

Command Sgt. Maj. Herlon M. Stephens enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard in Aug. 1979, and was assigned to Detachment 1, 134th Combat Support Hospital, Hattiesburg, Miss. He attended basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, S.C., as a 63B Wheeled Vehicle and Power Generator Mechanic.

Stephens transferred to the 1355th Quartermaster Company in Ocean Springs, Miss., and was mobilized to serve in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Storm, and two REFORGER tours in Germany.

In 1995, Stephens joined the United States Army Reserve as a member of 3rd BN 346th Regt 87th Div Camp Shelby, Miss., and served on the Quartermaster Lanes Team.

Stephens was promoted in Mar. 1999, to master sergeant and assigned to 828 Transportation BN, Livingston, Ala., where he served as Battalion Motor Sergeant. He transferred back to 3rd 346th Camp Shelby in Jan. 2002, and became NCOIC of a Transportation Team.

Stephens was mobilized Jan. 2003, to Jan. 2006, during which time he served as Home Station Team NCOIC, and then attached to 1-346th Camp Shelby to serve as Dismounted Land Navigation Lane NCOIC.

Stephens was chosen for Command Sergeant Major Designee in 2005. He received orders to attend the Sergeants Major Academy resident course Class 57 at Fort Bliss, Texas, from Aug. 2006 until May 2007. He returned to Camp Shelby and was transferred to 2-346 in August 2007. He was promoted and appointed to Command Sergeant Major, December 2007 and assigned to 2-346th FSB. CSM Stephens was mobilized in support of Overseas Contingency Operations July 2008 until July 2011. During this time he served as the interim Brigade Command Sergeant Major for the 177th AR BDE CSM from February 2010 until September 2010.

While attending the Sergeants Major Academy Stephens received his Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, from Excelsior University and is presently pursuing his MBA from Trident University International.

Stephens is the recipient of the following Awards and Decorations:

Soldiers Medal

Meritorious Service Medal

Army Commendation Medal w/2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters

Good Conduct Medal

Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal w/1 Silver and 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster

National Defense Service Medal w/1 Bronze Star

South West Asian Service Medal w/2 Bronze Stars

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/Silver Hourglass, M, and 2 Affixed
NCO Professional Development Ribbon w/4 Affixed
Army Service Ribbon
Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon w/2 Affixed
Saudi Arabian Liberation of Kuwait
Kuwait Liberation of Kuwait
Army Meritorious Unit Citation