



COLONEL AUSTIN S. CRUZ

Brigade Commander

3rd Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command, Great Lakes, IL

Colonel Austin Cruz commissioned as a Chemical Officer from Eastern Washington University in 2001. He is a graduate of the Chemical Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General Staff College, Airborne School, and the Army War College.

Previous assignments include U.S. 1st Corps, as the G34 CBRN Chief. Previous non-command assignments include service as a Battalion Chemical Officer, Heavy Decontamination Platoon Leader, and Smoke Platoon Leader in the 1st Armored Division where he deployed Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Assistant Battalion Operations Officer, and Battalion Logistics Officer in the 23rd Chemical Battalion; Joint Staff J3 Operations Officer (PACOM) and Army Staff Public Affairs Team Chief in the Pentagon; Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer in the 83rd Chemical Battalion; Commander's Initiatives Group, ADC, Planner, SGS in U.S. 1st Corps; CWMD Plans Chief in the Combined Forces Command and USFK. His command assignments include Commander, 61st Chemical Company, 20th CBRNE Command at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, where he deployed to Afghanistan in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Commander, Indianapolis, Recruiting Battalion, USAREC at Fort Knox, Kentucky.



Col. Austin Cruz holds a Master of Policy Management from Georgetown University at Washington DC. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with 4 OLC, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with 4 OLC, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the OIF and OEF Campaign Medals, the Joint Staff Identification Badge, the Army Staff Identification Badge, the Army Recruiting Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.