

CSM Blake A. Simms

CSM Simms enlisted in the United States Army in January of 1999 and attended One Station Unit Training at Ft. Benning, Georgia where he trained as an Infantryman. CSM Simms has served in every leadership position from Fire Team Leader to Operations Sergeant Major. His assignments include 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, Fort Lewis, WA; 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, NC; 4th Ranger Training Battalion, Fort Benning, GA; 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, Fort Bragg, NC; 82nd Pathfinder Company, Fort Bragg, NC; United States Army Office of Military Support, Alexandria, VA; Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate, Fort Bragg, NC; Task Force 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, Fort Benning, GA; and 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, NC.

CSM Simms has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom as well as providing humanitarian assistance as part of Joint Task Force Katrina in 2005.

CSM Simms is a graduate of numerous military courses to include Ranger School, Airborne School, Military Free Fall School, Static Line and Military Free Fall Jumpmaster Courses, the Sapper Leader Course, Pathfinder School, Air Assault School, Rappel Master, SPIES and FRIES Master, Infantry Mortar Leader Course, Long Range Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course, Advanced Tactical Driving Course, and Advanced Surveillance/Counter Surveillance techniques. CSM Simms also holds a BS in Homeland Security from Columbia Southern University.

CSM Simms' military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4th award), Army Commendation Medal (8th award), Army Achievement Medal (14th award), Ranger Tab, Sapper Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Military Free Fall Jumpmaster Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, and numerous foreign badges including the Latvia Badge of Parachutist, Canadian Parachutist Badge, German Armed Forces Parachutist Badge (Silver), Italian Parachutist Badge, and Colombian Free Fall Military Parachutist Badge.

CSM Simms is a recipient of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Award and Order of Saint Maurice and was the 2007 TRADOC NCO of the Year. CSM Simms is also a Distinguished Member of the 28th Infantry Regiment. In 2009, CSM Simms, along with his partner CSM Chad Stackpole, won the David E. Grange Best Ranger Competition.