



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

Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq  
DSN (NIPR) 318-827-6101  
DSN (SIPR) 302-243-5104  
[keith.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:keith.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
3rd ESC Release #090422-5

## Germany-based sustainment Soldiers master battalion board

By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class JennyAnne Canlas  
18<sup>th</sup> CSSB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — For many Soldiers in the Army, it's a familiar drill: Knock loudly three times on the door, listen for "Enter!" and next thing you know a command sergeant major and four first sergeants are staring you down.

The often-intimidating senior enlisted leaders watch a Soldier's every move and listen carefully to every word that comes out of his or her mouth. The nervous Soldier recites the "Creed of the Non-commissioned Officer" and the "Soldier's Creed," sings the Army Song, and is finally directed to take a seat. This is just the beginning of the long, arduous process that is a military "board," which ends after a Soldier answers rapid-fire questions on a wide range of Soldier's and leaders tasks.

-more-

BOARD/2-2-2

Sgt. Keelon Primus, 51<sup>st</sup> Transportation Co., based out of Mannheim, Germany, and Spc. Shairlonda Harden, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., based out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, both 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support, experienced these intense situations during the battalion's "Warrior Leader and Soldier of the Quarter" board here April 9, 2009.

"I was recommended to the board because of my drive and will to succeed," said Primus, a native of East Stroudsburg, Pa.

Primus's NCOs and Soldiers in his platoon supported and helped him to succeed in his achievement, he said. They asked him general military questions throughout the day to help him prepare for the board.

Despite his busy schedule conducting convoy operations, Primus said he still continued to study and practiced breaking down weapon systems to prepare for the board.

"It's a challenge, because of the limited time you have between missions and down time, but it's a great accomplishment when you know your hard work pays off," he said.

General military knowledge and professional bearing is also evaluated during the quarter

-more-

BOARD/3-3-3

board.

“They help you to really know where you stand as far as Soldier skills and military bearing,” says Harden, who is in her first deployment to Iraq.

Primus and Harden both want to set a good example to their peers and continue to excel in their military careers. They represent the future leaders of the Army.

Primus and Harden were both selected to move forward to compete in the 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Battalion “Warrior and Warrior Leader of the Quarter” board on April 22, 2009 at Contingency Operating Base Q-west, Iraq. Both Soldiers said they are confident and well-prepared, and they are ready to represent their units and the 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB against the top Soldiers from six other battalions across northern Iraq at the board.



Sgt. Joseph Bannister, section leader and board sponsor, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, makes last minute uniform adjustments for Spc. Shairlonda Harden, HHC, 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB, before she enters the “Warrior Leader and Soldier of the Quarter” board at Contingency Operating Site Marez-East, Iraq, April 9, 2009. Harden, and Sgt. Keelon Primus, 51<sup>st</sup> Transportation

Co., 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB, won the board and will represent the battalion at the 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade's Warrior and Warrior Leader of the Quarter board at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, April 22, 2009. (Photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jenny Anne Canlas)