

COMMANDING GENERAL'S COMMENTS



Eleven 3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers extended their personal sacrifice to their country, in a July 28 reenlistment ceremony during the Urgent Victory/Unified Endeavor field exercise at Grafenwoehr training area.

“A reenlistment ceremony like this, on the eve of deployment, tells me that we are cultivating this ethos of ‘do something for the good of the group and not just yourself.’ That’s what we are doing with reenlistment. We are choosing the right people to take care of the future of the Army, choosing the people who exhibit this ethos, who project personal sacrifice.

There is this special gene one must have to be in the military, and it’s not just in us, who wear the uniform. It’s that special gene our family has to have. I know that my own family, my parents, my nephew, my friends, they have that special gene.

They don’t quite understand because they couldn’t do it, but they love me for doing it, and they love me for doing it for them and for the future of our nation.

As these eleven Soldiers join the

ranks of noncommissioned officers and young Soldiers who reenlist, they and their families get it. They truly possess this special gene. They realize it’s about more than just themselves, it’s about their nation, it’s about helping the Iraqis, it’s about helping another country seek governance and democracy.

Before the ceremony, I talked with each of the eleven reenlisting Soldiers, and there were Soldiers from sea to shining sea, from New York to California, from the Virgin Islands to the Philippines. There were single parents, married, single, male, female, two years in the service to eight years in the service; Soldiers reenlisting from three-year to six-year terms.

And when I asked, ‘Why’d you reenlist, why’d you stay?’ answers ranged: for the money; to provide a better home for my family; because I love the Soldiers I work with.

I’ve often asked myself this same question. ‘Why do I stay?’ For the people who I serve and for the people who have trained, mentored and groomed me to have this servant leadership mentality. I think you know when it’s your time to go,

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WHY WE STAY!

and when I talk to my family and friends, as appealing as it may be, to be sitting on the lake right now and fishing, or riding a horse in the countryside in Virginia, they accept as much as I accept that I still have more to contribute, and I need to make the personal sacrifice and do it. Knowing that keeps me motivated and committed everyday.

For me to expect a Soldier with a year in the army to have the same level of commitment and dedication as myself, someone with 24 years in the army, is unreasonable.

On the other hand, if I can show that Soldier where I am after 24 years of motivation and commitment, 24 years of serving and staying, then maybe I can inspire and influence them to want that in their own life 24 years from now.

Thank God for the deep sense of commitment and character that exists within our Soldiers like these eleven, who not only serve, *they stay.* 99

Rebecca S. Halstead
Brigadier General
Commanding General



Reenlistees - From the 529th Ordnance Detachment: Spc. Anthony Aure, Spc. Antonio Benjamin, Spc. Clayton Hunsdon, Spc. Stacy Contreras, Spc. Darrell Crawford, Pfc. Jenae Haenel, Sgt. Neasha Horton, Sgt. Peter Laesch and Spc. Gerald Mazurowski. From HHC, 3rd Corps Support Command: Sgt. Kevin Dawson. From HHC, 16th Corps Support Group: Staff Sgt. Robert People.