



New USASMDC/ARSTRAT CSM

CSM Larry S. Turner a native of Perth Amboy, N.J., graduated from Perth Amboy High School and entered military service in April 1978. CSM Turner completed basic training at Fort Dix, N.J. His advanced infantry and airborne training was completed at Fort Benning, Ga.

CSM Turner's assignments include 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C.; 4th Battalion, 325th Airborne Combat Team (ABCT), Vicenza, Italy; 4th Battalion 325th Infantry Regiment Fort Bragg, N.C.; 2nd Battalion 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment Fort Bragg, N.C.; Infantry Training Brigade, Fort Benning, Ga.; 2nd Battalion 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C.; 1st Region ROTC, Atlanta, Ga. He also served as the 1st Battalion, 48th Infantry Regiment Command Sergeant Major at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; ROTC Brigade Sergeant Major; 82nd Division Special Troops Battalion Command Sergeant Major, Fort Bragg, N.C. Command Sergeant Major of Task Force Cincinnatus, and Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Command Sergeant Major of Task Force Gladius, CJTF-82, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Command Sergeant Major of Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan and NATO Training Mission Afghanistan.

CSM Turner's duty positions included: Rifleman, Team Leader, Squad Leader, Section Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Drill Sergeant, Drill Sergeant Instructor, First Sergeant, ROTC instructor, Battalion CSM, ROTC Brigade Sergeant Major and Brigade Task Force CSM. CSM Turner's military education includes Primary NCO Course, Basic and Advanced Infantry NCO Courses, Drill Sergeant Course, First Sergeant Course and Sergeants Major Academy and various other professional development courses.

CSM Turner's awards and decorations include Bronze Star Medal (2nd OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (5th OLC), Army Commendation Medal (4th OLC), Army Achievement Medal (1st OLC), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Good Conduct Medal (10th Award), National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral 4, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Saudi Arabia Liberation Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Combat Infantry Badge (2nd Award), Expert Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge with combat device and Drill Sergeant Badge.

CSM Ralph Borja enjoys the entertainment at his farewell barbecue with the troops in Colorado Springs, Colo. *Photos by Dottie White*



CSM Ralph Borja addresses the troops during his farewell barbecue in Colorado Springs, Colo.



Outgoing CSM Ralph Borja relishes his time with the Soldiers, Civilians, Contractors and Family members of USASMDC/ARSTRAT.

HONORING LIVES OF SERVICE

From left to right: CSM Timothy Czuba, CSM Cody Baker and CSM James Ross sing “God Bless the U.S.A.” with vocalist and guitarist, Mike Cornett.



By Sharon L. Hartman, USASMDC/ARSTRAT PAO

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. Approaching rain was unable to put a damper on the spirits of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Soldiers, Civilians and Contractors, who gathered together to celebrate the long and illustrious career of the command’s senior enlisted leader, CSM Ralph Borja, at one of several farewell events with the operational element of the command. As ominous clouds hovered menacingly over the mountains, the June 9 farewell barbecue, originally scheduled for Patriot Park, was moved indoors to the Building Three training rooms where the space quickly filled to capacity.

While attendees chowed down on tangy barbecue, spicy macaroni and cheese and baked beans catered by Famous Dave’s Barbecue, Mike Cornett of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Space Brigade added to the festive atmosphere

by playing his guitar and crooning tunes of Johnny Cash, the Beatles and more. As the afternoon went on, Borja made rounds to each of the crowded tables to spend time with and say farewell to the men and women he has mentored and inspired over his three years with the command.

After everyone had eaten their fill, and with time running short as Borja had to get back to his tasks with the Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition, 1st Space Brigade CSM James Ross, citing an inside joke with several sergeant majors, said he “had something in his heart he had to let out.” With 53rd Signal Battalion CSM Tim Czuba and 1st Space Battalion CSM Cody Baker in tow, the three joined Cornett in a slightly off-key rendition of Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the U.S.A.” As the quartet reached the chorus — “and I proudly stand up next to you” — the entire room joined in singing and scores in attendance rose to their feet turning the initial comical performance into a sign of Army strength and unity. As the song ended, Borja made his remarks thanking everyone for their dedication and support over the years.

Two days later, toward the end of the awards ceremony for the Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition, the command had another farewell surprise for Borja and his wife Nguyet, A touching slideshow covering their last three years with the command culminated in a tribute which brought tears to the eyes of the stoic leader and his devoted spouse, as Soldiers from the numerous command sites around the world — via audio recordings — passed on their gratitude and well wishes to the much beloved couple. The final Colorado Springs event to farewell the Borjas was a more intimate dinner with operational leaders from the command, where the slideshow tribute was presented again, as well as a special slideshow presentation from CSM Borja to Nguyet thanking her for her love and support. Following the change of responsibility and retirement ceremonies, the Borjas plan to move to Salt Lake City, Utah.