



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command
16th Sustainment Brigade
Public Affairs Office**

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'Knights' compete at first brigade quarter board in Iraq

WLOQ

By Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

16th SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — A transportation Soldier and a maintenance non-commissioned officer won the 16th Sustainment Brigade's first quarter board, the Warrior and Warrior Leader of the Quarter board, at the dining facility here Oct. 20.

Four Soldiers and four NCOs, from COB Speicher, FOB Diamondback, and COB Q-West, competed for the title of 'Warrior of the Quarter' or 'Warrior Leader of the Quarter' for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2009.

Spc. Matthew Horton, wheeled vehicle mechanic, 70th Transportation Co., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, COB Speicher, took the title of top Soldier, and Sgt. Charles Robin, power generation and equipment repair NCO, 632nd Maintenance Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, FOB Diamondback, earned the top spot for NCOs.

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Spc. Joshua Daniel, power generation equipment repair specialist, 632nd Maint. Co., and Sgt. Jeremy Catron, shop foreman, 391st CSSB, were runner-up WOQ and WLOQ respectively.

The board began with a “mystery” written test on some of the Army weapons, including hand grenades and the MK-19 40 mm grenade machine gun. Then Soldiers had to perform tasks such as disassembling and reassembling a .50-cal. machine gun, and performing a function test for the weapon.

During the board Soldiers answered questions from traditional categories such as drill and ceremony, land navigation and primary marksmanship instruction, but also fielded “topic questions” about the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle program, unit escalation of force directives, and electronic countermeasure systems.

Horton, a 21-year-old from Peculiar, Mo., said his NCOs encouraged him to compete for the title.

“I did well on the promotion board so my NCOs pushed me to go to the quarter board,” Horton said. “So I went and took it home.”

Horton said he was prepared for most of the competition, except for singing the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command song, because he’d never actually heard the song.

“I didn’t have any kind of tune so I just yelled it really loud,” he said.

He was glad he competed at the board.

“It was a positive experience, and gave me an opportunity to set myself apart from my

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peers,” he said. “It feels good. I’m ready to compete at the next level.”

Horton and Robin will advance to compete at the 3rd ESC’s board at Joint Base Balad in November.

Robin, a 22-year-old from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, said winning the board was another step towards his goal of getting inducted into the Army’s Audie Murphy club.

“It’s satisfying,” Robin said. “It gives me a sense of fulfillment. I know I achieved something I set out to achieve.”

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Spc. Nicholas Young, petroleum supply specialist, 51st Transportation Co., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, answers questions during the 16th Sustainment Brigade’s first Warrior of the Quarter board at the Q-West dining facility Oct. 20. The 21-year-old from Houston, Texas, was surprised when he found out he’d be competing against Spc. Andrew Hinshaw, satellite communications systems operator and maintainer, Bravo Co., 16th Special Troops Battalion. Hinshaw and Young hadn’t seen each other since they were in the same platoon in basic training. (Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson)



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Sgt. Charles Robin, power generation and equipment repair NCO, 632nd Maintenance Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and Spc. Matthew Horton, wheeled vehicle mechanic, 70th Transportation Co., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, won the 16th Sustainment Brigade Warrior/Warrior Leader of the Quarter board for the first quarter of the fiscal year. Behind them, from left to right, board members Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Tidwell, command sergeant major, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion; Command Sgt. Maj. Michael McAllister, command sergeant major, 76th Brigade Special Troops Battalion; Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th SB; Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Williams, command sergeant major, 16th Special Troops Battalion; and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Ridings, command sergeant major, Task Force 113. Photos by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson)