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Sustainment brigade holds first NCO induction ceremony

NCO

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16th SB Public Affairs

BAMBERG, Germany — The 16th Sustainment Brigade vetted its newest non-commissioned officers in the brigade's first NCO induction ceremony since standing up July 16, 2007, at the Mohawk Theater here May 27.

After a presentation entitled "The Watch," where the new NCOs learned about the tradition of commemorating the passing of a Soldier to a NCO — a tradition dating back to Frederick the Great — and another presentation, "Boots of an NCO," the inductees heard "A Soldier's Request."

"Treat me with respect, Sergeant," said Spc. Ryan Bolwerk, 317th Maintenance Company, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. "For no heart in the world is more loyal than the heart of an American Soldier. Do not break my spirit with your words, Sergeant. For though I will do what you demand, your guidance, patience, and understanding will more quickly teach me to 'Be, Know, and Do.'"

Guest Speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua T. Savusa, command sergeant major, U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army (USAREUR), told the 36 new NCOs that there is nothing he'd rather be doing than serving in the Army.

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“I would rather wear a Kevlar and an IBA (Interceptor Body Armor), and dodge bullets in the streets of Baghdad, or in the hills of the Himalayas in Afghanistan, than to be wearing a suit and tie in one of those corporate boardrooms,” Savusa said.

The Army NCO is the most important factor in the success of any war, Savusa said.

“Wars are not won by air, wars are not won by sea; wars are won by boots on the ground, by Soldiers like you, by the non-commissioned officers that lead Soldiers in combat,” Savusa said.

The Army’s top enlisted leader in Europe exhorted NCOs to take their responsibilities seriously.

“After all, America’s sons and daughters are in your safekeeping,” Savusa said. “It is essential that you make our Army values a part of what you do each and every day; that you live and breathe our Warrior Ethos, our Soldier’s Creed.”

The inductees were presented by their sponsors to Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th SB, and formally inducted with the “Charge of the NCO.”

The NCOs raised their right hands and swore, “I will discharge carefully and diligently the duties of the grade to which I have been promoted and uphold the traditions and standards of the Army...”

After the ceremony, the USAREUR command sergeant major, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Kroontje, command sergeant major, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th SB, Grafenwoehr, and inductee Cpl. Heather Williams, human resources specialist, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th SB, cut the brigade cake.

Williams, who was inducted with her husband, Sgt. Brandon Williams, both in 16th STB, said she was glad they got inducted at the same time.

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“It was a good feeling to be doing it at the same time,” said the 22-year-old from Chico, Calif. “Odd, but good — although I would’ve liked to have taken pictures of him, and vice-versa.”

The two, who have been married for three years, will deploy together with the brigade this year, and will share a containerized housing unit (CHU) at the forward operating base.

Savusa presented the inductees with a USAREUR coin.

The 33-year Army veteran from American Samoa, who has served in multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, had one last piece of advice for the new NCOs.

“Listen, you’re going into combat, weird stuff happens, people die,” Savusa said. “Focused leadership will always carry the day. Focused leadership is what you do each and every day. Constantly think 24 hours ahead of time, and keep your Soldiers engaged.”

The inductees in the rank of corporal were Brad Bucklin, Evan Fay, James Hass, Dorian Johnson, Joshua McGinnis, Adam Moreau and Heather Williams.

The inductees in the rank of sergeant were Frederick Baker, Michael Chreene, Jose DeSantiago, Raymundo Esteves, James Fritz, Eric Garcia, Novelli Hall, Richard Hankwitz, Michael Hochberg, Ray Holmes-Brown, Everest Hutchinson, Patrick Jeudy, Branden Jordan, Kayne Joseph, Sheena Kershaw, Kenneth McDuffie, Tiffany Nealon, Kyle Opperman, Michael Peterson, Evelyn Pollard, Joseph Raba, Angel Riverasanchez, Lemar Rivers, Amber Simon, Ali Ustundag, Jamaal Wheaton and Brandon Williams.

The inductees in the rank of staff sergeant were Cain Bassett and Caryn Jones.

The sustainment brigade, the only one in Europe, had less than a year to field, train,

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equip and prepare for deployment to Iraq. The brigade will hold its deployment ceremony June 26 at Pendleton Field, Bamberg. The “Knights” of the 16th SB are deploying to northern Iraq to provide logistics support to U.S., coalition and Iraqi security forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom VIII.

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(Photos by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson)



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The colors guard renders honors to the colors during the 16th Sustainment Brigade NCO induction ceremony at the Mohawk Theater, Bamberg, May 27. The sustainment brigade, the only one in U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army, inducted 36 NCOs in its first induction ceremony since standing up July 16, 2007. The brigade is deploying to northern Iraq to provide logistics support to U.S., coalition and Iraqi security forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom VIII.

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Command Sgt. Maj. Luniasolua T. Savusa, command sergeant major, U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army (USAREUR), presents Sgt. Eric Garcia, personal security team member, Bravo Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, with the NCO creed after Garcia swore-in during a brigade NCO induction ceremony at the Mohawk Theater, Bamberg, May 27. Garcia was the 21st Theater Sustainment Command Soldier of the Year 2007.

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Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua T. Savusa, command sergeant major, U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army (USAREUR), offers the NCO inductees a few words of advice after the 16th Sustainment Brigade NCO induction ceremony May 27 at the Mohawk Theater, Bamberg. "Focused leadership will always carry the day," Savusa said. "Focused leadership is what you do each and every day. Constantly think 24 hours ahead of time, and keep your Soldiers engaged."