



# CSM Karim M. Mella

## Senior Enlisted Advisor United States Special Operations Command Warrior Care Program



Command Sergeant Major Karim M. Mella was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He joined the US Army in May 1992 as a Combat Engineer, where he held various positions in the 24th and 2nd Division, Mechanized Infantry until 1997, when he joined the “Green Beret’s” Special Forces. As a Staff Sergeant, CSM Mella was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Group Special Forces as an Engineer Sergeant at the Alpha Operational Detachment ODA 353 and later he became the senior Engineer Sergeant at the Alpha Operational Detachment for ODA 352. In 2000, CSM Mella, served as the Senior Special Forces Sergeant at the Military District, Washington. After concluding this mission he was assigned in 2005 to the 7th Special Forces Group as the Team Sergeant, at the Alpha Operational Detachment 741 completing several operational, training combat deployments in SOUTHCOM and CENTOM areas of responsibilities.

In 2008, CSM Mella was assigned as the First Sergeant for the Special Forces Command (SOCOM) in Tampa, Florida. In early 2011 he was assigned as the Operations Sergeant for Training and Interoperability at SOCOM. In October 2012, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major after completion of the Joint Special Operations Sergeant Major Academy. In August 2013, CSM Mella was selected to serve two years as an instructor at the Brazilian NCO Academy. This assignment was part of the Military Personnel Exchange Program (MPEP). His last assignment was as the Manager for the Non-Commissioned Officers Development Partnership Program in US Army SOUTHCOM area of operations. Command Sergeant Major Mella assumed the position of Command Sergeant Major of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation in a ceremony on 8 June 2017.

Command Sergeant Major Mella has completed several courses including: Special Forces Course; Special Forces Advanced Techniques Course, Jump Master Course, Free Fall Course, First Sergeant Course, and Special Unit Operation Course, among others. Before joining the U.S. Army, CSM Mella was a graduate of the Dominican Republic Naval Academy. He completed the Hunter’s “Cazadores” Course in the Dominican Republic, and the Special Forces Counter Narcotics Course, and Instructors Course in Fort Benning.

Command Sergeant Major Mella’s awards and decorations include, the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Joint Service Meritorious Commendation Medal (OLC), Commendation Medal (2 SLC), Joint Service Performance Medal, Army Performance Medal (3 OLC), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, NATO Medal and other Service medals. He also received the following Badges: Combat, Jump Master, Free Jump, and Air Assault. CSM Mella received the parachutist badge from Colombia, Dominican Republic, Germany and Greece.

Command Sergeant Major Mella is married; he and his wife have one daughter.