



**MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD  
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR  
SILVESTER TATUM  
SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER, MISSISSIPPI**

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Tatum was selected as the Senior Enlisted Leader of the Mississippi National Guard (MSNG) on 1 April 2021 by Major General Janson D. Boyles and approved by Governor Tate Reeves. CSM Tatum is the principal advisor to the Adjutant General of Mississippi on all matters pertaining to providing a ready enlisted force, health of the force and enlisted professional development of more than 13,000 Citizen Soldiers, Airmen, State employees, and federal technicians. Areas of focus are to ensure the force is equipped and trained to respond to any contingency, natural or manmade.

CSM Tatum enlisted in the MSNG in 1981. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia where he was awarded his primary MOS as an 11C Mortar Man/Indirect Fire specialist. Upon completion of his training, he returned to Det. 1, Headquarters Company, 2-198<sup>th</sup> Armor Battalion in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, where he was assigned as a gunner in a mortar platoon. In 1985, the unit cross-leveled to M60 tanks, then to M1 Abrams Tanks in 1987.

In December 1990, he served in CONUS support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. CSM Tatum mobilized in 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III as the First Sergeant for A Company, 1-155<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. After the deployment, he was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-155<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion as the First Sergeant. In November 2008, he was transferred to the 210th Finance Company as the Senior Financial Operations SGM and later deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. CSM Tatum was promoted to the rank of SGM on 28 March 2009. CSM Tatum was appointed as Command Sergeant Major in October 2013 and transferred back to the 1-155<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion as the Battalion CSM. CSM Tatum was selected as the 155<sup>th</sup> Armor Brigade Combat Team CSM in August 2015.

In October 2017, CSM Tatum was selected to serve as the second Land Forces Component CSM and Acting State CSM for the MSARNG. Concurrently, CSM Tatum was the State's NCOIC for all Pre-Mobilization Training for the MSARNG. His role was to ensure that mobilizing units completed all training requirements and to oversee final validation before units departed for mobilization. In April 2019, CSM Tatum was selected as the Army National Guard G8 SGM and became the primary liaison to United States Financial Management Command (USAFMCOM) and to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management & Comptroller) Strategic Initiatives Group for all matters related to the operational Finance and Comptroller (FC) units across the ARNG.

CSM Tatum has completed all levels of Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System to include the Nominative Leader Course and the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. He has received many awards and decorations to include the Meritorious Service Medal (4<sup>th</sup> award), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Mississippi Magnolia Medal, Mississippi Commendation Medal and numerous other state and federal awards. He is also the recipient of the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.