

Operations Group Command Sergeants Major

CSM Gary John Kurtzhals was born July 18th, 1983, and is a native of Loup City, NE. He enlisted in the army in August 2001 as a 19K, M1 Armor Crewman. He attended One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

CSM Kurtzhals has served in every leadership position from tank gunner through brigade command sergeant major. His stateside assignments include tank driver through Tank Commander, 1-34 AR, Fort Riley, KS; Drill Sergeant 3-34 IN, Fort Jackson, SC; Platoon Sergeant, 1-77 AR and Brigade Master Gunner, 3rd ABCT, 1st AD, Fort Bliss, TX; First Sergeant 2-7 IN, Fort Stewart, GA, Reconnaissance (Cobra 11A) OC/T and Senior Live Fire Trainer (Dragon 40) OC/T, Fort Irwin, CA, Operations Sergeant Major for 5-7 CAV, Fort Stewart, GA, Command Sergeant Major for 1-68 AR Regiment, Fort Carson, CO, and most recently the Command Sergeant Major for 3rd ABCT "GREYWOLF" 1st Cavalry Division. His next assignment will be the Operations Group CSM at Ft. Irwin, CA. He has deployed to Iraq three times and Afghanistan once for combat operations; and completed four regionally aligned forces rotations to Europe and one to Korea.

CSM Kurtzhals military education includes the Warrior Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course (CL), Unit Antiterrorism Advisor, Force XXI FBCB2/BFT instructor, Combatives Level 1, Senior Leaders Course, Hazmat Family and Safety, Total Army Instructor, Drill Sergeant School, Commanders Safety Course, M1A2 Master Gunner Course, UCOF Senior Instructor Course, First Sergeant Course, Combat Lifesaver, Observer Controller Academy, Joint Firepower Course, Cavalry Leaders Course, and the Sergeants Majors Academy Class 70 (CL). He holds a Master of Science in Management from Excelsior College, a Bachelor's Degree in Leadership and Workforce Development from CGSC, and a Bachelor of Professional Studies in Business and Management from Excelsior College.

CSM Kurtzhals awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (5th award), Army Commendation medal (8th award), Army Achievement medal (10th award), Joint Meritorious Unit award, Valorous Unit award, ASUA, Army Good Conduct medal (7th award), National Defense Service medal, Afghanistan Campaign medal (1 star), Iraq Campaign medal (5 stars), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal, Global War on Terrorism Service medal, Noncommission Officer Professional Development Ribbon (numeral 4), Army Service ribbon, Overseas Service ribbon (numeral 3), NATO Medal, Master Gunner Identification Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge, Combat Action Badge, and the Drivers Badge for track and wheeled. He also holds the German Schützenschnur (Gold) and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Gold).

CSM Kurtzhals is one of six children of Kim and Cathey, and Gold Star Family member with the passing of his brother SSG Trevor J. Kurtzhals in 2019 while in service with the Nebraska National Guard.