

## **CSM Dean R. Parsons** **Command Sergeant Major, 117<sup>th</sup> Space Battalion**

Command Sergeant Major Dean R. Parsons assumed the duties as command sergeant major for the 117th Space Battalion, Colorado Army National Guard, on March 8, 2009.

Parsons enlisted on October 8, 1979 into the United States Marine Corps and attended Basic Training at Parris Island, South Carolina. Upon graduation he attended the Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, California. Parsons was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division Okinawa, Japan, deploying to countries throughout the Far East and also participated in Task Force Charlie, Indian Ocean Operations. He was then assigned to Marine Security Guard Battalion, Camp Quantico, Virginia. Parsons served at the American Embassy, Paris France. Parsons also served in Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Belgium, and England. He later served at American Embassy, Kinshasa, Zaire seeing duty in Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon, The Congo, Kenya Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and other African countries.



In 1985, Parsons enlisted in the United States Army and volunteered for Special Forces at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, graduating in 1987. He was assigned to ODA 536, and later to ODA 994, C Company, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne). At C Company Parsons participated on multiple JCS/JCET missions and served on all activations starting with Operation Restore Democracy, Republic of Haiti.

In October 2000 he was selected for sergeant major and served as Company SGM, C Company, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne). During this assignment Parsons successfully executed multiple operations including a 2002 – 2003 OEF operation in Afghanistan.

In October 2005 Parsons became Command Sergeant Major Parsons, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

In May 2007, Parsons requested reassignment and was reassigned as the Company SGM with A Company, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and was later attached to 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group, where he served at Firebase Stack (STACKHOUSE), Hillah, Iraq.

His awards include: Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Achievement Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters; National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War On Terrorism Service Medal; Afghanistan and Iraqi Campaign Medals; Humanitarian Assistance Medal; Army Non-Commissioned Officer Development Ribbon with Numeral 4; Armed Forces Reserve Service Medal with Hourglass Device and M Device; Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon with Numeral 4; Army Service Ribbon; Army Superior Unit Award; Colorado Active Service Medal; Colorado Longevity Service Medal; Colorado State Adjutant General's Award; Louisiana Cross of Merit (Operation Katrina); Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB); Combat Patch; Parachutist Badge; Military Free-Fall Parachutist Badge; and Special Forces Tab.

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