

Cynthia A. Pritchett

Command Sergeant Major Cynthia A. Pritchett served as the Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan Command Sergeant Major beginning on May 9, 2004, and relinquished her duties on April 5, 2006. She is the first senior enlisted female to serve as the command senior enlisted leader of a sub-unified combatant command in a time of war.

From May 9, 2004, until April 5, 2006, Pritchett was the principal advisor to the commander, Combined Forces-Afghanistan on all matters concerning joint/combined force integration, utilization and sustainment of over 20,000 U.S. and coalition forces serving in CFC-A Joint Area of Operations. She provided clarity to the commander's wartime and security cooperation guidance and intent through service functional component and a combined joint task force. She assisted Lieutenant General Barno in managing this demanding theater of operations, which involves a full spectrum of effort from tactical engagement to reconstruction of the country to include infrastructure, government and the Afghan National Army. To sum it up she is a full spectrum leader, from warrior to diplomat.

Her final assignment was to USCENTCOM as the senior enlisted leader of the Headquarters US Army Element CENTCOM. She currently works as the strategic planner for the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies and serves as its liaison to U.S. Central Command in Tampa. She retired on Feb. 28, 2010 after over 36 years of active service.

A native of Concord, New Hampshire, Pritchett entered the Army on July 2, 1973, as a supply specialist. During her career she has served in a variety of leadership positions, including squad leader, section sergeant, platoon sergeant, operations sergeant, first sergeant, battalion command sergeant major, installation command sergeant major, student and faculty battalion commander and Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth Command sergeant major. She also served as a drill sergeant, an army recruiter and an instructor at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA).

Her duty assignments include Fort McClellan, Alabama; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Kaiserslautern and Goeppingen, Germany; Philadelphia; Camp Carroll, Korea; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Mogadishu, Somalia; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Kabul, Afghanistan; and MacDill AFB, Florida.

Her military education includes Drill Sergeant School, Recruiting School, the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, the First Sergeant Course, the Battle Staff Course, the Master Fitness Course, the Defense Institute Security Assistance Management Course and the Senior Executive Seminar at the Near East South Asia Regional Center for Strategic Studies. She is a graduate of Class 37, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. She has a bachelor's degree from Excelsior College in administration and management and master of science in international relations (global studies) from Troy University.

Pritchett's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, three awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, three awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, five awards of the Army Commendation Medal, two awards of the Army

Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the United Nations Medal (Somalia), the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the Drill Sergeant and Army Recruiter Badges.

Pritchett is a member of the U.S. Army Europe Sergeant Morales Club, and was a member of the Women's All-Army Softball Team 1979 and 1984. She is a Distinguished Member of the Quartermaster Regiment and awarded the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin. She was also awarded the Distinguished Order of Saint Maurice by the Infantry Center and School. She served on both the Secretary of the Army's Task Force on Extremist Activities, and Senior Review Panel on Sexual Harassment. She served as the Army's senior enlisted advisor to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) from 1995-2001.

In March 2009, Pritchett was inducted into the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame; and she was recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of military leadership and training. In June 2009, the Combined Arms Support Command awarded her the General Brehon B. Somervell Medal of Excellence, for having distinguished herself as a multifunctional logistician. In 2014, Pritchett was inducted into the Quartermaster Hall of Fame. The Quartermaster Hall of Fame program recognizes retired military and civilians who have made lasting, significant contributions to the Quartermaster Corps.

In November 2013, she was honored by Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE) program's "FIRST" initiative. This program is designed to recognize significant FIRSTs for women both in the military and from across society. Representing FIRST achievements themselves being honored with the V-WISE First Medal.

She is currently on the Board of Directors of the Army Women's Foundation as the first vice president; the foundation is the premier center for educational excellence, the national network for today's Army women and a dynamic advocate for telling the history of Army women. She also serves as a member on the JPMorgan Chase Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Council. She is a member of the Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE) Advisory Council.

She served for two years as a board member for Tampa Crossroads, which oversees programs that provides assistance to veterans. She served as a member of Park's Military and Public Service Advisory Council. She served on the Board of Directors of The Women in Military Service for America Memorial (WIMSA). She also served for three years on the St. Stephen Catholic School Advisory Board.

She resides in Brandon, Florida, with her dog Checkers and her two cats, Ranger and Scout.