefs and ask them to sign their book. It is a way for the senior enlisted leaders to impart their guidance and wisdom on the junior chiefs, as well as allowing the junior chiefs the opportunity to get out and meet other chiefs.

During the afternoon ceremony, the chiefs were given new covers, new rank insignias and a new title. They struggled to hold back smiles as the whistle was blown and they passed through their fellow chiefs who rendered salutes to the new chiefs. Sailors and Soldiers from across the base came to offer their congratulations and applauded loudly at the ceremony's end. It was a day the eleven new chief petty officers will never forget as they begin their new role in the United States Navy.

Camp Taji's Newest Chief Petty Officers

Storekeeper Chief Lualhati Apuya
 Aviation Electronics Technician Chief Lisa M. Banta
 Aviation Ordnanceman Chief Philip Brousseau
 Aviation Electronics Technician Chief Travis A. Egly
 Master-at-Arms Chief Darryll M. Dorceus
 Machinist's Mate Chief Troy Kapoi
 Aviation Electronics Technician Chief Ian C. Masayeva
 Aviation Machinist's Mate Chief David T. Spradlin
 Boatswain's Mate Chief Samuel Tate
 Aircrewman Mechanical Chief Frank Vealencis

DRAGONS FOSTER PROGRESS IN TAJI MARKET

BY Pfc. Adam Halleck
1ST BCT

"There was a lot of blood, sweat and tears shed in order to make this market safe," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien, who returned to the Taji market, Sept. 10, a place he knew all too well during his last deployment, here. "A lot has changed in the short time we were gone."

Lien serves as the civil capacity and essential services officer for the 1st "Dragon" Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, a duty much different than serving as a senior cavalry scout in a maneuver troop, the duty he performed in this very market during his last rotation.

"Last tour we patrolled one of the most dangerous places in all of Iraq," explained Lien, who spent the bulk of his previous 15-month deployment battling the insurgency that was common in Taji. "There were snipers and improvised explosive devices all around this market before. Now the residents walk up and down a bustling marketplace with hundreds of restaurants, shops and small businesses. The people here are happy and are continuing a sense of normalcy on a day to day basis."

Lien visited the market to evaluate the progress of a public works project that he oversees. The project, with a Taji area contractor, faced many road blocks well before Lien assumed it. Since Lien has taken charge the project continues to make progress.

"Forty percent of the work is done, a couple weeks ago when we came



Cambridge, Mass., native, Staff Sgt. Carlos Madden, a civil affairs team leader assigned to 1479 Civil Affairs Company, talks to local children while he and Dragons troops evaluate the progress of a public works project in Taji, Sep. 10. (Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck)

here I couldn't say the same," said Lien, who added that the goal of repainting all market buildings is complete.

To complete the project, arrangements to rid the market of trash and debris are currently being made.

"The hardest challenge is eliminating the malingering that led the contract to become overdue originally," explained Lien, who has already seen progress in a project he's only overseen for two weeks.

The changes and overall progression of the market became more apparent as Lien and Soldiers from the "Dragon" personal security detachment walked the market.

"Last tour we spent a lot of time

battling the militants who made Taji such a dangerous place," said Chicago, Ill., native, Sgt. Stephen Hale, a team leader assigned to the "Dragon" PSD, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Batt., 82nd FA Regt., 1st BCT. "It's a good feeling to come back and see a complete turn-around in the area."

For these U.S. troops, the Taji market is proof that years of hard work fostered historic changes within the country. The market provides a personal sense of pride for the "Dragons". The Soldiers understand there is still work to be done as they continue to focus on public works projects and providing the essential services to the people of Iraq. 🇮🇶



Help us make the Taji Times better!

What type of things is your unit doing? We want to know! Send your stories, story ideas and/or photographs to brent.lindley@iraq.centcom.mil and/or jonathan.white@iraq.centcom.mil by the 1st of each month.

Photographs need to be in a JPEG or TIFF format. Please include a Microsoft Word document identifying who is in the photo (Identification = full name, rank, unit, duty position and hometown), what they are doing, when and where.

Don't forget to tell us who took the photos and/or who wrote the story!

Camp Taji Fire Department



The Camp Taji Fire Department gives Fire Warden classes every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at Fire Station 1 (across from the Pax Terminal). The class is designed to teach assigned fire wardens their responsibilities, as well as proper use of a fire extinguisher, 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 / KBR: 713-970-5131

Camp Taji Phone Numbers

Support

Mayor Cell work orders: 834-1351
 Billeting: 834-1334
 Base Support Operations: 834-3084
 Dept. of Public Works: 834-3180
 Chaplain's Office: 834-3001
 Safety Office 834-3148

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 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 Mon - Sat

Swimming Pool

0600 - 1900 (seasonal)

Level II Medical Sick Call

0800-1100 & 1930-2200 Mon - Fri

0800-1000 & 1930-2130 Sat - Sun

Emergencies 24 Hours / 7 Days

(Patients must have a sick call slip signed by their 1SG or CMDR to be seen, unless an emergency)

Dining Facility Hours

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 - 1400

Dinner: 1700 - 2030

Midnight: 2300 - 0030



CAMP TAJI COMBAT STRESS

Clinic Classes:

~ Monday	1000	Anger Management
~ Tuesday	1000	Stress Management
~ Wednesday	1000	Relaxation
~ Thursday	1000	Conflict Resolution
	1500	Sleep
~ Friday	1500	Tobacco Cessation

All classes are held on a walk-in basis at the Combat Stress Clinic (Bldg 632). No appointment necessary

ADAPT (Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment) class will be held during the 3rd week of the month from Tuesday – Thursday 0830-1130. Service members must sign up the Monday prior.

Clinic Services:

- ~ Individual confidential counseling
- ~ Suicide Awareness Briefings
- ~ Sexual Assault Briefings
- ~ R & R Briefings
- ~ Tobacco Cessation
- ~ Redeployment Briefings
- ~ Stress Management
- ~ Combat Stress Awareness

Clinic Hours:

Mon – Fri 0800-1700 Closed from 1200-1300 for Lunch
 Tues – 0800-1600 Closed from 1200-1300 for Lunch
 Sat – 0800-1200
 Sun – Closed
 For after-hour emergencies report to the TMC

Call the Combat Stress Team at DSN: 834-1050 or SIPR: 242-6950, e-mail taji.55thMedicalCoCS@iraq.centcom.mil, or stop by building 632 (at the corner of Sooner & 37th) to set up an appointment, get more information or just to visit



SUDOKU SOLUTION

Puzzle on page 9

7	5	6	9	1	3	2	4	8
4	1	2	5	6	8	9	7	3
8	9	3	2	4	7	5	6	1
9	7	4	8	5	1	3	2	6
6	8	5	3	2	9	4	1	7
2	3	1	4	7	9	8	5	6
1	4	9	7	3	2	6	8	5
3	2	7	9	8	5	1	9	4
5	9	8	1	9	4	7	3	2

TAJI TIMES INFORMATION



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TO SUBMIT ARTICLES, PHOTOS, OR STORY IDEAS,
 E-MAIL BRENT.LINDLEY@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL
 PHOTOS NEED TO BE IN A JPEG OR TIFF
 FORMAT. PLEASE INCLUDE IN THE E-MAIL OR IN A
 SEPARATE DOCUMENT: WHO IS IN THE PHOTO,
 WHAT IS GOING ON WHEN AND WHERE IT WAS
 TAKEN, AND WHO TOOK THE PHOTO.