



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command
16th Sustainment Brigade
Public Affairs Office**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3rd ESC Release #
July 14, 2009

Vietnam veteran reenlists in Iraq

By Capt. Natalia Mercedes-Williams
18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — Sgt. 1st Class Hershel L. Mayfield, a native of Tallassee, Ala., has been serving in the Army for 39 years; thirty-seven of which were with the 158th Maintenance Co., Alabama Army National Guard.

Mayfield decided that it was time to reenlist again into the Guard and continue to serve his country for two more years.

“Everything I do today is done with the next generation in mind, and how I can influence them to do the same for their nation,” said Mayfield.

Mayfield joined the Guard, reclassing as a light-wheel vehicle mechanic, with a desire to continue serving his country as a Soldier. He thanked his wife of 30 years, Sheila, and his children Hershel Mayfield III (deceased) and Amber Lynn Tounton, for supporting him throughout his military career.

“It is a way of life and they’ve learned to live in it,” said Mayfield. His family has dealt with his absence due to three deployments and numerous training events.

“I joined the military because the base was adjacent to my home, and in order to have freedom, someone has to do the job,” said Mayfield. “It also provided me with benefits that no other civilian job has.”

Mayfield reenlisted to serve for another two years while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10. Mayfield thanked everyone at his reenlistment in front of company headquarters at Marez-East for attending.

Mayfield has served a total of 39 years in the service; two year as an infantryman on active duty and 37 years with the Alabama National Guard. During this period, he was deployed to Vietnam in 1969, Kosovo in 1996, and most recently to Mosul, Iraq, in 2008.

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Capt. Irvin Morris presents Sgt. 1st Class Hershel Mayfield, 158th Maintenance Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, with a certificate of reenlistment at Contingency Operating Site Marez-East, Iraq, July 7, 2009. Mayfield, a native of Tallassee, Ala., has been serving in the Army for 39 years — thirty-seven of

which were with the 158th Maintenance Co., Alabama Army National Guard. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Martonio Patterson)