



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command  
16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade  
Public Affairs Office**

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## **Personnel sergeant reenlists for year of NCO**

By Sgt. Keith M. Anderson  
16<sup>th</sup> SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — For Sgt. Carlos A. Santiago, a 27-year-old native of Fayetteville, N.C., who reenlisted in front of the 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade headquarters here March 18, this “re-up,” his second, was one he wouldn’t forget.

The ceremony was memorable because he was reenlisting on his birthday, and it was during the Army’s “Year of the NCO.”

“Re-enlisting during the ‘Year of the NCO’ is significant to me because the NCO is the backbone of the Army, providing motivation, purpose and direction to the Soldier and guidance and support to the officer,” Santiago said. “Doing so on my birthday was just icing on the cake. How many people can say they did that?”

Santiago, human resources non-commissioned officer, 16<sup>th</sup> Sust. Bde., who reenlisted for six more years, said the opportunity to serve and lead Soldiers was a prime factor in his decision to re-up. He has mentored and supervised five Soldiers since becoming a sergeant in October 2007.

Santiago said communication is key with Soldiers.

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“Communications is the basis of any relationship,” Santiago said. “If you don’t establish communication things won’t be as easy further down the line.”

Soldiering is in the family for Santiago, whose father, Juan Antonio Santiago III, served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in Korea.

“Originally I was completely against the Army,” Santiago said. “But I wanted to better myself and I looked to my father for inspiration. He’s proud of me, he’s told me. I don’t think he thought I’d do something like this.”

Ultimately, Santiago said, he serves in the Army for his wife, Audrey, and daughters, Esperanza, 5, and Kairi, 1.

“I reenlisted for my family,” Santiago said. “If I didn’t have them I don’t know where I’d be. And really, to further my career. I’ve done it this long, why not try it a little longer?”

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Sgt. Carlos A. Santiago, a 27-year-old native of Fayetteville, N.C., reenlists in front of the 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade headquarters here March 18. The ceremony was memorable because he was reenlisting on his birthday, and it was during the Army's "Year of the NCO." "Re-enlisting during the 'Year of the NCO' is significant to me because the NCO is the backbone of the Army, providing motivation, purpose and direction to the Soldier and guidance and support to the officer," Santiago said. "Doing so on my birthday was just icing on the cake. How many people can say they did that?" (Photos by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson)