

## **Command Sergeant Major Steven L. Payton**

CSM Payton is a native of Grenada, Mississippi. He enlisted into the U.S. Army 27 August 1986. He graduated the Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training Courses at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he was awarded the 13F Military Occupational Skill. He graduated from the Sergeant's Major Course in June 2006, and was promoted to Sergeant Major shortly after on 1 January 2007. During his service in the U.S. Army, he has been privileged to serving in numerous command and staff, and leadership positions throughout the world including Panama (1995-1996), Afghanistan (2007), Iraq (2008-2009), Japan (2012-2014) and at the Pentagon (2014-2016).

As a Sergeant Major, he served as a Forward Support Operations Sergeant Major in HHC, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Fires and Effects, in Fort Bragg, N.C. and Afghanistan. He then served as Command Sergeant Major in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 319<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, in Fort Bragg, N.C. and Iraq. His next position was the Command Sergeant Major in the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C. He then served as Command Sergeant Major in Headquarters, U.S. Army Japan, Okinawa, Japan, followed by his role as Sergeant Major, Headquarters Department of the Army, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7 Operations and Plans at the Pentagon. He currently serves as the command Sergeant Major for United Nations Command/ ROK-U.S. Combined force command/ United States Forces Korea.

CSM Payton has attended all levels of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System to include Sergeants Major Course, Battle Staff Course, U.S. Air Force Airlift Planner Course, Transport Dangerous Cargo Course, Joint Firepower Course, Jumpmaster Course, and Airborne School. He is a graduate of the National Defense University's Keystone Course, attended the Army War College Senior Leader Symposium and holds a BS in liberal Arts from Excelsior College.

CSM Payton's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (1 OLC), Bronze Star Medal (2 OLC) Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (6 OLC), Good Conduct Medal (8<sup>th</sup> award) National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (numeral 4), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Arrowhead Device, Kuwait Liberation Medal-Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Liberation Medal-Kuwait, Combat Action Badge, Master Parachutist Badge with Bronze Star, Parachutist Badge with Bronze Service Star, and Parachutist Badge.