



Biography

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY
1300 E Avenue, Fort Lee, Virginia 23801-1800

Command Sgt. Maj. John M. Gaines Jr. Defense Commissary Agency Senior Enlisted Advisor

Army Command Sgt. Maj. John M. Gaines Jr., is the Defense Commissary Agency's senior enlisted advisor to the director. He is responsible for advising the DeCA director on enlisted service members' needs related to the commissary benefit and serving as the agency liaison with the senior enlisted chiefs of the armed services.

Command Sgt. Maj. Gaines came to DeCA after serving in the Pentagon as the command sergeant major for the Installation Management Command. He also concurrently served as the senior enlisted advisor to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management. Gaines had been selected IMCOM's second command sergeant major on July 14, 2008. Prior to that, he had served for nearly two years as the command sergeant major at IMCOM's Europe Region. IMCOM's basic mission is similar to that of a city manager for Army installations, overseeing services, resources and facilities.

Command Sergeant Major Gaines joined the United States Army in 1981. His career assignments include Fort Dix N.J.; three assignments at Fort Campbell, Ky.; El Gorah, Egypt; Aschaffenberg, Germany; Fort Polk, La.; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Haiti; Dexheim, Germany; Bosnia; Fort Bliss, Texas; Schinnen, the Netherlands; U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, Belgium; and Heidelberg, Germany. He has been deployed to Haiti for Operation Uphold Democracy in 1994, to Bosnia for Operation Joint Endeavor as a member of the implementation force in 1996, and to Kuwait as a task force sergeant major supporting operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in 2010.



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit (1 oak leaf cluster)
Meritorious Service Medal (3 oak leaf clusters)
Army Commendation Medal (6 oak leaf clusters)
Army Achievement Medal (5 oak leaf clusters)
Good Conduct Medal (8 bronze clasps)
Armed Forces Service Medal
National Defense Service Medal (with service star)
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Army Service Ribbon (with numeral 4)
Overseas Ribbon (with numeral 7)
NATO Medal
Multinational Forces and Observers Ribbon
Drivers Badge
Army Superior Unit Award (1 oak leaf cluster)

EDUCATION

2009 - present, completing requirements for a bachelor's degree in multidisciplinary studies at Grantham University
2001, associate's in general studies, Harold Washington College, Chicago, Ill.
2001, graduate, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy (in residence), Fort Bliss, Texas
2003, graduate, Garrison Command Sergeant Major Course, Fort Belvoir, Va.
1998, graduate, First Sergeant Course, Fort Bliss, Texas

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

Feb. 1 - present, Senior Enlisted Advisor, Defense Commissary Agency, Fort Lee, Va.

2008 - 2011, Command Sergeant Major, Installation Management Command and senior enlisted advisor to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management
2006 - 2008, Command Sergeant Major, Installation Management Command, Europe Region, Heidelberg, Germany
2005 - 2006, Garrison Sergeant Major, USAG Benelux (NATO Shape Support Group), Chièvres, Belgium
2003 - 2005, 254th Garrison Sergeant Major, Base Support Battalion, later became the U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen, the Netherlands
2001 - 2003, Support Operations Sergeant Major, later Sergeant Major, for Eagle Support Battalion (provisional), Headquarters, Headquarters Company 101st Corps Support Group, Fort Campbell, Ky.
2000 - 2001, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas
1999 - 2000, Operations Sergeant, 526th Forward Support Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.
1996 - 1999, Support Operations Sergeant, and later First Sergeant, 123rd Main Support Battalion, Dexheim, Germany, 1st Armored Division
1993 - 1996, Bravo Company First Sergeant, and later Operations Sergeant, 710th Main Support Battalion, Fort Drum, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.
1991 - 1993, NCOIC for Troop Issue Subsistence Activity (TISA), 80th Area Support Group (NATO Shape Support Group), Chièvres, Belgium
1987 - 1991, Section Sergeant/Squad Leader, later Platoon Sergeant, 40th Supply & Service Company, 45th Support Group, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
1985 - 1987, Class I NCO, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, DMMC (Division Material Management Command) 5th Division, Fort Polk, La.
1983 - 1985, Subsistence Supply Sergeant, 3rd Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, Aschaffenburg, Germany
1982 - 1983, Subsistence Supply Specialist, 227th Group Support Company, Eagle Support Brigade, Fort Campbell, Ky., January 1982 - February 1982, Advanced Individual Training (Subsistence Supply Specialist), Fort Lee, Va.
1981, Basic training, Fort Dix, N.J.

PROMOTIONS

2003, Command Sergeant Major
2001, Sergeant Major
1997, Master Sergeant
1992, Sergeant First Class
1988, Staff Sergeant
1986, Sergeant
1983, Specialist
1982, Private First Class

(Current as of March 2011)