

# COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR JOSEPH E. CISTARO

## 65th Troop Command Senior Enlisted Advisor

Command Sgt. Maj. Cistaro began his military career in 1987 in the 12th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as an Intelligence Analyst and a Foreign Voice Radio Interceptor (Spanish and Russian). Seven years later he entered the Illinois Army National Guard. In 1995 he became an Infantryman with D Co. 1/131INF and then C Co. which mobilized to Saudi Arabia for "Operation Desert Spring" in 1999. After 9-11, C/1/131INF was mobilized again, and was sent to Hohenfels, Germany for "Operation Santa Fe". In 2005 he was mobilized and sent to Ft. Polk Louisiana for "Operation Cajun Fury". In 2007 he volunteered for the JFHQ Embedded Training Team and was deployed for a year to Afghanistan. There he mentored and fought alongside his Afghan National Army (ANA) Infantry counterparts in the 2nd Kandak, 2nd Brigade/203rd CORPS in Afghanistan Regional Security Integration Command - East. In 2009 he was promoted to command sergeant major and was transferred to the 232nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. In 2013 he volunteered for the JFHQ Bilateral Embedded Staff Team (13) and was deployed to Afghanistan, this time with the Polish 10th Logistics Brigade where he assumed responsibilities as the Task Force White Eagle's Senior Enlisted Advisor. Prior to his return to the United States he was reassigned to the 65th Troop Command as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major.



Cistaro is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. He has been awarded the Airborne, Air Assault, Pathfinder and Combat Infantryman's Badges. His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device and Silver Hourglass, Army Superior Unit Award, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, Global War on Terror Service Medal, and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the ISAF NATO MEDAL. His foreign awards include the Polish Army Marksmanship Badge (Bronze), Polish Afghan Star, and the Polish Bronze Star Medal.

Cistaro is a 22 year veteran of the Chicago Police Department and has spent the last 18 years as a horse trainer and riding instructor in the Chicago Police Mounted Patrol Unit. He is happily married to his wife Kristie and has 5 children: Joseph, Olivia, Giovanni, Jake and Edward.