



Command Sergeant Major Steven P. Ridings

Patriot Academy Command Sergeant Major

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Steven Ridings enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1983 as a Field Artillery Fire Support Specialist, (MOS 13F), and served more than five years on active duty. He holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business and a Masters of Arts Degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

His previous assignments include duty as a Fire Support Team member with the 2nd Squadron/ 9th Cavalry at Fort Stewart, Georgia; as a Forward Observer with the 4th Squadron/2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany; and as a Fire Support NCO with the 1st Battalion/163rd Field Artillery. Additionally, he also served with the 1st Battalion/151st Infantry as an Intelligence Sergeant in Bosnia during Operation Joint Forge, and as a First Sergeant in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. From 2006 to 2009, he served as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major of the 113th Brigade Support Battalion. A period which included the unit's deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Prior to being assigned at the Patriot Academy, CSM Ridings served over two years as the Command Sergeant Major of the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center Observer-Controller Battalion. In that capacity his position responsibilities included advising his commander on all Enlisted matters pertaining to the training, development, and readiness of military and civilian personnel deploying in support of varying missions such as Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. CSM Ridings became the second Command Sergeant Major of the National Guard Patriot Academy on May 16, 2011.

He has attended all of the professional education courses required for a Command Sergeant Major and on many occasions has been the Distinguished Honor Graduate, Honor Graduate, or in the Top 20 percent of his class. He has also attended other courses including the Naval Gunfire Spotter's Course, the Air-Ground Observer School Course, Anti-Terrorism Courses, and the Modern Army Combatives Level I Course.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster, (OLC)), Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (4 OLC), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (4 OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal, various service medals, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

CSM Ridings is a native of Indiana and graduated from New Albany High School in 1981. CSM Ridings has been married to his wife Kim for almost 28 years. They have two daughters, Samantha and Alicia; and three grandchildren, Rory, Stella, and Elliott.