



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

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## **Six Guardsmen get inducted into NCO corps**

By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kirsten Froelich

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CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Six new members of the non-commissioned officer corps, were officially inducted during a ceremony here, Jan. 31.

Leaders inducted Sgt. Christian Gabriel, Sgt. Chad Hollopeter, Sgt. Susie Lopez and Sgt. Paul Nollette, all from Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 181<sup>st</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, a battalion comprised of California and Washington Army National Guardsmen; and Sgt. Christian Harris and Sgt. Erin Hendrix, both from Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade Special Troops Battalion, comprised of Washington Guardsmen.

The induction ceremony included the “Charge to the Non-Commissioned Officer” where the new NCOs accepted their new duties and responsibilities, and the reading of the NCO creed.

Being inducted into the NCO Corps is a long-standing Army tradition. It is a rite of passage as a Soldier moves from the junior enlisted ranks to sergeant. For many, becoming a member of the NCO corps is the single biggest thing that will happen during his or her career.

The official party included Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command sergeant major, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade; Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Lane, command sergeant major, 181st BSB; and Command Sgt. Maj. David Nunn, 81<sup>st</sup> BSTB.



Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command sergeant major, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, welcomes Sgt. Susie Lopez to the corps of non-commissioned officers during a ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Q-West Jan. 31. (Photos by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kirsten Froelich)



(left to right) Sgt. Christian Gabriel, 181st Brigade Support Battalion; Sgt. Paul Nollette, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion; Sgt. Susie Lopez, 181st BSB; Sgt. Erin Hendrix, 81st BSTB; Sgt. Christian Harris, 81st BSTB; and Sgt. Chad Hollopeter, 181st BSB, show off their framed copies of the NCO creed, after an non-commissioned officer induction ceremony Contingency Operating Base Q-West Jan. 31. (Photos by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kirsten Froelich)