

Biography of SGM Esa Juhani Ek **Sergeant Major of the Finnish Defence Forces**

Sergeant Major Esa Ek serves as Sergeant Major of the Army in the Army Command, Mikkeli, Finland.

Sergeant Major Esa J. Ek is a native of Kerava, Finland. After completing conscription service in the Armoured Brigade in Parolannummi from 1991 to 1992, he enlisted in the Finnish Defence Forces in October 1993 to serve in the Suomenlinna Coastal Regiment. In 1995, he completed the Non-Commissioned Officer Basic Course in the Army Academy, followed by the Military Police Basic course in the Utti Jäger Regiment in 1997. Sergeant Major Esa Ek's assignments have included the Armoured Brigade, the Western Command Headquarters, the Army Academy, the 2nd Logistics Regiment and the Defense Command. He has held numerous positions including those as an Operations Centre Supervisor, Chief of the Military Police Guard and as a military instructor. In 2018 he had the honour to be appointed to the position of the first-ever Sergeant Major of the Finnish Army. As Sergeant Major of the Army, Sergeant Major Ek holds an important representational role for the Finnish Armed Forces while acting as the CSEL of the Defence Forces at a number of international meetings of non-commissioned officers, which makes him eligible for being nominated for the BALTDEFCOL CSELC Hall of Fame.



Sergeant Major Ek's military education includes a wide variety of courses as an Infantry Platoon Leader, Military Police Platoon Leader, Operations Centre NCO, Army Mastership and Company Commander. In 2017, he graduated from the Sergeant Major Course 67 of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, USASMA, in Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. In 2019, he graduated from the Command Senior Enlisted Course of the Baltic Defence College, Tartu, Estonia. He also holds Specialist Qualifications as a Security Officer and those associated with his Professional Teacher Education from the HAMK University of Applied Sciences.

Sergeant Major Ek has deployed on peacekeeping duty to both Kosovo and Afghanistan and has been awarded the First Class Medal of the Order of the White Rose of Finland with a golden cross, the Medal for Military Merits, the Infantry Cross as well as two NATO Medals. In 2011, he was decorated as Peacekeeper of the Year in Finland.

Sergeant Major Ek is married to Kirsi, and they have two children, Jere and Jenn.