REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES-IRAQ
114th Public Affairs Detachment
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342

27 January 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: To whom it may concern

SUBJECT: Nomination for SPC Karin A. Leach as Keith L. Ware Journalist (Print) Rising Star of the year.

1. SPC Karin Leach has an exceptional work ethic and consistantly strives to improve her journalistic abilities. She is dedicated to telling the Soldier's story and to sharing her commanders messages. She takes duties and responsibilities seriously and she demonstrates her committment to Army values as a military journalist.

2. SPC Leach has written more than 70 stories while in Iraq. She has been published in Victorville Dailey Press, Bozeman Dailey Chronicle, Fayetteville Observer and at Army.mil. SPC Leach has taken more than 5,000 photos while deployed. While in Iraq she has covered high profile events with distinguished visitors such as Vice President Joe Biden and TV personality Stephen Colbert.

3. SPC Leach is reliable and independent. She is able to make clear decisions even under stressful conditions.

4. SPC Leach is dedicated to volunteering each week time to sing at church. While in theater she has successfully completed three college courses through The Berklee School of Music. She is dedicated to continuing her education as a civilian and as a Soldier.

5. SPC Leach is in compliance with the height and weight standards of AR 600-9. Her most current APFT score is 234, a test which she completed in theater under adverse conditions.

6. I have seen SPC Leach grow tremendously throughout this deployment. She is the definition of a rising star.

7. She has received the Army Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal and has been approved for the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Robert J. Burnham
CPT, MS
Commanding