

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR WILLIAM D. COOPER

Senior Enlisted Leader, Montana National Guard

Command Sergeant Major William D. Cooper assumed the duties of the Senior Enlisted Leader for the Montana National Guard on 1 May 2009. As the State Senior Enlisted Leader, CSM Cooper is responsible to the Adjutant General for providing advice and recommendations regarding all matters pertaining to policies and actions involving enlisted personnel in the Montana Army and Air National Guard.

CSM Cooper was raised in Salmon, Idaho and graduated from Salmon High School in 1976. He entered military service on 15 September 1976 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA. He then became a KC-130 Loadmaster for the duration of his 4 years of active service with the Marines.

CSM Cooper attended the University of Montana from 1984-1987 accruing 88 semester hours in Health and Physical Education. He began his Montana Army National Guard career in 1984 as a member of the 1063rd Combat Engineer Company in Missoula, MT. He served as a Team Leader, Squad Leader, Training NCO and Readiness NCO with the 1063rd. In 1995 CSM Cooper was transferred to Bozeman, MT to stand up the 1st Battalion, 163rd Infantry (BFV) "Grizzlies." During his years with the Griz Battalion, he served as the Operations Sergeant, First Sergeant for D/1-163, Operations Sergeant Major and Command Sergeant Major. In July of 2004, he deployed as a member of Task Force Griz to FT Bliss, TX and further movement to FT Polk, LA with a final destination of FOB McHenry, Al Hawija, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Upon his return from theater, in November 2005, he was reassigned to Helena, MT as the Operations Sergeant Major for the 95th Troop Command until his assignment as the 5th Senior Enlisted Leader for the Montana National Guard.

CSM Cooper has attended all NCOES courses with the culminating school being the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy in 2006.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, six Army Good Conduct Medals, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device and Bronze Hourglass, the Non Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral "4", the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Valorous Unit Award and the Combat Infantryman Badge.