

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR FRANKLIN A. SAUNDERS US Army, Retired



CSM Franklin A. Saunders entered the US Army on 14 November 1983 and spent the first 10 years of his Army career in Field Artillery and Special Forces. In 1993, he reclassified as a 96U (Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator). His first intelligence assignments were as an Intel Analyst with the 7th Special Forces Group, Platoon Sergeant for Company D, 304th MI Battalion, and then First Sergeant of the Army's first tactical UAV Company at Fort Hood, Texas.

During his 27-year career, CSM Saunders served in a variety of leadership and staff positions to include: Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, Battalion Operations Sergeant, First Sergeant, Brigade Operations Sergeant Major, Battalion Command Sergeant Major, Brigade Command Sergeant Major, The Army War College and Carlisle Barracks

Command Sergeant Major, and US Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca and MI Corps Command Sergeant Major. He retired in 2010 from the position of US Army G2 Command Sergeant Major.

As both a trainer and a leader, CSM Saunders had significant impacts on the MI Corps. As a trainer, CSM Saunders turned tired programs of instruction into relevant hands-on training that prepared MI Soldiers to enter a unit ready to work. He was instrumental in developing Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) training that employed modern signals and in merging traditional imagery training with full motion video. He was one of the first leaders to get the Army's UAV program out of the starting block, developing operators; tactics, techniques, and procedures; and the operational concepts for their employment. He advocated for increased Human Intelligence training, DCGS-A across our formations, Persistent Surveillance platforms, and the Every Soldier is a Sensor program, all of which were later validated by deployed commanders. His constant focus on deployed Warfighters enabled the MI Corps to provide trained and ready Soldiers along with the best Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance capabilities.

As a leader, CSM Saunders repeatedly demonstrated steadfast leadership, selfless devotion to duty, and focus on the Soldier. As the Command Sergeant Major for the

Army Intelligence Center, he updated organizational and Military Occupation Specialty structures to include the initiation of Company Intelligence Support Teams and Multifunctional Teams. When he became the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Deputy Chief of Staff, G2, he championed every aspect of the Army G2's mission and vision to transform Military Intelligence and to rebalance the Army MI force.

CSM Saunders bettered the Profession of Arms. In the words of CSM Todd Holiday, US Army, Retired, who nominated CSM Saunders to the Hall of Fame, "He is a mentor against which all other mentors should be measured. His success as a leader shaped each organization to which he was assigned, as well as Military Intelligence Soldiers for generations to come."

CSM Saunders was chosen for induction into the Hall of Fame in 2013.



CSM Saunders at the 232nd Army Birthday Run, Fort Huachuca



CSM Saunders with the rest of the Command Group at the US Army Intelligence Center of Excellence in 2005.

