



MSgt Gearen was born on August 2, 1956, in Tampa Florida. He grew up in the Tampa Bay Area and graduated from Hillsborough High School. After graduation MSgt Gearen attended Hillsborough Junior College, which he did not adjust to very well and subsequently he enlisted in the Air Force in January of 1979. In 1988 he received his Associate in Applied Science, degree from the Community College of the Air Force and he completed SNCO by correspondence in 1998. In 2006 he completed a bachelor's degree in Work Force Education from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Upon completion of basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas in March of 1979, MSgt Gearen entered the first phase of technical training to become a Pararescueman. Successfully completing the Pararescue Indoctrination Course, he continued through the training pipeline, completing one of the most physically and mentally demanding courses offered by the Department of Defense. After completion of Pararescue training he was assigned to the 67<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron Royal Air Force Base Woodbridge, United Kingdom until May of 1983. From May 1983 until January 1985 MSgt Gearen was assigned as an instructor at the Pararescue School 1550<sup>th</sup> Aircrew Training and Test Wing, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. In October of 1984 he volunteered for the first selection course for what is now known as 24<sup>th</sup> Special Tactics Squadron, Detachment 4, Numbered Air Force Combat Operations Squadron, Joint Special Operations Command, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. From January 1985 through May 1989, he was assigned to JSOC. During his assignment at Detachment 4 he was severely injured in a parachute accident while deployed with SEAL Team 6. Although seriously injured, and undergoing 15 surgeries, Scott fought his way back to full Pararescue status in just 18 months and accumulated over 500 more parachute jumps. Following Det 4 he was re- assigned as an instructor at the Pararescue School, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. In 1990 MSgt Gearen volunteered for duty in the Persian Gulf War and accumulated over 50 hours flying Combat operational missions during Desert Storm, including Team Leader on the very first MH-53 crossing into Iraq to “Kick Off” the Gulf War.

From May 1992 until June 1995, he spearheaded the first permanent party assignment with Charlie Company, First Battalion, Special Forces Combat Diver School, Key West, Florida, training over 400 divers per year from all the services. From June 1995 until July 1999 MSgt Gearen was assigned as Team Superintendent at 321<sup>st</sup> Special Tactics Squadron, Royal Air Force Base Mildenhall, United Kingdom where he was instrumental in operations DELIBERATE FORCE, PROVIDE PROMISE, and ALLIED FORCE.

During each of these contingencies he provided leadership in Combat Search and Rescue operations impacting every sortie flown in the Balkan Theater, to include the rescue of the stealth F-117 and F-16 jet fighters; both behind enemy lines. From July 1999 until September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, MSgt Gearen held the position of Superintendent of Operations at the 23d Special Tactics Squadron, where he directed all unit operational activities for 130 personnel in support of DOD worldwide contingency, exercise, and training taskings. Immediately following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Washington MSgt Gearen went to the 720<sup>th</sup> Special Tactics Group at Hurlburt Field where he was assigned to augment United States Special

Operations Command Central, (SOCCENT) as lead planner for AFSOC Personnel Recovery forces. He developed the Concept of Operations for Personnel Recovery to be utilized by Joint Special Operations Forces deploying to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Additionally, he began planning with 3rd Special Forces Group, Ft, Bragg, NC, for an additional OEF Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF). His knowledge of AFSOC assets was instrumental in defining the PR requirements for this JSOTF.

In June 2002 MSgt Gearen was medically retired due to a culmination of injuries sustained over his 23 years-service as an active-duty PJ. He was then hired by Northrop Grumman as course Manager / Instructor at the USAF Command and Control School, located on Hurlburt Field, Florida. He was responsible for preparing and instructing lessons for Joint Combat Search and Rescue Coordinator Course (JCSARCC), providing expertise in all aspects of Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) to include joint battlefield management involving Aerospace Operations Center, Special Instructions, Air Tasking Order, and Search and Rescue (SAR) duty officers; this course prepared students from all services to deploy and operate in an Air Operations Center.

In 2006 Scott was hired by Triple Canopy as an active member of the Diplomatic Protection force required by the State Department providing personal protection for the US Ambassador, American Diplomats, and visiting dignitaries. Scott and spent the next 7 years working out of the US Embassy in Baghdad Iraq. In 2013 Scott was requested to transfer to Indonesia on another Triple Canopy contract, where he worked with and advised both military and police forces in duties related to security of personnel and facilities within McMorran Gold and Copper Mine, Papua-Indonesia. Threats included both armed and unarmed forces, and course of actions were developed to manage the threat to both facilities and personnel, including active participation and management of an armed 12-to-15-man mobile security team.

In 2015 Scott returned to Minnesota where he was hired and is currently employed by the Department of Homeland Security as a Chemical Security Inspector under the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Program.

Scott's military decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters, Combat Readiness Medal, Outstanding Airman of the Year Ribbon, With over 500 military freefall and static line parachute jumps MSgt Gearen maintained his combat readiness status and currency for over 22 years. MSgt Gearen has two sons, Kyle, 38 years old and Shane 32 years old. Scott currently resides in Minnesota.