

First Sgt. Nicholas L. Strong is a native of Pontiac, Mi., where he graduated high school in 1996. He enlisted in the United States Army August 22, 1996, and became an Infantryman upon completion of One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Ga.

Strong's previous assignments include Enlisted Advisor, DA G3 Pentagon; Assistant Inspector General, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood (FWD OEF); Platoon Sergeant, B CO, 1-5th CAV, 2nd BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood (FWD OIF); G5 Plans Operations NCO, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood (FWD OIF); Squad Leader, D CO, 1st BN, 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), Fort Myer; Section and Squad Leader, C CO, 2-8th INF, 2BCT, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood (FWD OIF); Bradley Section Leader, D CO, 2-9th INF, 1BCT, 2d Infantry Division, Camp Casey, Korea; Team Leader, B CO 2-8th Infantry, 2 BCT, 4th Infantry Division; Bradley Driver and Riflemen, 2-2d Infantry Regiment, 3BCT, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany.



Strong's military and civilian education includes: Inspector General Course, Airborne School, Bradley Crew Evaluator Course, Equal Opportunity Leaders Course, Commanders Safety Course, Maneuver Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (SLC), Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (ALC), and Primary Leadership Development Course (WLC), and Combat Lifesavers Course. He holds an Associates Degree in General Studies from the University of Phoenix and is currently working on his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, also from the University of Phoenix.

Strong's awards and decorations are the Bronze Star Medal (2nd award), the Purple Heart, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (6th award), the Army Achievement Medal (6th award), the Good Conduct Medal (5th award), the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2 Bronze Stars), the Iraq Campaign Medal (3 Bronze Stars), the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon (numeral 3), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (numeral 6), the NATO Service Ribbon, the Army Valorous Unit Award, the Army Meritorious Unit Award, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the Drivers Badge.

Strong currently lives in Northern Virginia and has one daughter, Katelyn.