



BIOGRAPHY

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ELI A. VALENZUELA

Command Sergeant Major Eli A. Valenzuela is the Nebraska State Command Sergeant Major.

CSM Valenzuela enlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard in September 1979 and attended Basic/Advanced Individual Training at Ft Sill, Oklahoma. He remained a Traditional Soldier until his appointment to State Command Sergeant Major. During his time in the military he has served as an Artilleryman, Signalman, NCOES Instructor, Drill Sergeant, Military Policeman and Quartermaster Soldier.

In December 2002, 1SG Valenzuela was called to active duty and deployed to Bosnia & Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Forge. Upon his return, 1SG Valenzuela was promoted to Command Sergeant Major of the 168th Quartermaster Battalion in February 2004 and has the distinction of being the first Hispanic Nebraska Army National Guard Soldier to attain the rank of Command Sergeant Major.

In June 2006, CSM Valenzuela and the 867th Quartermaster Battalion were again called to active duty, this time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit was transformed into a Corps Support Battalion and was comprised of six Army National Guard and Army Reserve companies and four Active Duty companies. CSM Valenzuela was responsible for the health and welfare of the over 1600 Soldiers that comprised the Corps Support Battalion.

In January 2008, CSM Valenzuela was selected as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major of the newly re-organized 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade.

In February 2010, CSM Valenzuela was selected by BG Judd H. Lyons as the 9th Nebraska State Command Sergeant Major. Along with the appointment comes the responsibility and accountability for the nearly 3,900 Soldiers that comprise the Nebraska Army National Guard.

CSM Valenzuela's civilian occupation was also one of public service. He is a retired Nebraska State Trooper. His State Patrol assignments in his over 25 years of service include the Traffic Division, the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy and the Executive Protection Detail.

CSM Valenzuela and his wife, Faye, are originally from the Scottsbluff/Gering area. They currently reside in Lincoln, Nebraska. They have two adult daughters Diane and Brittney (Poppe), son-in law, Jason and grandsons, Corey William and Tanner Lee.

NCOES/CIVILIAN EDUCATION:

1980 United States Army Field Artillery Course
1986 Primary Leadership Development Course
1991 Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course
1994 Drill Sergeant Course
1995 Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course
1997 First Sergeant Course
2001 Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska
2001 Sergeants Major Academy

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. September 1979-December 1984, HHB 1-168th Field Artillery, Scottsbluff, Nebraska
2. January 1985-October 1992, Section Sergeant, Company B, 135th Signal Battalion, Seward, Nebraska
3. November 1992-February 1997, Instructor, 209th Training Regiment, Camp Ashland, Nebraska
4. March 1997-October 1999, First Sergeant, Company B, 135th Signal Battalion, Seward, Nebraska
5. November 1999-February 2000, Ops Sergeant, 192nd Law & Order Detachment, Omaha, Nebraska
6. March 2000-November 2002, First Sergeant, HQ STARC, Lincoln, Nebraska
7. December 2002-January 2004, Personal Security Officer, HHC 35th ID, Bosnia & Herzegovina
8. February 2004-April 2006, Command Sergeant Major, 168th QM BN, Scottsbluff, Nebraska
9. May 2006 - December 2007, Command Sergeant Major, 867th QM BN, Al Taji, Iraq
10. January 2008 – January 2010, Command Sergeant Major, 67th BfSB, Lincoln, Nebraska
11. February 2010 – Present, Command Sergeant Major, Joint Force Headquarters, Lincoln, Nebraska

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Bronze Star Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters
Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster
Good Conduct Medal
Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with silver oak leaf cluster
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Iraqi Campaign Medal with two bronze stars
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with “M” device, silver hourglass device and “2” device
NCO Professional Development Ribbon with “4” device
Army Service Ribbon
Overseas Service Ribbon
NATO Medal
Meritorious Unit Citation
Drill Sergeant Identification Badge
Nebraska National Guard Legion of Merit
Nebraska National Guard Meritorious Service Medal
Nebraska National Guard Commendation Medal with 4 bronze oak leaf clusters
Nebraska National Guard Individual Achievement Medal with one silver and three bronze oak leaf clusters
Nebraska National Guard Homeland Defense Service Ribbon with “M” device
Nebraska National Guard Emergency Service Medal with two bronze stars
Nebraska National Guard Service Medal with twenty-five year device
Louisiana National Guard Legion of Merit
Louisiana National Guard Emergency Service Medal