



Troops re-enlist, renew their 'vows'

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CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — The words, "I... do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic ...," rang in the air as more than 1,100 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines took Independence Day to recommit themselves to their military "vows."

Gen. David Petraeus, commanding general of Multi-National Force — Iraq gave the oath of enlistment to the servicemembers which included more than 400 Soldiers serving with Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

"You are therefore proud inheritors of a tradition of service and commitment, professionalism and skill," said Petraeus, to the servicemembers re-enlisting on the 4th of July. "Through your sacrifice and commitment, through your professionalism and skill you are beginning a proud new chapter to the already rich history of America's military services."

"It's a good feeling to know that you're making an impact on a future generation," said Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill, senior enlisted leader of Multi-National Forces — Iraq. "That's why I feel that they are showing up by the numbers, recommitting themselves."

One Soldier felt honored to be part of this momentous event.

"It's not every day that you get to re-enlist with

all of the other branches that are here doing their part," said Spc. Travis Spuhler, a military intelligence systems maintainer and integrator with Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, MND-B.

Spuhler and his wife, Spc. Charleen Spuhler, an intelligence analyst, also with Company A, STB, 3rd BCT, 4th ID, MND—B, re-enlisted July 4 along with servicemembers at Al-Faw Palace on Camp Victory, in the largest re-enlistment ceremony ever held. Each renewed the vows and oaths to continue serving their country.

"We've been discussing re-enlisting for about three months," said Charleen. "I was worried that if he (Travis) didn't re-enlist, I was going to get stuck at some podunk post in the middle of nowhere without him, without any college options or anything like that," she said, recognizing some of the special considerations married members of the military deal with.

"We had mostly been talking about how we didn't want to re-enlist," Travis said. "But then I was paying attention to the economy and the way it was going, I realized there was no way I could do my part as a husband if I got out."

The Spuhlers personal answers to why they serve do not seem to fit most members of the military.

"As a whole, we joined to fight and win our nation's wars and that's what they're doing," said Hill. "I feel that's why they continue to step up to the plate and want to continue to serve. The message they're sending to the American people is we believe in what we are doing."



Gen. David H. Petraeus, commanding general of the Multi-National Force — Iraq, re-enlists a group of more than 1,100 servicemembers from all branches of the Armed Forces. The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines were participating in the biggest re-enlistment ceremony ever held.