

New terminal means comfort for travelers

By Staff Sgt. Nathan Hoskins
1ACB, USD-C PAO

CAMP TAJI – Soldiers and civilians traveling to and from here by aircraft now have a more comfortable place to wait for their flights with the grand opening of Ed “Too Tall” Freeman Passenger Terminal, Jan. 5.

The immense terminal, a project which has been in the works for nearly two years, will now be the main hub for all passengers arriving and departing the forward operating base by fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft.

With two large buildings where passengers can in-process for flights, wait and relax, and a vast helicopter pad, the terminal can facilitate approximately 300 people at one time, said Capt. William Bailey, commander, 384th Movement Control Team, 49th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

The former passenger terminal, which consisted of two trailers with a couple of gazebo-type structures to keep the travelers from the elements, fell short when there was inclement weather, said the Huntsville, Ala., native who oversees the daily operations of the terminal.

“The new [passenger] terminal provides a sustainable area for the Soldiers to travel through so they’re not out in the summer heat, winter rain, or any type of bad weather,” Bailey said.

The facility was dedicated

to Ed “Too Tall” Freeman, who was a UH-1 Huey helicopter pilot in Vietnam and Medal of Honor recipient. Freeman received the Medal of Honor for his acts of valor and heroism during the Battle of Ia Drang – the first air assault in military history and first major battle in the Vietnam conflict.

The Freeman terminal came together this past fall with the combined efforts of 155th Brigade Combat Team, the 384th MCT, and 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division – Center.

Taking on the brunt of the project was 155th BCT, which funded, planned and built the facility with the help of civilian contractors.

To ensure the facility would properly support aviation operations safely and smoothly, Chief Warrant Officer Gary Bottger, airfield manager, 1st ACB, provided technical aviation advice, which included expanding and improving the helicopter landing pad.

“The new terminal features a specially designed helipad for multiple, concurrent helicopter landings,” said Bottger, of Salado, Texas. “It will safely host around-the-clock, large-scale passenger movements.”

The first full day of operations at the Freeman passenger terminal, Jan. 4, revealed dozens of Soldiers with sleepy dispositions waiting to go home on leave during the early morning hours, but that didn’t stop them from noticing the major



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Jeffery White (left), deputy brigade commander, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division; Lt. Col. Peter Haas (center) commander of 49th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary); and Col. William Glasgow (right), commander of 155th Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi National Guard; cut the ribbon to officially open the new Ed “Too Tall” Freeman Passenger Terminal, Jan. 5.

upgrades.

“I like the new [passenger] terminal because it takes you out of the environment; it brings you inside where it’s warmer,” said 1st Lt. Nora Soto, deputy brigade S-1, 1st ACB, from El Paso, Texas. “Even during the summer it will be cooler in here.

“It feels like an actual airport terminal – very professional,” Soto said. Others revealed their satisfaction without saying a word; simply having benches to sleep on said enough.

The Freeman passenger terminal is more than two empty

climate-controlled buildings. The 384th MCT made sure travelers would have plenty to occupy their time while they waited.

There are flat screen televisions, books, phone booths, internet stations and wireless internet.

Among other improvements are covered outdoor areas for the passengers to wait under and a designated restroom facility – not the portable toilet shacks of old.

Although operations are running smoother from the Freeman terminal than from the old terminal, the goal of the new facility is to take care of travelers, said Bailey—exactly what is happening.

Tomahawks on the lookout near Taji

Photos by Spc. Luisito Brooks
4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.



CAMP TAJI – A Soldier with 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division scans the area southeast of Taji during a search for material that could make improvised explosive devices.



Soldiers navigate through a thick field of bamboo during their search.



Soldiers look for materials used to make improvised explosive devices among small hills of trash southeast of Taji.

Brother, sister serve deployment together

By Sgt. Alun Thomas
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI – The odds of two siblings being deployed together in the same brigade might be considered slim in the active Army, especially if it happens by chance.

Luckily for Pfc. Harmony Rodriguez and her brother, Spc. Jeremiah Rodriguez, the odds worked in their favor as both are serving together with 1st Air Cavalry Brigade while following in the footsteps of their father, a 19-year Army veteran.

They say growing up in a military environment had a profound influence on them, with all roads eventually leading to 1st ACB and Iraq.

Harmony, from Victoria, Texas, a cook in Company E, 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st ACB, 1st Cavalry Division, said their father served in the reserves before joining the active Army.

“I have nothing but good memories of my father in the Army growing up,” she said. “He was in the reserves [first] but it was good to see him in uniform and doing his training.”

For Jeremiah, 22, from Lubbock, Texas, an aircraft electrician in Company B, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st ACB, the previous decade was spent without his father around much of the time.

“It was kind of sad seeing him deploying all the time; he has three deployments under his belt,” Jeremiah said. “Seeing him walk away was hard and we would always miss him.”

Despite the strain of being separated frequently, Jeremiah was moved by his father’s dedication to military service and decided to also join the Army as a result.

This in turn motivated Harmony to do the same.

“With my father and brother



Photo by Sgt. Alun Thomas

Pfc. Harmony Rodriguez (left), from Victoria, Texas, a cook in Company E, 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, smiles as her brother, Spc. Jeremiah Rodriguez, pins private first class rank on her patrol cap during a promotion ceremony at 4-227th headquarters, Jan. 4.

both in the military, it inspired me to join as well,” Harmony, 19, said. “My dad tried to talk me out of it.”

As she had enlisted in the Army, Jeremiah was assigned to Korea before leaving for 1st ACB. He said he was surprised when he learned that Harmony would be joining him there.

“It was a pure coincidence. ... I was still in Korea when she told me she was [joining] and when she came in, this was her first unit,” Jeremiah said. “I had been [there] for six months already with the Air Cav., when she got to Hood, so then we deployed together, and here we are.”

“I thought it was awesome,” he added. “You can’t have anything better than that, really.”

For Harmony, being sent to 1st ACB gave her peace of mind, allowing her the comfort of her brother’s guidance.

“It was great. I was just happy to be with someone I knew in the same unit, especially my brother,” Harmony said.

Being deployed together gives them both the luxury of family companionship; a luxury most Soldiers don’t enjoy while in combat.

“We have family that’s always close by; someone you can talk to all the time that knows you well,” Harmony said. “We don’t talk every day, but we do as often as we can.”

Jeremiah said he now knows how his father felt during his deployments.

“You get to see the other side, what’s it’s like from another point of view. I get to see what my dad went through when we were missing him,” Jeremiah said. “I know how it is now; he didn’t have a choice when he went and it’s our turn now.”

The deployment is proving to be a positive one for Harmony, who was switched from her job as a cook to the 4-227th tactical operations center as part of flight operations.

“My first sergeant decided to task me out. ... I didn’t like [my role at the TOC] at first, but I just went with the flow and now I like it,” Harmony.

“I like the Air Cav., and if I reenlist, I want to re-class to aircraft flight operations.”

Jeremiah, however, said he fully plans to make the Army a career, hoping to emulate his father who is closing in on 20 years.

“I’m going to be a lifer ... I [want] to stay in and retire; hopefully as a sergeant major,” he said. “I like my job, but my dad is a ranger, so I might have to go chase after him and see how far I go.”

On This Day In History

January 9, 1972

Fire breaks out on Queen Elizabeth

On this day in 1972, the ship Seawise University (formerly the RMS Queen Elizabeth) sinks in Hong Kong Harbor despite a massive firefighting effort over two days.

The Queen Elizabeth, named after the wife of King George VI, was launched on September 27, 1938; at the time, it was the largest passenger steamship ever constructed. When World War II began, the Queen Elizabeth was sent to New York to protect it from German bombs. There, it was docked next to the Normandie and the Queen Mary, the other two largest passenger ships of the time.

Later, the Queen Elizabeth was called into service as a troop transport ship, carrying nearly 1 million soldiers during the war. Following the war, the ship returned to commercial service and became one of the dominant transatlantic carriers, hauling thousands of people back and forth between England and the United States. In 1968, the ship's owner, the Cunard Steamship Company, sold the Queen Elizabeth to a company that sought to turn it into a tourist attraction and hotel in Philadelphia. However, the aging ship was deemed a fire hazard and two years later it was sold to Hong Kong businessman C.Y. Tung, who wanted to use the ship as a floating college. It was renamed Seawise University and sent to Hong Kong Harbor for refitting.

On January 8, fire broke out on the ship and virtually the entire Hong Kong firefighting force turned out to try to save it. Despite heroic efforts over two days, the old ship turned on its side and sank to the bottom of the harbor. Fortunately, no one was killed. Two years later, the wreck served as the backdrop for a key scene in *The Man With the Golden Gun*, a 1974 film starring Roger Moore as James Bond.

USD-C Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Jessica Reaves, 1BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., USD-C

CAMP TAJI – Staff Sgt. Darian Ford, a human intelligence collection team leader assigned to Company A, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, arm wrestles a soldier from Field Engineering Regiment, 11th Iraqi Army Division during a partnership dinner at Camp Taji, Jan. 4.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is the military code-word for “Chuck Norris’ basement.”

Quote For Today

“He that can have
patience, can have what
he will.”

-Benjamin Franklin-

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
69° F | 48° F



Tomorrow
68° F | 44° F



Monday
66° F | 51° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Where did Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech take place?

Last Issue's Answer: INCHON

Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

USD-C PAO

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Today's Cav Round-Up # 237 was produced by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Scott, USD-C Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers from the Iron MPs of the 1st Armored

Division polish their mission skills under the supervision of the unit they are replacing. Interviews with Pfc. Katelyn Parente, 501st driver, Spc. Eric Dutschek, 501st MP team leader, Spc. Robert Brubaker, 501st MP gunner. <http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general>

search/ppphp&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&type

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Trigger's Tease

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

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in. The more squares that are known the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in the squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

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



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