Command Sergeant Major Alan D. Higgs was born and raised in Detroit. On March 29, 1985, he enlisted in the Regular Army as an Infantryman. Throughout his career, he has held many positions of responsibility from Team Leader to Battalion Command Sergeant Major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Higgs deployed to Southwest Asia for Operation Desert Storm from December 1990 to April 1991. He deployed to Kosovo as part of KFOR 2A and 4A. In 2004, he deployed with the 1st Infantry Division, to Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. His most recent deployment was with 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry as part of the 2nd Brigade, the Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, from July 2010 to July 2011.

Command Sgt. Maj. Higgs' military education consists of the Primary Leadership Development Course, Bradley Crew Evaluator Course, French Commando School, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Drill Sergeants School, Master Fitness Trainers Course, Airborne School, Air Assault School, Ranger School, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, and First Sergeants Course. He is also a graduate of the Sergeants Major Academy, Class 52.

Command Sgt. Maj. Higgs has a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies from Excelsior College.

His military decorations include the Bronze Star (Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal (Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (nine Oak Leaf Clusters), and numerous other ribbons and medals.

Command Sgt. Maj. Higgs also holds the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Basic Airborne Badge, Air Assault Badge, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, and the Ranger Tab. His foreign awards include the French Commando Badge, German Marksmanship Badge (Gold) and the German Army Sports Badge (Bronze).