



CSM Abel Tavera

Command Sergeant Major

Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation Fort Benning, Georgia



CSM Abel Tavera, born in Dominican Republic and raised in New York City, enlisted in the U. S. Army in October 1986 and attended One Station Unit Training (OSUT), in D Troop, 6th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Knox, Kentucky. His career began in the 5/12 Cavalry at Fort Knox, followed by an assignment to Alpha Troop, 5/17 Cavalry in 1991, at Camp Garryowen, Korea. From 1992 to 1997 he was a Cavalry Scout at Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 3/70 Armor and HHC 1/67 Armor at Fort Polk, Louisiana. At Fort Jackson, South Carolina, he was a Drill Sergeant in HHC 2-13 Infantry and a Senior Drill Sergeant in Charlie Company 2-13 Infantry from 1997 to 2000. From 2000 to 2004, CSM Tavera was a Scout Platoon Sergeant for HHC 1/35 Armor in Baumholder, Germany, including two deployments to Kosovo and one deployment to Iraq. After his return to the United States, CSM Tavera served as a Senior Military Instructor (ROTC) at the Ohio State University, and

continued on to the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas in 2008. Upon graduation he was assigned to the Joint Improvised Explosive Device and Defeat Organization at the Pentagon with duty as the Field Team Iraq Sergeant Major. In October 2010, at Fort Benning, he assumed responsibility as the Command Sergeant Major of 2nd Squadron 16th Cavalry Regiment. In July 2012, he assumed responsibility as the Command Sergeant Major of 1st Battalion, 409th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Knox, KY. Returning to Fort Benning, he took responsibility as the Command Sergeant Major for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation on 9 March 2015.

CSM Tavera's education includes Primary, Basic and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Courses, Sergeants Major Academy, First Sergeant Course, Drill Sergeant School, and Scout Platoon Leader Course. CSM Tavera holds a Homeland Security certification, an Associate's Degree in General Studies from Central Texas College, and a Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Management from Excelsior University.

CSM Tavera has received multiple awards and decorations to include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (8 OLC), Presidential Unit Award (1 OLC), Good Conduct Medal (7th Award), National Defense Service Medal (2nd Bronze Star), Southwest Asia Medal (2nd Bronze Star), the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the United Nations Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon (number 4), the Overseas Service Ribbon (4th Award), the Army Service Ribbon, the Combat Action Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge and Driver's Badge.