



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Command Sergeant Major "Kit" Crawford retires after 32 years of military service

Chattanooga, Tenn. - Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher "Kit" Crawford, of Elizabethton, retired May 21 from the Tennessee Army National Guard after serving for more than 32 years, most of which were on Active Duty.

In a ceremony held at the Headquarters of the 230th Sustainment Brigade in Chattanooga, Command Sgt. Maj. Crawford was recognized by his Command, friends, family and peers for his many years of service.

Crawford, originally from Lawrenceburg, Tenn., enlisted in Lawrenceburg's 473rd Support Battalion in 1982.

In 1990, he attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After finishing near the top of his class in the year-long course, Crawford decided not to take his commission to 2nd Lt., choosing instead to remain an enlisted Soldier. This decision proved prophetic, as his career progression culminated with his attainment of the highest enlisted rank in the Army, Command Sergeant Major.

Prior to assuming the responsibility as Command Sgt. Major, he served in the logistics field, the Military Police, as a Production Recruiter and as Marketing Non-Commissioned Officer for the Tennessee Recruiting Command. In 2010, Crawford was appointed as the first-ever Command Sgt. Major for the Tennessee Recruiting & Retention Battalion. He completed his career as the Senior Logistics Operations NCO for the 230th Sustainment Brigade in Chattanooga.

He deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 serving with the First Infantry Division.

Among the numerous awards and keepsakes given during the ceremony, Crawford was presented the "Keeper of the Colors" statue by the Tennessee Sergeants Major Association. The Command Sgt. Major is traditionally the keeper of the battalion colors both in garrison and in combat operations. The colors serve as a rallying point for all of the soldiers of the unit. The Command Sgt. Major ensures that wherever the Command is, the colors are always carried, presented and displayed properly.

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Command Sgt. Maj. Crawford was also awarded the Non-Commissioned Officer dress sword, mounted on a plaque in the shape of Tennessee, given by the officers and Soldiers of the 20th Sustainment Brigade.

Following his retirement, Command Sgt. Maj. Crawford and his wife, Robin, plan to return to their home in Elizabethton.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:



Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher "Kit" Crawford is presented the "Keeper of the Colors" award by the Sergeants Major Association of Tennessee for his 32 years of service to the Tennessee Army National Guard. From left are Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Sarten, Sgt. Maj. Bobby Lee, Sgt. Maj. Gayle Osteen, Retired Command Sgt. Maj. George Holland, Command Sgt. Maj. Crawford, his wife Robin, Command Sgt. Maj. Jodie Barnes-Turner, Sgt. Maj. Mike Rice, and State Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Jennings.

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Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher "Kit" Crawford is awarded the Non-Commissioned Officer dress sword by the officers and Soldiers of the 230th Sustainment Brigade recognizing his more than 32 years of service to the Tennessee National Guard. Pictured from left: Sgt. 1st Class Mike Warren, Sgt. Maj. Crawford and his wife, Robin.