

**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ABEL TAVERA**  
1-409<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Battalion

CSM Abel Tavera, a native of New York, New York, enlisted in the United States Army in October 1986 and attended One Station Unit Training (OSUT), in D Troop, 6th Cavalry Regiment Fort Knox, Kentucky. His career began in the 5/12 Cavalry at Fort Knox, Kentucky. His next assignment was Alpha Troop, 5/17 Cavalry in 1991, located at Camp Garryowen, Korea. From 1992 to 1997 he was a Cavalry Scout at Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) 3 /70 Armor and HHC 1/67 Armor at Fort Polk Louisiana. He served at Fort Jackson, South Carolina as a Drill Sergeant in HHC 2-13 Infantry and as a Senior Drill Sergeant in Charlie Company 2-13 Infantry from 1997 to 2000. From 2000 to 2004, CSM Tavera was a Scout Platoon Sergeant for HHC 1/35 Armor in Baumholder, Germany, including two deployments to Kosovo and one deployment to Iraq. After his return to the United States, CSM Tavera served as a Senior Military Instructor (ROTC) at The Ohio State University, and continued on to the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas in 2008. Upon graduation he was assigned to the Joint Improvised Explosive Device and Defeat Organization at the Pentagon with duty as the field team Iraq SGM. In October 2010, he assumed responsibility as the Sergeant Major of 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron 16<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment.

CSM Tavera's education includes Primary, Basic and Advance Noncommissioned Officer Courses, Sergeants Major Academy, First Sergeant Course, Drill Sergeant School, and Scout Platoon Leader Course. CSM Tavera holds a Home Land Security certification, an Associate's Degree in General Studies from Central Texas College, and a Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Management from Excelsior University.

CSM Tavera has received multiple awards and decorations to include the Bronze Star Medal, the Joint Distinguished Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Joint Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC), Army Achievement (8 OLC), Presidential Unit Award (1 OLC), Good Conduct Medal (7th Award) National Defense Service Medal (2nd Bronze Star) Southwest Asia Medal (2nd Bronze Star), the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the United Nations Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon (number 4), the Overseas Service Ribbon(4th Award), the Army Service Ribbon, the Combat Action Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge and Driver's Badge.