

The 96th Promotes Officers

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Photo by CPT Anthony John

NORTH FORT HOOD, TX- Three officers of the 96th Sustainment Brigade were promoted in a ceremony held July 12 at North Fort Hood, TX. Rodney J. Glover, Tanya Ellis Simmons, and Scott A. Whited were promoted to the rank of major.

Glover, a 19-year veteran of the Army, is currently serving as the S-4 for the Special Troops Battalion. His last assignment was with the 311th ESC in Los Angeles. Glover began his career by enlisting into the Oklahoma National Guard as a radio operator. After earning his degree from Louisiana State University, he attended Officer Candidate School and became a logistics officer. Before switching to an AGR position, Glover worked as a civil engineer, building water and sewage treatment plants.



Simmons, the Financial Management Officer for the 96th SBDE, has been in the Army for 15 years. Her previous assignment was with the 3rd Mobilization Support Group at Fort Richardson, AK. Simmons received her Bachelor of Science degree from South Carolina State University. She also holds an MBA from the University of Phoenix. On the civilian side, Simmons is an accountant for the Army Corps of Engineers. Simmons currently resides in Anchorage, AK, with her husband Kelvin Simmons, and their nine-month old dog, TK.

Whited's career began when he enlisted in the Army 14 years ago. After spending three years on active duty in Germany, he earned his degree from Tennessee Technological University and commissioned as an infantry officer, eventually switching to the adjutant general branch. Whited is currently the executive officer for the Special Troops Battalion. His last assignment was with the 63rd Regional Readiness Command in Los Alamitos, CA. Whited lives in San Bernardino, CA, with his wife, Mary, and their two sons, Andrew, 16, and Christopher, 13.

The Majors share an enthusiasm for their new rank, and the responsibilities that come with it.

"It was a long time coming, after six years as a captain," said Simmons. "You're constantly learning and developing for this level in your career. You're excited to make it to the field-grade rank."

"Being a captain is one of the longer ranks for officers," said Whited. "I'd been a captain for nearly six years, so I was excited to put on the rank of major."

Glover agreed, saying, "It's long overdue."

The promotions come as the 96th SBDE prepares to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "We have a unique mission. It's going to be different," said Glover, who spent 12 months on the ground in Talil, Iraq. "Even though I was deployed 2 years ago, this is going to be different because the outcome is so uncertain, and there's nobody coming behind us."

"I'm very excited to mobilize with another unit," said Simmons. "This is my first mobilization with a unit this large. My previous deployment to Afghanistan was a very small detachment."

"I'm really looking forward to it. It's going to be a lot of fun," said Whited. "And if it's not fun, we're going to make it fun. Bottom line, we're going to get out there, be smart, and take care of the Soldiers."