Command Sergeant Major Darrin A. Kinder
Battalion CSM – Black Lion 7

CSM Kinder joined the Army on 31 July 1990 and completed basic training as an 11H Anti-Tank Infantryman at Fort Benning, Georgia. His assignments include 3-14th IN BN at Fort Drum, New York, 2-327th IN BN at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, 1-14th Cavalry Squadron, Fort Lewis, Washington, 3-21 IN BN, Fort Lewis, Washington, the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany, 1-12IN Bn at Fort Carson, Colorado, and currently serves as the CSM of 1-28th IN BN at Fort Riley, Kansas. CSM Kinder has held the positions of driver, anti-tank gunner, squad leader, platoon sergeant, First Sergeant, BN and BDE Operations Sergeant Major, and Command Sergeant Major. He has deployed in support of Operation Restore Hope (Somalia), Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

His military and civilian education includes: the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer's Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, and the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. He is also a graduate of the basic Airborne Course, Air Assault School, and Pathfinder Course. His civilian education includes a Bachelors Degree in Social Sciences from Excelsior College.

CSM Kinder's awards and decorations include: BSM (1 OLC), MSM (2 OLC), ARCOM (3 OLC), AAM (3 OLC), Good Conduct Medal (6th Award) , National Defense Service Medal (1 BS), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Medal, NCOPDR with numeral 4, Army Service Ribbon, Oversees Ribbon (2nd Award), NATO Medal, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Pathfinder Badge.

CSM Kinder is a proud recipient of the MG Aubrey E. Newman Award for Excellence in Leadership and is a member of the prestigious Field Artillery Order of Saint Barbara. Additionally, CSM Kinder has been inducted into the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, Order of the Spur.