

AIR FORCE SONG

*Off we go into the wild blue yonder
Climbing high into the sun
Here they come zooming to meet
our thunder
At'em boys Give'er the gun!
(Give'er the gun hey!)
Down we dive, spouting our flames
from under
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame.
Hey!
Nothing will stop the US Air Force!*

U.S. ARMY SONG

*March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:*

*First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And the Army goes rolling along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army goes rolling along.*

*Then it's hi! hi! hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong;
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That the Army goes rolling along.*

RETIREMENT CEREMONY IN HONOR OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR SILVESTER TATUM MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD



JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
FRIDAY
27 SEPTEMBER 2024
1:00 P.M.



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR SILVESTER TATUM

Command Sgt. Maj. Silvester Tatum was selected as the Senior Enlisted Leader of the Mississippi National Guard (MSNG), April 1, 2021, by Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles and approved by Gov. Tate Reeves. Tatum is the principal advisor to the Adjutant General of Mississippi on all matters pertaining to a ready enlisted force, health of the force and professional development of more than 13,000 Citizen Soldiers, Airmen, state employees,

and federal technicians. His primary area of focus is to ensure the force is equipped and trained to respond to any contingency, natural or manmade.

Tatum enlisted in the MSNG in 1981, attending basic training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was awarded his primary MOS as an 11C Mortar Man/Indirect Fire specialist. Upon completion of his training, he returned to Det. 1, Headquarters Company, 2-198th Armored Regiment in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, where he was assigned as a gunner in a mortar platoon. In 1985, the unit cross-leveled to M60 tanks, then to M1 Abrams Tanks in 1987.

In December 1990, Tatum served stateside in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He mobilized in 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III as the First Sergeant for A Company, 1-155th Infantry Regiment. After the deployment, he was assigned as the First Sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-155th Infantry Regiment. In November 2008, he transferred to the 210th Finance Company as the Senior Financial Operations Sergeant Major and later deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Tatum was promoted to sergeant major, March 28, 2009, and later appointed as a command sergeant major in October 2013. He transferred back to the 1-155th Infantry Regiment as the Battalion CSM. Then, in August 2015, Tatum was selected to serve as the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team CSM.

In October 2017, Tatum was selected to serve as the second Land Forces Component CSM and at the same time, the acting State CSM for the MSARNG, and as the State's NCOIC for all Pre-Mobilization Training. In April 2019, he was selected as the Army National Guard G8 Sergeant Major and became the primary liaison to United States Financial Management Command (USAFMCOM) and to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management & Comptroller) Strategic Initiatives Group for all matters related to the operational Finance and Comptroller (FC) units across the ARNG.

Tatum has completed all levels of the NCO Professional Development System including the Nominative Leader Course and the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. He has received many awards and decorations including the Meritorious Service Medal (4th award), the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and numerous others. He is also the recipient of the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge. In 2023, Tatum was appointed by Gov. Tate Reeves to serve on the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board where he honors Veterans and their dependents through superior service, care, and assistance.

Tatum is a native of Rolling Fork, Mississippi. He and his wife Kathy are proud parents of seven children – three girls and four boys, LaKeshner, Latoya, Kapalonia, Carl, Silvester, Sterlin and Stedman.



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION

RECOGNITION OF FAMILY & DIGNITARIES

SERVICE HISTORY

HOST REMARKS

MG Janson D. Boyles
The 52nd Adjutant General

AWARDS/
PRESENTATIONS

SPOUSAL
PRESENTATION

RETIREMENT

HONOREE REMARKS
CSM Silvester Tatum
Senior Enlisted Leader

BENEDICTION

DEPARTURE OF
OFFICIAL PARTY

RECEPTION