



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command
16th Sustainment Brigade
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Reenlistments surge at Speicher

By 1st Lt. Ken Grace
1st Inland Cargo Transfer Co.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Four Soldiers from the 1st Inland Cargo Transfer Co., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, reenlisted in the first week of April here, bringing total reenlists for the small company to 16 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, surpassing the goal by 145 percent.

The following Soldiers from the 1st ICTC reenlisted: Spc. Malree Frisby, mechanic, and Penns Grove, N.J., native; Sgt. Elizabeth Jones, retention non-commissioned officer, and Sykesville, Md., native; Sgt. Latroy Reed, aerial control group arrival and departure non-commissioned officer in charge, and Tallahassee, Fla., native; and Staff Sgt. Gerardo Cordero, central receiving and shipping point non-commissioned officer in charge, and Chicago, Ill., native.

Sgt. 1st Class Sean Cook, company forward detachment non-commissioned officer in charge, 1st ICTC, said the reenlistments were due to the efforts of Sgt. Elizabeth Jones, retention non-commissioned officer, and Sykesville, Md., native.

“Sergeant Jones is doing an outstanding job; her efforts have made this company surpass

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its re-enlistment objectives,” said Cook, a Boscawen, Mass., native.

Some Soldiers reenlisted despite not receiving a bonus.

“I just got a handshake from Lt. Col. (Ronald) Pacheco, (commander, 391st CSSB), and that was perfectly fine by me,” said Frisby.

Another company in the 391st CSSB, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, also had a spike in re-enlistments in April.

“I’m not sure if it is the warm spring weather, or the motivation and presence of these (retention) non-commissioned officers that is driving Soldiers to re-enlist, said Capt. Merna Morris, commander, HHC. “But I’m pleased to retain good and motivated Soldiers.”

The following Soldiers from HHC reenlisted in April: Sgt. 1st Class Travis Smith, equipment readiness branch non-commissioned officer in charge, and Horseshoe Bend, Ark., native; Staff Sgt. Jeremy Catron, motor sergeant, and Wichita, Ks., native; Sgt. Natasha Silva, supply specialist; and Sgt. Tanishia Thompson, intel analyst.

None of these non-commissioned officers reenlisted for bonuses, but a couple of Soldiers requested their duty station of choice, Morris said.

Retention non-commissioned officers are appointed to help the commander retain good quality Soldiers and help them to understand what the Army can do for them if they choose to extend their service, Morris said.

The Army has improved its options making it more appealing for Soldiers to continue

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serving, offering assignment location of choice and also providing retention bonuses.

These benefits have encouraged Soldiers' to re-enlist to stay in the Army for various reasons, ranging from wanting to continue to serve their country, financial stability, educational opportunities, and to the many adventures the Army provides to them. The Army is happy to retain Soldiers that have done the right things and served honorably.

Staff Sergeant Gabriel George, retention non-commissioned officer, HHC, and Worcester, Mass., native, said he appreciated the opportunity to help young Soldiers and non-commissioned officers in their careers.

"I enjoy guiding 'hi-speed' Soldiers to re-enlist to stay Army," George said. "Soldiers are always hunting me down to re-enlist."

George said he posts up-to-date information concerning retention in the company and battalion areas, to give Soldiers an idea of the options that are offered in different military occupational specialties.



Maj. Vincent Nwafor (right), support operations officer in charge, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, reenlists Sgt. 1st Class Travis Smith, equipment readiness branch non-commissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 391st CSSB, and Horseshoe Bend, Ark., native, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher March 29, 2009. (Photo by Spc. Matthew Conklin)



Sgt. Elizabeth Jones (right), retention non-commissioned officer, 1st Inland Cargo Transfer Company Forward Detachment, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, takes the oath of re-enlistment from 1st Lt. Ken Grace, detachment commander, 1st ICTC, 391st CSSB, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher March 31, 2009. (Photo by Sgt. Andrea Drake)