

## Steve Gerding

Steve Gerding retired as a Lieutenant from the Toms River Police Department, having received over 40 awards, letters, and decorations, including the VFW Police Officer of the Year Award, for service to the Township of Toms River. In that capacity, he functioned as a Patrol Division Watch Commander, Department Training Officer, Internal Affairs Investigator, Emergency Services Unit Assistant Commander, and temporary assignments in the Detective Bureau, as well as a variety of other duties to one of New Jersey's largest municipal police departments.

Steve also retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Air Force Reserve, having received over 20 awards and decorations, including the command's Reserve Officer of the Year Award. In that role, he served as a Special Agent in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations with federal law enforcement credentials holding a Top Secret/SCI security clearance. He initially enlisted as an airman in the New Jersey Air National Guard where he started as a Security Policeman, was later commissioned as a Second Lieutenant as an Intelligence Officer, and ultimately was selected for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations in the Reserves.

In his career in the Air Force, Mr. Gerding held leadership roles at the Defense Cyber Investigations Training Academy (DCITA) in Linthicum, Maryland and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Academy at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia. While mobilized after 9-11 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, Steve was the Detachment Commander in The Republic of Tajikistan in support of the counterintelligence mission for force protection. Upon returning from overseas, Steve was assigned as a Team Chief at the Global Terrorism Watch, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland and was subsequently selected by the Commander of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations to be the command representative at the Air Force Crisis Action Team, the Pentagon. In that capacity, he provided daily briefings to general officers on counterintelligence, anti-terrorism, and force protection initiatives from the first day of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Steve was also the command's representative for the Air Force Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for potential attacks to the National Capital Region. He was ultimately tasked to write the COOP and Management Plan transitioning to stand down the Crisis Action Team.

Mr. Gerding has been teaching at the college and police academy levels for over 30 years. He has served as an adjunct college professor for both Ocean County College and The College of New Jersey, and a full-time tenure track faculty member and assistant dean at Ocean County College. He still teaches at the Ocean County Police Academy as the lead instructor teaching Methods of Instruction to certify new police instructors in accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Police Training Commission. The culmination of Steve's formal education was successfully defending his doctoral dissertation for the degree of Ph.D. from Seton Hall University. His dissertation focus was An Analysis of the Relationship Between Higher Education and Police Misconduct in the New Jersey State Police.