



Taji Times

CAMP TAJI, IRAQ INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 15, 2009
4TH EDITION



CAMP TAJI, Iraq—An AH-64D Apache attack helicopter (left) flies alongside an Iraqi UH-1 Huey (right), during a joint air mission between 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd Squadron of the Iraqi Air Force, Oct. 21. See full story on page 9. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

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The Taji Times is a publication of the 155 Garrison Command, Camp Taji, Iraq. Requests for reprints should be addressed to CPT Brent Lindley (brent.lindley@us.army.mil).

Past issues of the Taji Times can be found at http://www.dvidshub.net/index.php?script=pubs/pubs_show.php&id=229

Pacesetter Retrograde Yard

By Capt. Brent Lindley
155 BCT

The Pacesetter Retrograde Yard has a mission: turn in excess equipment now instead of later. The yard takes all types of equipment with minimal requirements from the unit. The unit can turn in a 20-foot container full with equipment and only needs to provide a two to four man detail to download it. Soldiers from the 541st CSSB will sort, classify and code the equipment for turn in. Additional help (from units turning equipment in) is always welcomed. Returning excess equipment into the Pacesetter Retrograde Yard is easy for units and helps save money for the United States government. The process is outlined below.



PACESETTER RETROGRADE YARD

Located at the intersection of Razorback Avenue and 46th Street:
BLDG 599; Hrs of Operation: 0800-1700hrs Mon-Sat

Excess Turn In Procedures

1. Unit stops and checks in with OIC/NCIOC (Bldg 595)
2. Retrograde Yard OIC / NCOIC will direct where to drop the container or equipment.

Items Accepted

1. Serviceable items with stock numbers (CL IX)
2. Unserviceable / Unrepairable (DRMO)
3. P9H (repairable, non-stock listed, "serviceability unknown")
4. Class VIII (CLS bags, back boards etc.)
5. Communications equipment (radio parts, antennas, etc.)

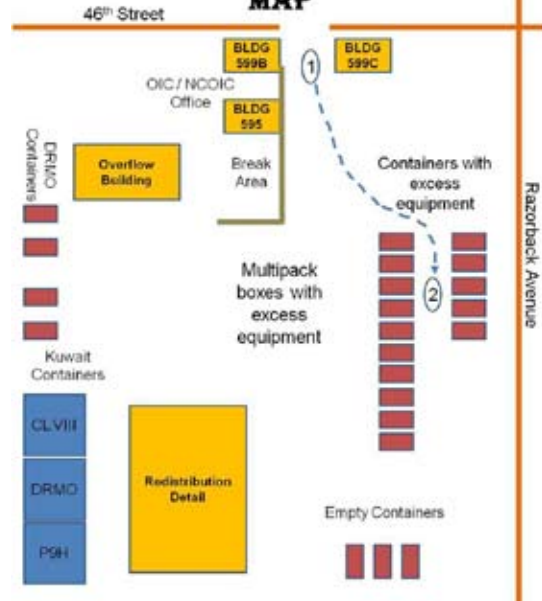
Items Not Accepted

1. Trash
2. HAZMAT (turn in to Taji HAZMAT collection point)
3. Ammunition (turn in to Taji ATHP)
4. Fire Extinguishers (turn in to Taji Fire Department)
5. CL VII (vehicles, trailers, battle damaged equipment)
6. Theatre provided equipment (TPE), get disposition instructions from your S4.

- If unit brings in one or more containers, unit must provide a two-four Soldier detail to help sort out equipment being turned in. Prior coordination for RTCH support is required.
- If it is only one to two multipack boxes, pallets, crates, or flat racks, unit can drop off behind Bldg 596.



PACESETTER RETROGRADE YARD MAP



SAFETY NOTES

By Capt. Brent Lindley,
155 BCT

The temperature is getting cooler, and there may be temptation to have a space-heater mailed from home, or purchased off the local market. The Camp Taji Garrison Command strongly discourages the use of space heaters. "Annex Q" of the Tenant SOP lists the requirements for having a space heater. However, this policy is being currently being revised to ultimately ban space heaters due to the risk of fire. Most fires due to space heaters arise from combustibles being placed too closely to the space heater. Because space heaters, in general, do not regulate how much heat is released, the danger of causing a fire is ever present. Data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimate that space heaters, including both fixed and portable varieties, are associated with about residential fires every year in the United States. Approximately 300 people die each year in fires started by heaters. According to the National Fire Protection Association, supplemental heating equipment, such as electrical and kerosene heaters, is the leading cause of home fires in the United States during the months of December, January and February.

FIRE WARDEN & FIRE EXTINGUISHER CLASSES

WSLLC Fire & Emergency Services



When: Every Wednesday at 0900

Where: Bldg 150 near Taji PAX Terminal

No need to sign up, First Come, First Serve

Any questions please contact Ron Bailey at number or email below.

WSLLC Fire & Emergency Services

Ron Bailey
Fire Inspectors Office
WSLLC / CS
APO, AE 90378

Phone: 713-970-3619
DSN: 834-3372
E-mail:
ronald.bailey@kbr.com



TAJI TALENT SHOW

By Capt. Brent Lindley
155 BCT

Camp Taji hosted a talent show on Oct. 30. Twenty-five Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and civilian contractors performed to a crowd of nearly 700, filling the Jon Schoolcraft Pavilion.

The show allowed the contestants to showcase their talents. Performance acts included singing, guitar playing, modern dance, hip hop dance, poetry, hula dancing and more.

First Lt. Charles Ramsey, 3-227 Aviation Regiment, served as the emcee for the event. This was the largest attended event since the 155 Garrison Command arrived at Camp Taji. As the MWR



Sgt. Jathan Price of the 155 Brigade Combat Team opening the show with Sgt. Mark Shell, singing a song Sgt. Price wrote during his time at Camp Taji. (photo by Sgt. Beverly Price)

Coordinator, I would like to thank each of our talented performers and all who attended for making the event such a success. The next talent show will be Dec. 31.



Nearly 700 military personnel and civilians attend the Camp Taji Talent Show on Oct. 30. (photo by Capt. Anthony John)



Participants in the Camp Taji Talent Show on Oct. 30 gather for a picture at the conclusion of the show. (photo by Capt. Anthony John)

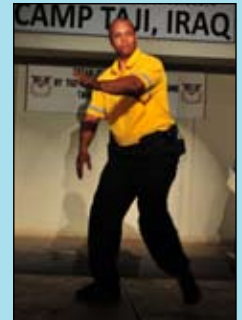


Pfc. Sarah Stevens, from Arizona, performs "modern dance" at the Camp Taji Talent Show Oct. 30. Pfc. Stevens is with the 3666 Service Maintenance Company.



SpC. Terrence Upchurch of Grand Rapids, Mich., 2-107 Cavalry, finishing his step show performance with a crisp salute. Photo by Capt. Anthony John.

Pfc. Michael Hamilton, 26th Military Police Detachment, from Colorado Springs, Col., presents a hip hop dance during the Camp Taji Talent Show. (Photo by Capt. Anthony John)



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Warrior Chapel (Bldg 510)
Monday thru Saturday
(by appointment)
0900 - 1700 hours
POC: SGT Dinsmore
242-6501 or 834-3329



Cooper Reese, an Iraqi Air Force Aviation Advisor, performs during the first open mic night at the Jon Schoolcraft Pavilion, Friday, Oct. 6th. Open Mic night is open to singers, guitar players, etc who would like to perform on the first and third Fridays each month, beginning at 1900 hours. (photo by Capt. Lindley)

Service Members Run Great TIFRC Escape 10K

By 1st Lt. Casey Schroeder
TIFRC Personnel Officer

“The event really was a fantastic combination of organizational effort from the sponsoring Theater Internment Facility-Reconciliation Center (TIFRC) clinic and great participation from both the TIFRC and Taji,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Hepburn, TIFRC clinic chief medical officer. One hundred and twenty-seven Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and civilian employees ran The Great TIFRC Escape 10K Run on Nov. 1st, 2009. This was the first Camp Taji run that started at the TIFRC. The sponsoring unit was the Taji TIFRC Medical Clinic, which is composed of the 294th Area Support Medical Company (ASMC) and the 14th

Combat Support Hospital.

The run started at 0700 hours at the Burn Pit MWR facility on North Taji. The route took the runners from the TIFRC towards Tomahawk

was an impressive show of tenacity, courage, and camaraderie.”

Senior Airman Matthew Klundt, with the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Detachment



Soldiers, Sailors and civilians start the "TIFRIC Great Escape 10K Run Nov. 1. (photo by Sgt. Beverly Price)



Senior Airman Matthew Klundt, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Detachment 3, is first to cross the finish line (photo by 1st Lt Schroeder)

Village and up around Stryker Village.

Capt. Joseph Provateare, 294th ASMC executive officer, said “you could not have asked for a better day. The weather was perfect and the event well organized.” The run consisted of units from the TIFRC, as well as numerous units from the main post. Good fun was had by all participants.

All runners completed the course in just over an hour. While the roads were a little slick and in some cases bumpy, there were no injuries among the runners. All runners were determined to challenge themselves and complete the course in the quickest time possible. Maj. Kenneth Coy, TIFRC dental OIC from the 204th ASMC, said “the run

3, won the race by completing the course in 34 minutes. He was followed by Staff Sgt. Jason Schoenfeld, of the 96th Sustainment Brigade. The 3rd Place Male Runner was Sgt. 1st Class Jose Pereyda, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq. The fastest female runner was Petty Officer 2nd Class Celeste Dunlap, Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion, who ran the race in 43 minutes. The 2nd Place Female Runner was Sgt. Kami Carpenter, 294th ASMC, while the 3rd Place Female Runner was Sgt. Kari Dietch, 294th ASMC.

Maj. Michael McVey, 294th ASMC Commander said, “I am proud of all the Clinic Soldiers for not only doing extremely well, but for just participating and supporting the event.”

The needs are greater than ever

5 October through 4 December

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Give today at cfcoverseas.org or contact your unit's CFC-O Representative.

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2009

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN-OVERSEAS



WARRIOR CHAPEL

The Truth project

Wednesdays:

04 November • 11 November
18 November • 25 November
02 December • 09 December
16 December • 23 December
30 December • 06 January

Time:
20:00 Hours

Facilitators:

Chaplain, Cpt. Jeff Pyun & Mr. Lin Thompson

MWR ATHLETICS

PUNT, PASS & KICK



REGISTRATION CLOSES: Wednesday, Nov 25th 1545

CONTEST: Wednesday, Nov 25th @ 1600

PLACE: TAJI SPORTS COMPLEX (across from swimming pool)

ELIGIBILITY: ALL SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS

DIVISIONS: MEN'S AGE GROUPS 18-29, 30-39 & 40+
WOMEN'S AGE GROUP 18 & UP

EVENTS: PUNT, PASS AND KICK FROM A TEE WILL BE USED. NO CLEATS ONLY SOFT SOLED SNEAKERS WILL BE ALLOWED.

FORMAT: EACH PERSON WILL GET TWO ATTEMPTS AT EACH EVENT. SCORES ARE DETERMINED ON DISTANCE AND ACCURACY, WITH WINNERS DETERMINED BY THE HIGHEST TOTAL SCORE.

AWARDS: MEDALS AND PICTURES



Turkey Trot 5K Run

Thursday 26 November 2009



Jon Schoolcraft Pavilion
Run Begins at 7am
No Registration Required

5 ON 5 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT XMAS DASH

**STARTS
NOV 30TH
Bldg # 621T**

Coaches Meeting
Nov 29, 2009 @ 1800
Bldg # 621 T
Referees come from the units

POC : ron.scanlon@kbr.com

5 ON 5 MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT XMAS DASH

Starts Nov 30th
Bldg 621T

Coaches Meeting
Nov 29, 2009 @ 1800
Bldg # 621 T

Referees come from the units (coach must be E6 or above.)

POC: ron.scanlon@kbr.com

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
Referees come from the units

POC Ron.Scanlon@kbr.com

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

1st ACB Assists in Joint Air Assault

By Sgt. Alun Thomas
1st ACB

The realization of a fully independent Iraqi Army came one step nearer with a joint air assault between U.S. and IA Soldiers here, Oct. 26.

American and Iraqi ground Soldiers participated in the air assault, with both sides flying in their respective aircrafts, UH-60 Black Hawks and MI-17 Hip helicopters.

The mission was a significant occasion because of the involvement of the Iraqi Air Force, said 1st Lt. Bradley Whitnell, from Chicago, executive officer, Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"This is a pretty important event because we've managed to partner ourselves with the Iraqi Air Force," he said. "This makes it the first truly joint American/Iraqi air assault across the board, from aviation all the way down to the ground units."

The air assault was the result of extensive training between both sides.

"It's a unique experience for us because at the ground level we've been integrated the entire time we've been out here," Whitnell said. "But in terms of across the spectrum, combined arms, this is the first real culminating event of the joint experience that we've seen." Whitnell said the Iraqi ground forces have come a long way from slow beginnings.

"They're at the point now where the intelligence driving the operation is Iraqi intelligence. We did a combined rehearsal with American and Iraqi aviation and ground forces, so in terms of their sophistication and capabilities it's really been impressive."

The aviation support from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade was outstanding, Whitnell said.

"They have been great help for us and are really surging to support this operation, with the birds and the Blues Platoon. They've given us everything they've got this morning and have been a big help in the planning process.



Under the morning sun, Iraqi army soldiers walk out to their aircrafts to conduct a joint air assault mission with Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Oct. 26.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter (foreground) from 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and an Iraqi air force MI-17 Hip helicopter, land to pick up American and Iraqi Soldiers, Oct 26.

mander, 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st ACB.

"Today we have an assault battalion working with the Iraqi's for the first time," Metzger said. "We had a couple of training exercises, but this is the first time we'll do a real world mission with them."

Hopefully this will get both countries working better for future missions so they can continue to expand their role on how they provide security for the Iraqi people," he said.

Metzger said the Iraqi's have steadily developed during the first half of the current 1st ACB deployment.

"The [Iraqi] pilots are super pilots, but then again we have to remember they're Iraqi Air Force, which is just like [U.S.] Air Force and Army learning to work together," Metzger said. "Here we have two different worlds. These guys are experienced pilots but they just haven't done a lot of air assault stuff in the last five to 10 years."

The air assault exercise would be a learning curve for the Iraqi pilots, Metzger said.

"It's something very new for them to experience air assaults into a [landing zone], so I think it will be a great capability for them to add to their arsenal," he said.

The training had taken a crawl, walk, run approach, Metzger said, but the air assault is definitely the run stage for the Iraqi's.

"They are now running pretty fast," Metzger said. "This is a complex mission, but I think we have the right control measures and we absolutely have the right pilots both on the Iraqi and American side to make this work."



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and Iraqi Army Soldiers from 3rd Company, 2nd Battalion, 37 IA Brigade, line up to load onto aircraft for a joint air assault mission, Oct. 26. The mission was supported by UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cav. Div., and Iraqi air force MI-17 Hip helicopters.

Cavalry, IA Troopers Share Struggle To Earn Silver Spurs

By Pfc. Adam Halleck

1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

To be inducted in the Order of the Spur and earn the privilege of wearing silver spurs, he must survive a demanding test of tactical and technical knowledge.

Known as a "Spur Ride", the twenty four hour plus event is considered one of the most physically and mentally grueling Army traditions that dates back to the beginning of the United States Cavalry.

On Nov. 7, ninety seven troopers of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion and the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, along with six Iraqi Army

Soldiers from the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, challenged themselves during a "Spur Ride" for their chance to be inducted in the Order of the Spur.

In the former days of the Cavalry the uninitiated Soldiers were called "Shave Tails", a reference to the shaved tails of their horses which symbolized that the troopers inexperience and unproven skills.

During the event, candidates are pushed to their physical limits during a ten mile road march. The experience is conducted by the troopers' peers, superiors and subordinates, all of whom earned their silver spurs during a previous spur ride.

"Come on ops! You know you want this," shouted spur holder 1st Sgt. William Aimes to the battalion operations sergeant major, Sgt. 1st Class Ward Wright, who was participating in hopes of receiving his induction.

"You can't task me out here, but I can make you low crawl," joked Aimes, the senior non commissioned officer assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment.

The spur holders pull no punches when testing the candidates. The basis behind a "Spur Ride" is to test the versatility of a cavalryman to work as a member of a team

under extreme levels of stress and fatigue.

"They (the spur holders) make it very tough to earn your spurs," said Spc. Phillip Hobbs, an administrations specialist assigned to the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment who was inducted after completing the "Spur Ride".

"Not only do you have to road march ten miles, you have to survive the physical and mental stresses the spur holders put on you," added Hobbs, who is a native of Louisville, Kentucky. "It's a great feeling when you're done though, because you and your team have proven yourselves as cavalrymen."

As a cavalryman, being inducted into the Order of the Spur provides legitimacy in troopers' abilities because hav-

ing possession of spurs is an indication of a Soldier's experience.

"A long time ago not having spurs meant you were an amateur, unskilled and unproven," said Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler, commander of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment. "It was only through training, preparation, and testing did the candidate emerge as a peer among real troopers."

"Last night was a sort of validation," added Ozark, Ala. native, Schwegler, during the Order of the Spur induction ceremony. "You qualified yourselves to stand among a lot of great cavalry troopers that have earned the right to wear these silver spurs."

Maintaining the tradition of the Order of the Spur is one way that Soldiers here connect to the history of the United States Army. Sharing their traditions with their Iraqi counterparts leaves a lasting impact and strengthens camaraderie between both security forces.

"It was a great experience to do this with our American friends," said Pfc. Ayad Madhloom Husain, an Iraqi Army Soldier who earned his spurs during the event. "I hope that we in the Iraqi army can one day have our own traditions as well."



CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Ozark, Ala. native, Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler (right), commander of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, awards the Order of the Spur to Pfc. Ayad Madhloom Husain, an Iraqi army Soldier assigned to the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, after he completed a "Spur Ride" at Camp Taji Nov. 8. Husain is one of six Iraqi Soldiers who participated in the "Spur Ride". (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)



Camp Taji Pool Closes November 29th (for the season)

Air Cav, IAF fly joint mission over Baghdad

By Sgt. Travis Zielinski

1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Through a growing foundation of trust, friendship and detailed planning, two separate armed forces have taken their abilities to higher levels.

The leadership of 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, has spent the last six months working with 2nd Squadron of the Iraqi Air Force – strengthening bonds.

This close relationship between U.S. military aviators and the IAF resulted in two AH-64D Apache attack helicopters and two Iraqi UH-1 helicopters flying in formation together on a mission over Baghdad, Oct. 21, to display the combined strength of the partnership.

The main goal of the flight was to reiterate the trust between both the 1-227th and 2nd Squadron, said Lt. Col. Charles Dalcourt, from Baton Rouge, La., commander, 1-227 Aviation Regiment.

“We want to show the Iraqi people, through this flight demonstration, that we’re linked together,” Dalcourt said. “Our relationship is solid and the Iraqi Air Force has emerged as a premier and pre-eminent force here in Iraq for movement of their troops.”

Dalcourt said he established a relationship with 2nd Squadron on his last deployment to Iraq, which made the day a special one.

“This day has evolved through a lot of work over the last three and four years,” Dalcourt said. “To come to this point is not only a great sign of progress, but also a great sign of the mutual trust that has developed between the United States Army and the Iraqi Air Force.”

The American aviators took a step towards the background as the Iraqi pilots ran the mission briefing and took the lead on the flight itself, showing the ability of the Iraqi Air Force to stand on its own, Dalcourt said.

“They are very competent pilots and many of them have upwards of over 5,000 hours (of flying),” Dalcourt said. “They’ve fought in the Iraq-Iran war and they’ve been fixed wing as well as rotary wing aviators, so they’re very capable.”

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frank Almeraz, from Albuquerque, N.M., the standardization pilot in 1-227th, said although the Americans offered assistance, the Iraqi’s briefed the bulk of the mission themselves.

“We discussed the differences between the [Iraqi] Air Force and Army, but we tend to be more similar in the way we do things than I thought,” Almeraz said.

The joint mission was the first step in what Almeraz hoped would be a series of similar flights.

“Today is a plain, just getting started type of scenario,” Almeraz said. “We want to continue doing these missions and hopefully they’ll (the IAF) become more detailed.”



CAMP TAJI, Iraq—Two Iraqi UH-1 Hueys (right) from 2nd Squadron, Iraqi Air Force, and two U.S. AH-64D Apache attack helicopters (left), from 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, return to Camp Taji, Iraq, Oct. 21, after completing a joint air mission over Baghdad. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

After numerous deployments, Almeraz said this was the first time he had flown an Apache alongside a Huey.

“This is my fourth trip to Iraq ... my third at Taji and we’ve never been able to do a joint mission together,” Almeraz said. “Sometimes we would do stuff where they would come from one side and we’d come from another, but we wouldn’t really mix. Today we will be part of the same formation.”

Flying in formation shows the advances made

by both sides, Almeraz said.

“From the first time we came here, this is the point we wanted to get to,” Almeraz said. “It shows the progress between the Iraqi Air Force and the [U.S.] Army.”

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

CAMP TAJI AT A GLANCE



Black smoke is visible as an M109A6 "Paladin" assigned to Battery B "Pacesetters", 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, projects an M795 High Explosive artillery round during a fire mission that was observed by the deputy Commanding General of Maneuvers of the 1st Cavalry Division, Brig. Gen. John Murray and Rusafa Area Command Chief of Staff, Gen. Ayad to Firebase Mayhem on Camp Taji, Oct. 8. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)



Kenton, Ohio native Brig. Gen. John Murray (L), deputy commanding general of maneuver of the 1st Cavalry Division, poses for a picture alongside Gen. Ayad, the chief of staff for the Rusafa area command during a visit to Firebase Mayhem on Camp Taji to observe an artillery fire mission, Oct. 8. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)



McComb, Miss., native, Spec. Amanda Martin (left) administers influenza vaccine to Myrtle, Miss. native Sgt. Richard White (right) at Camp Taji's Muleskiner Clinic. Both Soldiers are assigned to the 155th Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Tupelo, MS. The bulk of influenza vaccine was administered to service members during October. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Brent Lindley, 155 BCT)



Cambridge, Mass., native, Staff Sgt. Carlos Madden (left), a civil affairs team leader, speaks with Whitewater, Wis. native, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien, the battalion civil capacity and essential services officer, during an assessment of the Sheikh Abdullah Bridge, Oct. 9. U.S. troops visited two bridge projects in the Taji area, north of Baghdad, that the battalion essential services team oversees. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)

Camp Taji Mud House

By Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jim Maas
96th Sustainment Brigade

Greetings everyone! My name is Chaplain Jim Maas, and I am the chaplain in charge of the Mud House, a Chaplain-sponsored ministry of the 96th Special Troops Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade.



Located at the corner of 30th Street and Black Knight Avenue is a place where you can go to relax and forget about the

toils of life for a while. There is no cover charge. In fact there are no charges at all. All you have to do is show up and enjoy. Be it a slushie, a soda, a cigarillo or a cigar, or a cup of coffee, everything here is free... donated by the people of America for their service members.

The Mud House was founded in June 2007 by two Army Chaplains, Chaplain Troy Morken (BTB, 15th SBDE, 1st Cav) and Chaplain Brandon Moore (407th BSB, 2BCT, 82nd ABN DIV) and serves as a ministry to the people of Camp Taji. Chaplain Morken had a dream of building a coffee house that served the needs of people, and was run by volunteers and supported by the donations of people and organizations.



That dream became a reality and lives at the Mud House. Everything that happens at the Mud House is the result of volunteers and their donations of time and effort. Likewise, all of the equipment and the vast majority of supplies are the result of personal and corporate donations from people back home in the States.

The Mud House is a fully equipped coffee house which is able to produce just about any coffee-based beverage



imaginable that doesn't contain alcohol. We have a state of the art espresso machine, just like you find at any Starbucks. We

also have three slushie machines for those who prefer something a little cooler. Soda and gatorade are also available, along with fresh popcorn.

The drinks are great, but they fall second place to the best thing about the Mud House. It's all about atmosphere! There is a wood deck with seating for about 200 people along with a stage that gets used on



Friday nights for Open Mike Night and Saturday for Karaoke Night. Wireless internet access is available to all, so bring your laptop and get connected for free. Don't feel like sitting around all night? Get up and play some volleyball on a regulation sized, professionally lighted volleyball court. Board games and cards are also available. Two regulation sized horseshoe pits are on hand and music is often played through the intercom system. Enjoy a good cigar? We have Cigar Night every Tuesday. All cigars are donated from State-side vendors.



Do you have a band and need a place to jam? As long as the music is not vulgar and does not degrade or intentionally insult people, you are welcome to bring your talents to the Mud House and share it with everyone. Same thing goes for you budding comics and other performers. Have an act you would like to share? Bring it and share.

Is your unit having a special function and need a place to hold it? Come and talk to me and see about having your event at the Mud House. Barbeque grills are available.

We are all a long ways from home and find ourselves here, together. Let us come together and share a place together, enjoy each other's talents and company, and savor a good cup of coffee

The Mud House is open seven days a week: Sunday – Thursday, 1900 – 2200; Friday – Saturday, 1900 – 2300. Occasionally, the Mud House may be closed to support special events. ♦



96TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE RECEIVES COMBAT PATCH

By Cpl. Richmond Barkemeyer
96 BDE Public Affairs

The Soldiers of the 96th Sustainment Brigade received their wartime shoulder sleeve insignia, commonly referred to as a combat patch, in a ceremony held Oct. 12.

The ceremony marked the first time that the Double Diamond patch has been used during Operation Iraqi Freedom since the 96th SBDE was created in September, 2008.

"I had never really thought about getting a combat patch," said Spc. Jesse Flink, an administrative clerk for Headquarters and Headquarters Company from South Jordan, Utah. "This is my first patch, and my first deployment. I hadn't thought about what a historical moment it is. It's a big deal."

Flink, who has been in the Army Reserve less than two years, says he attended the ceremony because he was excited to see what was going to happen. "They gave us a lot of good information about who we are, and why we're here. It's not just about Utah; this patch has a lot of meaning," he said.

The distinctive shoulder insignia of the 96th SBDE is a white diamond and an overlapping blue diamond, both superimposed over a hexagonal patch with a khaki background.

The Double Diamond design was originally approved for the 96th Division on Feb. 14, 1927. Since the division was organized using personnel from Washington and Oregon, those states are

represented by the two squares. The use of blue and white signify the colors used by the United States.

Col. C.J. Read, a Layton, Utah native and the commander of the 96th Sustainment Brigade, returns a salute after receiving his combat patch from deputy commander Maj. Anthony Francia, a resident of Guam in a ceremony held Oct. 11, 2009. (photo by Anthony John)



represented by the two squares. The use of blue and white signify the colors used by the United States.

Shoulder sleeve insignias originated with the 81st Infantry Division in 1918. After training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and sailing to France, the men of the 81st attached an olive drab felt patch with the silhouette of a wildcat, in honor of Wildcat Creek, which runs through Ft. Jackson. When other divisions challenged their right to wear the patch, Gen. John J. Pershing ruled that the Wildcat Division could keep its patch, and suggested that other divisions develop their own insignia.



Spc. Araceli Balderaz receives her combat patch from Roy, Utah native, Command Sgt. Major Vicki Briggs, the senior enlisted adviser to the 96th Sustainment Brigade, during a patch ceremony held Oct. 11, 2009. Balderaz, a native of Mcallen, Texas, is a SPO effects specialist for the 96th SBDE.

Push Up Contest Winner



Spc. Josue Janiola (center), from New Milford, New Jersey is congratulated after winning the Camp Taji "Push Up Contest" on Oct. 11th by Spec. Townes (left) and Staff Sgt. O'Connell (right). All three Soldiers are assigned to the 1479th Civil Affairs Company. Spec. Janiola completed 170 push-ups in less than three minutes. (Photo by Spc. Jamie Gonzalez)

IMPROVE YOUR GT SCORE!



The **60 Hour! Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST)** Course is an intensive class offered by the Camp Taji Education Center that is designed to help soldiers that need **GT Score improvement** for their **math, reading, and vocabulary skills**. The GT Predictor and the ASVAB test will be given upon successful completion of the course.

2nd November – 21st November 2009

M-Sa – 1230-1600L

All materials are provided. **You must take the Pre-TABE exam**, with our **Tester before the class begins, please make sure that you test on the 31st of October @ 1800 or 1st of November @ 0900, there will be no rescheduled exams**. To insure you are set in class you will have to be present the first day of class, and have had your enrollment form signed and returned.

Visit the Camp Taji Education Center to sign up today!

For more information call (318) 834-3336

96TH SBDE ASSUMES AUTHORITY AT CAMP TAJI

By Cpl. Richmond Barkemeyer
96th BDE Public Affairs

The 96th Sustainment Brigade made history Oct. 13 in a Transfer of Authority Ceremony, officially marking the brigade's entrance into Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Col. C.J. Read, a Layton, Utah native and the 96th Sustainment Brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Vicki Briggs, from Roy, Utah and the senior enlisted advisor to the 96th SBDE, unfurl the brigade's colors in a ceremony Oct. 14. (Photo by Cpl. Richmond Barkemeyer)

In a speech given shortly after the transfer of authority was complete, Col. C.J. Read, commander of the 96th SBDE, and a resident of Layton, Utah, thanked the outgoing brigade, and promised to maintain the high standards set by the 10th SBDE Muleskinners. Read also challenged his Soldiers to lead by example, live the Army values, and "make life-changing goals that leave a legacy that they and their families will be proud of."

Col. Mark Drake, commander of the 10th SBDE,

Col. C.J. Read addresses the crowd at the Transfer of Authority ceremony held here Oct. 14. Read said he is "proud and honored to take the reins, mission and legacy of supporting Multi-National Division – Baghdad" from the 10th Sustainment Brigade, which is returning to Fort Drum, N.Y., after a year-long tour at Camp Taji. (Photo by Cpl. Richmond Barkemeyer)



and a St. Paul, Minn., native, also spoke during the ceremony, thanking his troops for their hard work over the previous year. "All your efforts focused on the single objective to support and sustain the customer, and you did that magnificently," said Drake.

This is the first deployment to Iraq for the 96th since being reorganized into a sustainment brigade in September, 2008. The 96th SBDE traces its history back to World War I and the creation of the 96th Infantry Division. Transformed several times over the years, the 96th became a Regional Readiness Command in 1996.

On July 5th, 2009, the newly formed 96th SBDE deployed to Fort Hood, Texas, for mobilization and deployment in-processing and training, achieving full mission capability in August, 2009. Shortly thereafter, the brigade travelled to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, for theatre-specific training, before arriving at Camp Taji. ♦



(Above) Col. Greg Kennedy, of Madison, Miss., 1st Lt. Lane Russell, of Hattiesburg, Miss. and Lt. Col. Phillip Parker, of Summit, Miss. play music during the Oct. 26th 8a.m. hour worship service at Warrior Chapel (Bldg 510). Master Sgt. McCullough (not pictured) plays drums. Staff Sgt. Wesley Grissom (not pictured) leads the music worship. The music worship group is named "The \$1.55 Praise Band." The band has been playing for the 0800 hour Christian worship service since the beginning of October. All Soldiers are assigned to the 155th Brigade Combat Team. (photo by Sgt. Beverly Price)



(Right) From back, Spc Nick Verner from Myrtle, Miss., Maj. Michael Hunter from Starkville, Miss., Maj. Jerry May from Newton, Miss., Lt. Col. John Harlan from Jackson, Miss., Cpl. Christopher Null (Unk hometown), Maj. Derek Hollan from Pontotoc, Miss and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Mills from Pontotoc, Miss. pose for a picture, imitating the famous crossing of the Potomac River by Gen. George Washington. All Soldiers are assigned to the 155th Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Tupelo, Miss. (photo by Staff Sgt. John Christ)

Operation Back to School: Mission 2

By Capt. Brent Lindley
155th BCT

In a joint operation with Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 36th Iraqi Army mechanized brigade, U.S. Soldiers made the second "Operation Back to School" delivery to a rural school in Iraq, north of Camp Taji, Iraq Nov. 1.

Linking up before dawn, members of Operation Back to School loaded 150 school kits prior to the rendezvous with the 36th Iraqi Army division. After a security briefing, prayer from Capt. Chris Weinrich, Chaplain with the 1-227 Aviation Regiment, final words from Lt. Col. Kent Wong, Operation Back to School Chairperson, the patrol conducted pre-combat inspections and left Camp Taji.

Upon reaching the Al Edressy school, members of the Operation Back to School team greeted the school principal as U.S. Soldiers introduced themselves to school children in the classrooms. Soldiers from the 155th Brigade Combat Team, 36/9 Military Transition Team (MTT) and 541st Combat Sustainment and Support Battalion participated in the school supply delivery. The children were happy to receive 'back to school' packs, containing notebooks, pencils, erasers, notebooks and



1st Lieut. Danielle Pappas and Chaplain Nathan White, from the 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, put a soccer goal together at the Al Edressy school on Nov. 1st. The soccer goal was made by Soldiers of the 3666 Service Maintenance Company. (photo by Capt. Brent Lindley)

other supplies. The great majority of these supplies have been sent by individuals and groups from the United States.

"The biggest reward is seeing the smiles on the children's faces as we handed them the donated school supplies and the soccer goal our 3666 Maintenance Company, Arizona made. America is a huge giver to those who do not have much or need assistance. Their donations made a huge difference to these kids who happen to be the same age as my 6 yr old kids back home in the states," said Lt. Col. Paul Dismar, commander of the 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion said

In addition to the school kits, twenty soccer balls were also delivered by the "Operation Back to School" crew. After delivering the school kits, US and Iraqi Soldiers put together a soccer goal. This soccer goal was made by Soldiers of the the 3666 Service Maintenance Company. The soccer net was sent from the United States. Twenty soccer balls were given to the school.

When Lt. Col. Dismar was asked why he and his Soldiers became involved in Operation Back to School, he said, "Soldiers in the 541st Combat Support Sustainment Battalion wanted to help and try and make a difference in Iraq. The Iraqi people have a huge potential to excel. We hope by assisting our young friends, the school children, they will come to see Americans in a different perspective and as their friends. We will leave one day, but the seeds of friendship we are putting down will hopefully last forever. As the children grow up, they may remember we came and helped them."



Major David Jackson, 36/9 MiTT team chief from El Paso, Texas, greets the children of at the Al Edressy school. (Photo by Capt. Brent Lindley, 155 BCT).

"The 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) appreciates the opportunity to link up with the 36/9 MiTT and our Iraqi Army partners to distribute school supplies to Al Edressy Elementary school. 541st CSSB is known as the "pacesetters" and we "set the pace." Whether it is sustaining our forces, assisting our military partners or supporting humanitarian missions we strive to "set the pace" in providing support. We appreciate the opportunity and look forward to assisting in the future" said Dismar.

Staff Sgt. Osario, a combat medic with the 36/9 MTT team (1st Cavalry Division) and an Iraqi Army medic evaluated and rendered medical care to school children with cuts and bruises. 🚑



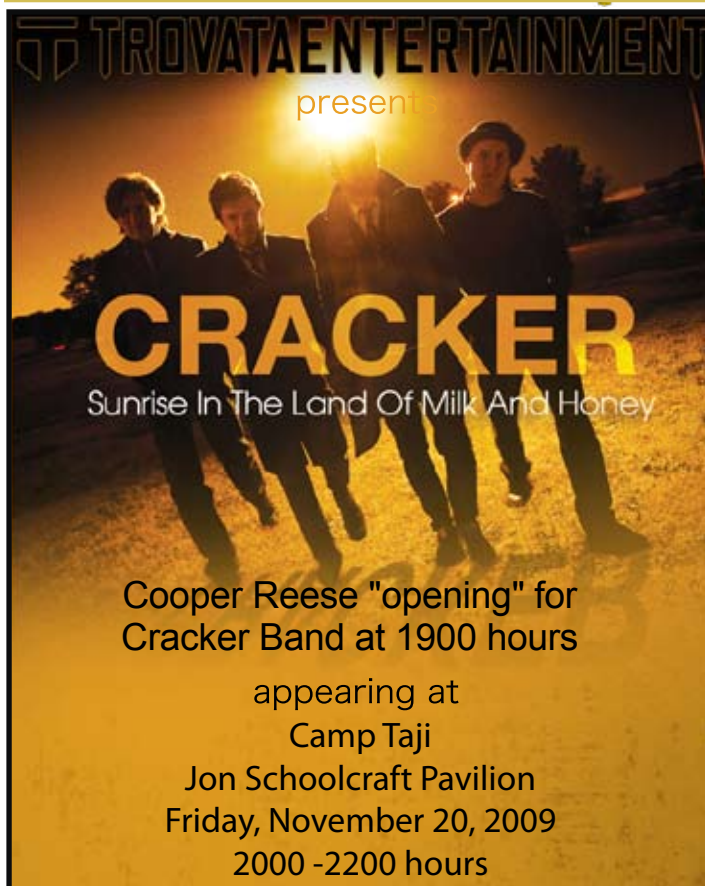
Children at the Al Edressy school open their "Operation Back to School" kits Nov. 1st. (Photo by Capt. Brent Lindley, 155 BCT).



HOOTERS TOUR
FEATURING **BROKEDOWN CADILLAC**

DATE	TIME
Friday, Nov. 27th, 2009	1900 to 2100 hrs
PLACE	
Camp Taji Jon Schoolcraft Pavilion	

**Listen to AFN Freedom Radio
(today through Nov. 20th)
for
Prizes & Back Stage Passes to the
Cracker Performance on Nov. 20th!**



TROVATA ENTERTAINMENT
presents
CRACKER
Sunrise In The Land Of Milk And Honey

Cooper Reese "opening" for
Cracker Band at 1900 hours
appearing at
Camp Taji
Jon Schoolcraft Pavilion
Friday, November 20, 2009
2000 -2200 hours

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 or julie.hess@iraq.centcom.mil

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!



Tiger Academy teaches Iraqi Soldiers medical procedures

By Pfc. Adam Halleck
1-82 FA PAO

Iraqi army soldiers assigned to the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division received medical training Oct. 10th. The medical training is one of many classes the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division conducted during the week long Tiger Academy held at Camp Taji.



(Above) Naples, Fla. Native, Sgt. John Juhnke (right), a combat medic, applies a tourniquet to Sgt. 1st Class Ward Wright, during medical training, Oct. 10. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)

(Right) An Iraqi army soldier assigned to the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division takes notes during medical procedures training, Oct. 10. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)



(Below) Naples, Fla. native, Sgt. John Juhnke (right), a combat medic with 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, watches as soldiers from the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division practice the proper application of a tourniquet (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)



Happy Birthday U.S.M.C!

By Capt. Brent Lindley
155th BCT

Nov. 10 marked the 234th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. The Marine Corps celebrates a rich history of sacrifice and contribution to freedom.

At one of his brighter moments, Ronald Regan once said, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem."

The history of the United States Marine Corps in itself is quite interesting. According to www.marines.com, many important discussions took place during the American Revolution in the inns and taverns of Philadelphia, Penn., including the founding of the United States Marine Corps. A committee of the Continental Congress met at

Tun Tavern to draft a resolution calling for two battalions of Marines, able to fight for independence at sea and on shore. The resolution was approved on November 10, 1775, officially forming the Continental Marines. As the first order of business, Samuel Nicholas became Commandant of the newly formed Marines. Tun Tavern's owner and popular patriot, Robert Mullan, became his first captain and recruiter. They began gathering support and were ready for action by early 1778. Each year, the Marine Corps marks November 10th with a celebration of the brave spirit which compelled these men and thousands since to defend our country as United States Marines. 🇺🇸

Brighter day ahead as Twin Schools open

By Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

A ceremony On Oct. 12th celebrated the grand opening of two schools nestled in a small village north of Baghdad, culminating two years of hard work.

Known as the Twin Schools to American Soldiers, here, they will now educate more than 1,200 students and provide the children of the area the schooling they deserve.

In the past two years this project experienced many hurdles and it wasn't until the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division assumed the project that the schools had any hope of being open for the new school year.

When the U.S. troops arrived in the Taji area in mid-August, the battalion made civil capacity and

essential services missions a main priority. By focusing on things that better the lives of a large majority of the local population, the American

Soldiers here feel they can leave a lasting impact in their area of operations.

"The projects we fund are geared at benefiting a large group of people," said Whitewater, Wis. native,

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien, the civil capacity and essential services officer. "The Twin Schools will benefit the over 1200 children, their families, and most importantly the future of Iraq."


As the sun shone bright in the small village, hundreds of children, local leaders, and U.S. Soldiers stood in attendance to celebrate this historic day. In the background stood the schools with classrooms full of desks and chalkboards, staffed with faculty, ready to offer the children of this village and surrounding areas a proper education.

When he walked to the podium to

give his speech, Ozark, Ala. native, Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler beamed with pride. As the battalion commander, Schwegler has played a large role in cultivating the progress of the Twin Schools project. Understanding that the children of Iraq possess the hope for a stable future in Iraq, Schwegler and Lien relentlessly ensured that the schools would open for the upcoming school year.

"Lt. Col. Schwegler let it be known that the Twin Schools were a top priority," explained Lien, who oversaw the project for the battalion. "We stayed in contact with the contractors daily and made bi-weekly visits to the site to ensure that the school opened in time."

Thousands of man hours, nearly one million dollars, and two years later, the schools are finished. After all of the hard work by so many people, the grand opening ceremony held such great meaning to all of the children, local leaders, and U.S. troops.

"The children standing here are the future doctors, engineers and leaders of Iraq," said Schwegler during his ceremony speech. "This project is a testament to the Government of Iraq, local leaders, and [U.S. forces], in our shared vision for the future of Iraq." 



TAJI, Iraq- Three students of the Twin Schools salute the flag of Iraq during the schools' grand opening ceremony here, Oct. 12. After two years of efforts by U.S. Troops and local Iraqi government, the Twin Schools are now open to educate over 1200 students in a small village north of Baghdad. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)



TAJI, Iraq- Ozark, Ala. native, Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler, commander of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks to the students of the Twin Schools during the grand opening ceremony here, Oct. 12. "The children standing here are the future doctors, engineers, and leaders of Iraq," said Schwegler. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)



TAJI, Iraq - Students of the Twin Schools wait for the official opening of the schools here, Oct. 12. The Twin Schools will provide and education to over 1200 children in a small village north of Baghdad. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)



TAJI, Iraq- Decatur, Ala. native, Sgt. Nathaniel Greer, a civil affairs team member attached to the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, shakes hands with young students of the Twin Schools here, Oct. 12. After two years of work, the Twin Schools will now educate over 1200 students in a small village north of Baghdad. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)

A CO., 115TH BSB VICTORIOUS IN FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

By Capt. Brent Lindley
155 BCT

In the championship game Nov. 5, the undefeated flag football team, "GO IN LIVE," composed mostly of players from A, 115th Brigade Support Battalion and 4-227 Aviation Regiment, defeated the 3-227 Aviation Regiment team. 🏆



Members of the A/115th BSB (left) prepare to play the flag football team from 3-227 Aviation Regiment (right) on Nov. 5, at the Camp Taji Sports Complex. (photo by Sgt. Beverly Price)



Members of the A/115th BSB 2009 Camp Taji Flag Football Championship team at the Camp Taji Sports Complex on Nov 5. (photo by Sgt. Beverly Price)

LONG DRIVE CONTEST AT CAMP TAJI

By Capt. Brent Lindley
155 BCT

A true golfer always looks for opportunities to practice the sport, regardless of whether in the backyard, or deployed to Iraq. Thankfully, such opportunities exist at Camp Taji. With the help of many, the Camp Taji driving range was created and the long drive contest marked the grand opening. KBR MWR provided the equipment, chaulked the landing zone and helped run the event. RMS flattened the surface and manufactured yardage markers. On Oct. 24th, 2009, the area now known as Hacker's Alley at Camp Taji hosted the Garrison Command long drive contest. Though not a true test of overall golf skill, the long drive contest offered an opportunity for Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and civilians to take three swings at obtaining the longest drive and two opportunities to win the closest to the hole contest (which was actually a hit the humvee contest). Forty seven contestants stepped up the tee box, witnessed by a gallery of a hundred people. The long drive contest may be over, but the driving range remains in place for future use. 🏌️



Winners of the Camp Taji Garrison Command "Long Drive Contest/Closest to the Hole Contest" pose after the event on Oct. 24th. (photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

Long Drive (Male Division)

- 1st Place: SSG Carl Olmstead (E Co., 4-227 ARB)
- 2nd Place: SPC David Bischoff (115th BSB)
- 3rd Place: Civ. Justin Burtosky (DRS/SPAWAR)

Long Drive (Female Division)

- 1st Place: SGT Casey Walters (CID)
- 2nd Place: MAJ Suellyn Mahan (55th Medical/CSC)
- 3rd Place: MSG Jovana Meyer (HHC, 4-227 ARB)

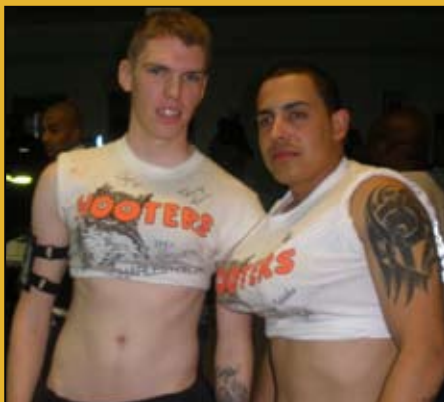
Closest to the Hole:

- 1st Place: SFC Thomas Reid (A Co., 1-227 ARB)
- 2nd Place: SSG Bryan Hutchinson (2-5 CAV)
- 3rd Place: 1SG Blake Kennedy (E Co., 4-277 ARB)

HALLOWEEN PARTY SCENE



(Above) Sgt. Sophia Phillips of Des Moines, Iowa (left), Staff Sgt. Robert Mullins of Newton Norwalk, Iowa (center) and Staff Sgt. Cindi Dammann of Des Moines, Iowa (294th ASMC) at the TIFRC Halloween party. (Photo by Capt. Brent Lindley)



(Left) Spc. Forrest Throckmorton (left) of Rupert, Idaho and Pfc. Abel Valdez of San Antonio, TX, both of the 1/5 CAV at the BLDG 680 Halloween party on Oct. 30. Taji. (Photo by Capt. Brent Lindley)



(Above) Members of the Sunburn Band entertain those who attended the Mud House Halloween Bash Oct. 30. (Photo by Capt. Brent Lindley)



(Above) First Lieut. Tiana Nabity (left) and Spc. Stephanie Thorn (right) wait in line for coffee at the Camp Taji Mud House. Both Soldiers are with the 3666th Service Maint. Company. (Photo by Capt. Brent Lindley)



(Above) from left to right, Sgt. John Lemer, HHC, 705th MP from St. Louis, Mo. takes first place in the TIFRC Halloween costume contest. Second place is Pfc. Tiffany Wuertzen, 294th ASMC from Debukes, Iowa. Sgt. 1st Class Robert Popenhagen, 294th ASMC from Atkins, Iowa won fourth place. AV2 Israel Garcia from Los Angeles won third place. (Photo by Capt. Brent Lindley)



(Above) Soldiers enjoy a friendly game of Texas Hold'em at the Halloween Party, Bldg 680, Oct. 30. (Photo by Capt. Brent Lindley)

Chaplain's Corner: "Thanks I want to give"

By Chaplain Chris Weinrich and Sgt. Cranford
1-227th Aviation Regiment




One of the best blessings in life comes with the opportunities to give of our time and resources throughout the year as we contribute to our fellow battle buddies with our generous lifestyles. Yet, with this in mind, how do we give of ourselves during a difficult moment while being deployed away from our loved ones?

As the deployment steadily moves into the month of November, the Camp Taji family sees the joy of shifting into the different parts of the mission. The sense of accomplishment during this deployment should bring an honorable appreciation into each Soldier and family member's life. Though, with this great accomplishment in hand, we will still feel the painful burdens of being away from our spouse, kids and

our favorite pet named Taji. Well, maybe we do not miss Taji, the best dog ever, but we will face the hardship of not having that precious time with our family during the holiday season. What remedies the situation of going through a difficult moment?

We have an incredible opportunity for us to combat these moments with our loved ones through the numerous times of giving. We must not fall into the trap of pulling the pain inward without releasing a measure of the stored hope within our lives. This hope reveals itself through the generous grace given from our giving Heavenly Creator. When life seems out of control with difficult moments, we must rely upon God's guiding hand of hope and strength. The Scripture's declare, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15) Let us sustain our willingness to give of ourselves during this holiday season towards our family back home and the awesome one at Camp Taji.

"Attack" the Truth

Chaplain Weinrich and Sgt. Cranford 

Chapel Service Times

Holland Hope (Bldg 97)

Sunday
1000 General Protestant Service
1300 Church of Christ

Wednesday
1900 Bible Study

Thursday
1900 LDS Institute

Saturday
1600 Catholic Mass
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

Tigris River Chapel (Bldg 119)

Sunday
0830 Catholic Mass
0930 Traditional Christian
1100 Contemporary Christian
1800 Liturgical Christian

Tuesday
1900 Bible Study

Friday
1200 Catholic Mass
1900 Jewish Shabbat

Saturday
1800 Catholic Mass
1900 RCIA (Catholic Religious Ed)
POC: SSG Cruz 834-3620 or 242-6313

Taji Ministry Center (Bldg 130)

Sunday
0830 Sunday School
1000 Gospel Service

Wednesday
1900 Bible Study

Friday
1200 Islamic Prayer (Jummah)
1900 Joy Night Gospel Service

POC: SSG Cruz 834-3620 or 242-6313

Muleskinner Chapel (Bldg 1285,

Stryker Village)

Sunday
1000 General Protestant Service
1130 Lutheran Service

Monday
1800 Confession
1830 Rosary
1900 Catholic Mass

Tuesday
1900 Bible Study

Thursday
1900 Bible Study
POC: SPC Admire 834-3833

TIFRIC Chapel (Bldg KH 1132)
Sunday
1130 Contemporary Protestant
1300 Hope Service
1430 Contemporary Protestant

Tuesday
1130 Bible Study (CH Office)

Wednesday
1130 Prayer Meeting (CH Office)
POC: SPC Rich 834-1058

Ready to be baptized?

Contact the Spirit and Truth
Worship Chapel (Bldg 639) at
834-1195 for more information

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

Bus Stop Interviews

By Spc. Shalonda Brent

155th BCT (Photos by Spc. Shalonda Brent)



Sgt. Sara Savage

Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland

What's the one thing you enjoy most at Taji?
burnpit MWR

What is the one thing you hate?
the mud

What's your favorite night in the DFAC?
Italian Night

What team is going to win the Superbowl?
Philadelphia Eagles



Sgt. Bradley Frank

Hometown: Newark, New Jersey

What's the one thing you enjoy the most at Taji?
Being around my fiancé, Sgt. Caren Henson.

What's the one thing you hate?
the mud

Whats your favorite night in the DFAC?
Mongolian Stir Fry Night

What team is going to win the Super Bowl?
Dallas Cowboys



Pfc. David Sullivan

Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska

What's the one thing you enjoy most at Taji?
basketball

What is the one thing you hate?
distance from home

What's your favorite night at the DFAC?
Wing Night

What team is going to win the Superbowl?
Indianapolis Colts



Spec. Kenneth Redd

Hometown: Hampton, Georgia

What is the one thing you enjoy most at Taji?
the bazaar

What is the one thing you hate?
gravel on the roads

What's your favorite night at the DFAC?
Burrito Night

What team is going to win the Superbowl?
New Orleans Saints

This month in history

November 1, 1848 - The first medical school for women opened in Boston. The Boston Female Medical School was founded by Samuel Gregory with just twelve students. In 1874, the school merged with the Boston University School of Medicine, becoming one of the first co-ed medical schools.

November 2, 1947 - The first and only flight of Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" flying boat occurred in Long Beach Harbor, California. It flew about a mile at an altitude of 70 feet. Costing \$25 million, the 200 ton plywood eight-engine Hercules was the world's largest airplane, designed, built and flown by Hughes. It later became a tourist attraction alongside the Queen Mary ship at Long Beach and has since been moved to Oregon.

November 3, 1957 - The Soviet Union launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.

November 4, 1862 - Richard Gatling patented his first rapid-fire machine gun which used revolving barrels rotating around a central mechanism to load, fire, and extract the cartridges.

November 4, 1979 - About 500 young Iranian militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Teheran and took 90 hostages, including 52 Americans that they held captive for 444 days.

November 7, 1944 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term, defeating Thomas E. Dewey. Roosevelt died less than a year later on April 12, 1945.

November 7, 1962 - Richard Nixon told news reporters in Los Angeles "...just think how much you're going to be missing. You won't have Nixon to kick around any more, because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference." Nixon's statement came the day after he lost the election for California governor to incumbent Edmund G. Brown. In 1968, Nixon re-entered politics and won the presidency, defeating Hubert H. Humphrey. Re-elected in 1972, he resigned in 1974 during impeachment proceedings resulting from the Watergate scandal.

November 7, 1989 - L. Douglas Wilder became the first African American governor in U.S. history, elected governor of Virginia.

November 9, 1989 - The Berlin Wall was opened after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War. The 27.9 mile wall had been constructed in 1961.

November 10, 1775 - The U.S. Marine Corps was established. Originally part of the Navy, it became a separate unit on July 11, 1789.

November 11 - Celebrated as Veterans Day in the U.S. (formerly called Armistice Day).

November 13, 1956 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

November 14, 1666 - The first experimental blood transfusion took place in England, utilizing two dogs.

November 15, 1969 - The largest antiwar rally in U.S. History occurred as 250,000 persons gathered in Washington, DC, to protest the Vietnam War.

November 16, 1995 - The United Nations charged Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, and his military commander, Ratko Mladic, with genocide.

November 17, 1800 - The U.S. Congress met for the first time in the new capital at Washington, DC President John Adams then became the first occupant of the Executive Mansion, later renamed the White House.

November 18, 1883 - A Connecticut school teacher, Charles F. Dowd, proposed a uniform time zone plan for the U.S. consisting of four zones.

November 19, 1493 - Puerto Rico was discovered by Columbus during his second voyage to the New World.

November 19-20, 1990 - The Cold War came to an end during a summit in Paris as leaders of NATO and the Warsaw Pact signed a Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, vastly reducing their military arsenals.

November 20, 1789 - New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

November 22, 1718 - Blackbeard the pirate (Edward Teach) was killed off the coast of North Carolina after a long and prosperous career. Lt. Gov. Alexander Spotswood of Virginia had sent two sloops to put an end to him. The sailors encountered Blackbeard and Lt. Robert Maynard killed him in the fight that followed.

November 24, 1859 - Charles Darwin's book, "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection," was first published, theorizing that all the living creatures descended from a common ancestor.

November 26, 1789 - The first American holiday occurred, proclaimed by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American democracy.

November 28, 1520 - Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan passed through the strait (of Magellan) located at the southern tip of South America, thus crossing from the Atlantic Ocean into the Pacific.

November 30, 1939 - Finland was invaded by more than 20 Russian divisions in the Winter War.

SITUATIONAL TRAINING TESTS IA CAPABILITIES

By Pfc. Adam Halleck
1ST BCT

Strengthening the skills and core competencies of the Iraqi Security Forces is a vital mission for U.S. Soldiers, here.

After conducting their weeklong Tiger Academy, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, tested their Iraqi army counterparts in a day long situational training exercise, focusing on all core aspects of the academy.

The purpose of the Tiger Academy is to further enable the Iraqi Army to better serve and secure the citizens of Iraq. By focusing on adaptability, the Tiger Academy provides Iraqi Soldiers the basic skills and tactics they need in today's urban combat environment.



Soldiers from the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Division, move into position to clear a building during a simulated training exercise here, Oct. 15. The exercise tested the IA Soldiers' comprehension of the week-long training they received from Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)



Soldiers from the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Division, move into position to clear a building during a simulated training exercise here, Oct. 15. The exercise tested the IA Soldiers' comprehension of the weeklong training they received from Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B)

"Being prepared for a wide range of situational outcomes is essential in combat," explained Rochester, New York native, Sgt. 1st Class Ward Wright, the battalion operations sergeant major. "[U.S. troops] put great emphasis on planning, which is something we focused heavily on during Tiger Academy."

To test the adaptability of the IA Soldiers, the Americans created a full scale training exercise; incorporating several difficult scenarios that could occur at any given time while on a patrol. They tested their counterparts on how to react to an improvised explosive device, knowledge of casualty evaluation procedures, close quarters combat, room clear-

ing procedures, detainee operations and sensitive site exploitation.

"For only going through a week of training [the Iraqi Soldiers] grasped a good portion of the training," said Sandy, Ore. native, Staff Sgt. James Lacapra, the battalion intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge. "Considering the amount of time they were given to learn the procedures, they were pretty effective."

The U.S. troops trained their counterparts to become a more versatile security force but they understand there is still work to be done.

"This training is a step in the right direction for the ISF," said Wright.



Help us make the Taji Times better!



What type of activities and achievements would you like to showcase in the Taji Times? 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 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)

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

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

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



TAJI TIMES INFORMATION



PHONE NUMBER: DSN 834-3148

MANAGING EDITOR
CAPT. BRENT LINDLEY
BRENT.LINDLEY@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL

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E-MAIL BRENT.LINDLEY@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL
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WHAT IS GOING ON WHEN AND WHERE IT WAS
TAKEN, AND WHO TOOK THE PHOTO.