



### **Command Sergeant Major Albert L. Vanzant**

Currently, retired Command Sergeant Major Vanzant serves as the Director of Project Operations for LED FastStart and Louisiana Economic Development, a federal agency under the auspices of the Office of Louisiana Economic Development. LED FastStart is headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Albert retired from the Louisiana Army National Guard in 2022 after 35 years, 6 months, and 19 days of service, where he held the rank of Command Sergeant Major (CSM). During his tenure in the National Guard, he was activated for Desert Storm in 1990 and deployed overseas to Iraq in 2004-2005 for Operation Iraqi Freedom and again in 2010 for Iraqi Enduring Freedom. Albert has also received training in various parts of the world, including Japan and Germany. Additionally, he performed numerous emergency activations for the State during hurricane seasons and other all-hazards events that struck Louisiana.

Retired Command Sergeant Major Albert Louis Vanzant Jr. enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard in 1987, serving as a 19EMOS Tanker in Troop E, located in Natchitoches, Louisiana, until 2002. He subsequently re-enlisted in the South Carolina Army Reserves from 2003 to 2004 and re-enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard, serving with the 1-156th Battalion from 2004 to 2005, where he held the rank of First Sergeant (1SG).

In 2005, he was promoted and appointed as the 2-156th Battalion Command Sergeant Major (2-156th BN CSM). Subsequently, he served as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major for the 2-108th CAV Squadron from 2008 to 2015. In 2016, he was appointed as the (DRU) CSM for the 61st Troop Command. From 2018 to 2019, he served as the (DRU) CSM for the 139th Rear Detachment. In 2019, he was appointed as the Joint Staff Officer (J7 SEA). From 2020 to 2021, he served as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major for the 415th Military Intelligence Brigade. From 2021 to 2022, he served as the (DRU) CSM for the 256th Rear Detachment. He concluded his career as the Joint Staff Officer (J7 SEA) from 2022 until his retirement on February 20, 2023.

He has earned numerous awards and decorations throughout his military career, including the Bronze Star Medal (2nd), Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (4rd), and Army Commendation Medal (2nd), Army Achievement Medal (4th), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (10th), National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Service Medal W/3 Campaign Stars, Non Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (5th), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd), Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal W/M Device, Armed Forces Reserve Medal W/ M Device and 30 year Gold Hourglass, and Combat Action Badge.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology Engineering from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and a Master of Management degree in Human Resource Management from the University of Phoenix.

Retired Command Sergeant Major Vanzant is married to Adrian Willis, a resident of Eunice, Louisiana. They share three children: Albert III, Taven, and Maggie Vanzant. Furthermore, he has three additional children: Alexander, Alex, and Sha'Keithra Vanzant. He is also the grandfather of seven grandchildren.