

# Setting the Standards in Food Service

September 2011

The 165th Infantry Brigade has the pleasure of acknowledging two of its very own local heroes. They are Ms. Mae Hopkins and Ms. Barbara Johnson. These two fine young ladies have set the standards in the Food Service arena.

Ms. Mae Hopkins was awarded a Letter of Accommodation for having served 26 years in the 165 Infantry Brigade as a Dining Facility Manager. In her tenure she was recognized by four Commanding Generals for excellence. Her most recent accomplishments occurred in the winter storm of 2011. Ms. Hopkins came to work awhile the Post was closed and roads were barely passable to serve over 1000 soldiers. She risked her own safety to feed, in her words, "her troops". She was also recognized recently by MG Milano for having received numerous accommodations from his staff. Ms. Mae slept on the floor alongside her "battle buddy" Ms. Barbara Johnson to ensure soldiers ate for two consecutive days.

Ms. Hopkins is affectionately known as "Mama Mae". She often counsels many of our top leaders in the confines of her dining facility. She was featured in the newspaper many time, as a result of her hard work and many positive remarks throughout the Fort Jackson and Columbia SC community. Three local television stations came to interview her as she prepared a harvest feast for the soldiers on Thanksgiving. Her dedication to duty and loyalty to the Army reflects great credit upon her, the unit, the Army and its soldiers.

Ms. Barbara Johnson has served for 16 years in our Brigade and has set standards that may never be matched in the future. Her dining facility won the Philip A. Connelly Award for Best Dining Facility in the entire Army stateside and overseas. This feat was nearly duplicated as she placed 2nd in the Army the next year (2010).

Ms. Johnson was the gracious host of our First Lady of the country, Mrs. Michelle Obama. She has been awarded top dining facility on the installation many times. She has been featured in the Post Newspaper and serves as model citizen on the installation. Her Battalion Commander refers to her as "Sergeant Major Johnson" because she runs a tight ship and she loves all the people. She also came in during the an intense winter storm and slept on the floor to feed soldiers so that they were treated with love. Our Brigade Commander and Command Sergeant Major saw it fitting to finally that these two ladies formally for their extreme hard work, loyalty and dedication.

