

NAVAL ROTC UNIT

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

GySgt Elhadji M. Cisse

Assistant Marine Officer Instructor

Gunnery Sergeant Elhadji M. Cisse, a native of Harlem, New York, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in January 2015. He graduated from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in May of that year, then completed Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina, and subsequently earned his military occupational specialty as a Food Service Specialist at Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia.

His operational assignments include multiple deployments throughout the Indo-Pacific region with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, supporting Exercises Ssang Yong, PHIBLEX, and Talisman Saber. He later served with Marine Wing Support Squadron 271 at MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina, where he held billets as Field Mess Maintenance Chief, Assistant Squadron Mess Chief, and Battle Skills Instructor. In 2018, he deployed to Norway in support of Exercise Trident Juncture and was promoted to Sergeant the same year.



In 2020, Gunnery Sergeant Cisse was selected for special duty assignment as a Drill Instructor and completed six successful training cycles aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, SC. During this tour, he served as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, and Chief Drill Instructor. He was recognized with several honors, including the MGySgt Leland Diamond Award, High Hat distinction, and Senior Drill Instructor of the Quarter, culminating in his selection as the Third Recruit Training Battalion Drill Master.

Following a successful tour, he reported to Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Camp Pendleton, California, where he served as the Battalion Mess Chief and Ground Safety Manager. He supported Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 2-24 as the lead Mess Chief and later graduated from the Ground Safety Manager and Mishap Investigation courses, earning the 8012 MOS. In 2024, he completed the Martial Arts Instructor Trainer Course and was appointed the Battalion Martial Arts Instructor Trainer. That same year, he served as Chief Instructor Trainer for Martial Arts Instructor Course 25-25, certifying 28 new instructors.

Gunnery Sergeant Cisse holds a Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security, graduating cum laude from American Military University, and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Intelligence from Liberty University. He was meritoriously promoted to his current rank in April 2025. His personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal with two bronze stars. He is married to Shalleca Cisse and is the proud father of one son.