

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Axel R. Nieves-Lopez's military career spans over 23 years, born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, in August 1981.

He entered the United States Army in February 2001 to attend the Defense Language Institute (DLI) at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Later that year, he attended One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, graduating as an Infantryman in September 2001.

He has served in every leadership position from Team Leader to First Sergeant, in multiple instructor roles, and overseas as an Infantry Advisor.

CSM Nieves-Lopez's assignments include Bradley Driver and Rifleman, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (MECH); Team Leader and Squad Leader, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; Ranger Instructor, Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, Airborne Ranger Training Brigade; Platoon Sergeant, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division; Infantry Advisor, US Embassy-Panama Office of Security and Cooperation; First Sergeant, Alpha Company and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade, 1st Armored Division; Master Leader Course Facilitator, NCOLCOE Fort Stewart, Georgia. Most recently serving as the 199th Infantry Brigade Operations Sergeant Major.

He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) on three occasions: OIF I (2003-2004) with 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment; OIF III (2005-2006) and OIF V (2007-2008) with, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment. He deployed to Pacific Pathways in 2014 with 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment in support of PACOM security cooperation mission to participate in bilateral exercises with the Armies of Thailand, Korea, and the Philippines.

CSM Nieves-Lopez has attended all levels of the Professional Military Education (PME) system, including the Master Leader Course (HG), an Air Assault, Ranger, Airborne, and Pathfinder Schools graduate. He completed the Tactics Certification Course, Army Basic Instructor Course, the Common Faculty Development-Instructor Course, the Jungle Operations Tactical Course (Australia), and Jungle Survivor Course (Australia). Graduate of the Sergeants Major Academy Class 72. He has earned 57 credits towards a bachelor's degree in Leadership and Workforce Development.

His awards and decorations include Meritorious Service Medal 2 Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), Army Commendation Medal (Valor), Army Commendation Medal (8 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (5 OLC), Good Conduct Medal (7th award), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (3 Campaign Stars), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Service Defense Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (numeral 5) Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Medal (5th award), Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Chilean Parachutist Badge, and Drivers Badge (track and wheel).

CSM Nieves-Lopez has been married to Brandi Marie Nieves of Clarksville, Tennessee, for over 18 years. They have two children, Elyssia and Mateo .