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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First deployment promotion culmination of work and sacrifice

ROYER

By Sgt. Keith M. Anderson
16th SB Public Affairs

COB Q-WEST, Iraq — For Lashaun Royer, promotion to sergeant first class was the culmination of her work through four deployments and her personal sacrifice.

Sgt. 1st Class Lashaun Royer, who works in the general supply office, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, Bamberg, Germany, was the first promotion in the unit since the “Knights” arrived at Contingency Operating Base Q-West July 26. The brigade will take over operations from the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, Fort Stewart, Ga., in a transfer of authority ceremony scheduled for Aug. 9.

Royer, who was promoted during a ceremony here Aug. 2, said she was thankful for the promotion, but her priority is her work as a subsistence non-commissioned officer, and her family.

Leaving her family behind for this deployment, scheduled to last 15 months, was difficult for the veteran NCO. Royer had to say goodbye to her two daughters for a third time.

“This is my sacrifice to them,” Royer said. “I’ll stay in (the Army) and make sure they’re taken care of, and happy.”

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She said that she considered leaving the service in 2004 to spend more time with her husband, Joel, and daughters Kierra and Jayla, and to pursue a career as a resident nurse.

“As a mom you want to be near your children, your family,” Royer said. “It’s hard (being deployed), but I’ve been surrounded by people that have helped me through it, and I’ve stayed busy,” she said.

The 33-year-old from Fairhope, Ala., who has served in the Army for 14 years, will manage the flow of “Class I” supplies, such as food and water, to various bases in the brigade’s area of operations.

“It’s my job to make sure they have the daily supplies they need for the personnel they have,” Royer said simply.

Royer had some advice for other non-commissioned officers:

“To me rank is a positive thing, and I’m thankful to advance, but I don’t think it makes you a leader,” Royer said. “It’s character, not rank. You have to mentor your Soldiers.”

And she had some advice for young Soldiers, also:

“I always tell my Soldiers, ‘If you’re going to stay in the Army you have to prepare yourself, go to military schools, take correspondence courses, pursue civilian education, go to Army boards, do the right thing and listen to the leadership you have,’” she said.

(Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson)

Royer.jpg

Sgt. Maj. Richard Jackson, brigade support operations, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, removes the staff sergeant rank to promote Lashaun Royer, subsistence non-commissioned officer, support operations, 16th STB, 16th Sustainment Bde, to the rank of sergeant first class during a ceremony Aug. 2 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq. Royer was the first brigade Soldier to be promoted since the sustainment brigade out of Bamberg, Germany, arrived at COB Q-West July 26. The brigade will take over operations from the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, Fort Stewart, Ga., in a transfer of authority ceremony scheduled for Aug. 9.