

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**COL Jerry E. Gaussoin Jr. '94,
U.S. Army (retired)**



**“Bring confidence,
ambition, desire,
and energy
to everything.
Believe in
yourself and
encourage others
to be better
than you.”**

With 30 years of military service and training spanning combat, logistics, and strategic planning, COL (retired) Jerry E. Gaussoin Jr.'s '94 career was defined by leadership at every level of the U.S. Army. A member of the Navajo Nation (Diné) and Picuris Pueblo, his accomplishments are notable given the few Native Americans in senior military leadership.

His 14 assignments across the U.S. and Europe included roles from platoon leader to battalion commander and senior staff officer. He led logistics and sustainment operations while deployed in Kosovo and Iraq, including the withdrawal of U.S. forces and equipment during Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

After commanding more than 2,500 soldiers for the 244th Quartermaster Battalion, Jerry was assigned to the Pentagon, where he developed an Army-wide strategy for the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention

directorship and managed a \$96 million budget. His final Army assignment focused on global communications and world-wide infrastructure and logistics operations.

Jerry's military honors include two Bronze Star Medals, five Meritorious Service Medals, the National Defense Service Medal (twice), a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and several parachutist badges.

Jerry is also an award-winning jeweler who learned from his mother, master jeweler Connie Tsosie Gaussoin. He has earned recognition from the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts, the Heard Museum Indian Fair & Market, and the Eiteljorg Indian Market and Festival. His jewelry is part of permanent collections, and he has exhibited at prestigious venues nationwide, including two Smithsonian Museums. He has also been featured in *Ornament Magazine* and *Native Peoples* magazine.

Jerry credits NMSU Army ROTC with preparing him for his Army career — and credits his family with “endless, selfless support” throughout the 30 years of his career. He plans to give back by mentoring students and encouraging Native American youth to attend NMSU. ▲