

VING Recruiting & Retention Battalion Pins New Senior Enlisted Leader



Command Sgt. Maj. Delores English-Edwards has her shoulder boards changed by Major General Renaldo Rivera and her son Khalid Edwards, signifying her promotion to the highest enlisted rank.
Photo by Sgt. Juanita Philip-Mathurin

St. Croix, VI – August 20, 2012 - Sergeant Major Delores English-Edwards was pinned with the rank of command sergeant major during a pinning ceremony at the Lieutenant Colonel Lionel A. Jackson Readiness Center classroom on Friday, Aug. 10.

Before a crowd of fellow Guardsmen, family, friends and well wishers, Edwards was pinned as the second command sergeant major of the Virgin Islands National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

As remarks were given, every speaker either had an anecdote about Edwards or extolled her virtues.

Major General Renaldo Rivera, the adjutant general of the VI, recounted a time as a young lieutenant when a then young specialist, Edwards, admonished him to fix his bell bottom pants. “I really appreciate you for what you did back then when I was a lieutenant,” he said.

“I want to charge you today to find a master sergeant and mentor him or her to be the next command sergeant major... this promotion comes from the heart, and I want you to continue to do what you’ve been doing.”

Edward has served in the military for 36 years. She joined the VING in July 1976. After numerous assignments in various units, she transferred to Rec. and Ret. Bn in 1999, where she has held many positions to include a guidance counselor at the San Juan Military Entrance Processing Station, and noncommissioned officer in charge of the Recruit Sustainment Program.

Edwards spoke from the heart about dedication to her job, and the recruits and future Guard members that she had the opportunity to help while serving in the battalion.

“Being in the military is not about making money,” she said. “You should come to work to help soldiers, I have been fortunate to be in the position to do so.”

She also went on to thank those who molded her as a young soldier, those who came before her and her extensive family of 11 siblings, various cousins and close friends.

Edwards is married to retired VING Lt. Col. Beresford Edwards and they have two children, Maria and Khalid.

Story by Sgt. Juanita Philip-Mathurin

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