



**Sergeant Major Jerry Nguyen, U.S. Army
Senior Enlisted Advisor, Rapid Equipping Force
Fort Belvoir, Virginia**



Sergeant Major Jerry Nguyen became the senior enlisted advisor of the U.S. Army's Rapid Equipping Force (REF) in January 2016. Reporting directly to the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, the REF harnesses current and emerging technologies to provide rapid solutions for urgent combat requirements faced by Soldiers on today's battlefield. The Department of the Army formed the REF in 2002 to support warfighter requirements in Afghanistan. The organization has met challenges as diverse as improving force protection, ISR in austere locations, improving operational energy efficiency and enhancing communications. The REF maintains a forward presence in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait and routinely coordinates with forces forward in Africa, Korea and Europe. As a senior Special Forces noncommissioned officer, SGM Nguyen provides critical links throughout the Army.

Sergeant Major Jerry Nguyen was born and raised in Saigon, Vietnam. He entered the U.S. Army in November 1988. His first assignment at Fort Drum, New York as an Infantryman with 3rd Battalion, 14 Infantry from 1989 - 1991. He successfully completed the Special Forces Assessment and Selection and the Special Forces Qualification Course in 1991 and served with the 1st Special Forces Group Airborne from 1991 – 2001. In 2001, he was selected to serve as a Special Forces Sergeant at Fort Belvoir. In 2003, he returned to 1st SFG(A), where he served until he was selected for the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy in 2005. After graduating from USASMA, he returned to 1st SFG(A) from June 2006 – 2008. He went on to serve with 3rd Battalion, the Counterinsurgency Assistance and Advisory Team in Afghanistan, the International Special Training Center at Pfullendorf, Germany from 2010-2012, and the Area Support Group – Kuwait (ASG-KU) from 2012-2013. Prior to coming to the REF, he served as the SOF Plans SGM at National Training Center (NTC) from 2013-2015.

His awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit Medal, the Bronze Star Medal (2nd Award), the Meritorious Service Medal (6th Award), the Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), the Army Achievement Medal (4th Award), Good Conduct Medal (9th Award), National Defense Service Medal with star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two stars, Iraqi Campaign Medal with two stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korea Defense Service, the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the NCO Development Ribbon with "4" Device, the Army Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon with "7" Device, and the NATO Service Medal, Expert Infantry Badge, Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachute Badge, Military Free Fall Master Parachute Badge.

SGM Nguyen's military education includes Primary Leadership Development Course, 18B Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, 18B Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, and United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. His civilian education includes an Associate degree in General Studies from Pierce College and a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Art from Excelsior College. He is currently pursuing his Master in Business Administration with a specialization in Homeland Security.

SGM Nguyen is married to the former Elizabeth Michele Kelley of Newnan, Georgia. They have four children, Dustin, age 28, Kayla, age 25, Alex, age 19, and Thomas, age 16.