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Public Affairs Office**

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Soldiers take first step to become warrant officers

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CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Soldiers took their first steps towards becoming warrant officers during a warrant officer recruitment seminar here March 21.

Warrants from nearly every field met with hopeful candidates in small working groups to discuss eligibility criteria and vocational benefits during the two-hour seminar in the Knight's Feasting Hall dining facility.

“We held the warrant officer recruiting seminar because warrant officers have a responsibility to uphold the traditions of the warrant officer corps, which leads to a stronger Army,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brent Ray, support operations maintenance officer in charge, 16th Sustainment Brigade. “In order to accomplish this mission we must seek out those individuals that want to make a difference in today's Army. In doing this we not only strengthen the Army, but also the individual.”

The warrant officer field is a small one, comprising less than two percent of the Army. Warrant officers are considered technical experts in their fields, and do not usually perform command functions like regular officers. Not all occupational specialties in the

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Army have warrant officer positions available.

Staff Sgt. Amencio Almanza, night battle non-commissioned officer, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde., was interested in becoming a food service technician, the warrant officer position available in his field, food service.

“I think it’s a great opportunity,” Almanza said. “It offers different goals and challenges.”

Almanza, who has more than 14 years active-duty service, and is on his second deployment, said he was changing with the military.

“The military is evolving, therefore as Soldiers we need to evolve with it,” Almanza said. “If you don’t evolve you’re going to be left behind.”

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Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffrey White, electronic maintenance warrant officer, 16th Sustainment Brigade, discusses the criteria for becoming a warrant officer with Staff Sgt.

Amencio Almanza (second from left), night battle non-commissioned officer, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde., and other hopefuls, during the small group portion of the warrant officer recruitment symposium at the Knight's Feasting Hall dining facility at Contingency Operating Base Q-West March 21. White's group was for Soldiers interested in electronics, military intelligence, and food service warrant officer positions. Warrants from nearly every field met with Soldiers in small working groups to discuss eligibility criteria and vocational benefits during the symposium. (Photo by Keith M. Anderson)