



SGM Russell R. Blackwell

Directorate SGM, Strategic Operations
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7

Sergeant Major Russell R. Blackwell originally hails from Turtletown, TN. He graduated from Copper Basin High School in Copperhill, TN, in May 1996. He entered the Army in July of that same year at Fort Sill, OK, and completed initial entry training in the Field Artillery.

SGM Blackwell has held every leadership position from Platoon Forward Observer to Command Sergeant Major. His stateside assignments include Fort Sill, OK; Fort Stewart, GA; Chattanooga, TN; Fort Bragg, NC; Fort Bliss, TX; and Fort Drum, NY, and The Pentagon. His overseas assignments include two tours in the Republic of Korea and Schofield Barracks, HI. He has deployed twice with the 82nd Airborne Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major of 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY. He then served as the Garrison CSM of USAG Fort Sill, Fort Sill, OK. SGM Blackwell assumed duties as the HQDA G3/5/7 DAMO-SO Sergeant Major on 8 November, 2021.

SGM Blackwell's military schools include all levels of the NCOES system culminating with the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Class 67. Additionally, he is a graduate of the Basic Airborne Course, Jumpmaster Course, Air Assault School, the Recruiter Course, the Master Resiliency Course, the Battle Staff Course, the Battalion Pre-Command Course, the Garrison Pre-Command Course, and the Brigade Pre-Command Course among others. His college education includes a Bachelor of Science (Cum Laude) in Political Science and Public Administration from Troy University and a Master's Degree in International Affairs and Security from the University of North Georgia.

SGM Blackwell's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (five Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Good Conduct Medal (seventh award), the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Iraq Campaign Medal (two bronze stars), the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon (number 5), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Services Ribbon (number 5), the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Army Superior Unit Award, Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Gold Recruiter Badge (3rd Sapphire), the German Parachutist Badge, the Royal Thailand Army Parachutist Badge, and the Driver's Badge (W). He is a member of the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

SGM Blackwell is married to Mrs. LaFleur Blackwell. He has three daughters, Kayla, Raegan, Gabriella and one son, Bobby. SGM Blackwell and LaFleur are licensed foster parents.