

Terrance W. Gainer



Terrance W. Gainer was sworn in as the 38th United States Senate Sergeant at Arms in January 2007, continuing a distinguished career in law enforcement and security innovations worldwide. As chief law enforcement and executive officer of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms enforces rules of the Senate, provides services to Senators in their Washington D.C. and state offices, and maintains security in the Capitol and Senate office buildings. He leads a force of nearly 1,000 personnel.

Mr. Gainer began his law enforcement career as a police officer in the Chicago Police Department and rose through the ranks, including many years as an experienced homicide detective. An accomplished attorney, Mr. Gainer served as chief legal officer of that department before he entered the Illinois State Government as Deputy Inspector General and Deputy Director of the Illinois State Police. He served at the U.S. Department of Transportation as Special Assistant to the Secretary before being appointed as Director of the Illinois State Police.

In 1998, Mr. Gainer moved to Washington, D.C. where he served as Executive Assistant Chief of Police for the Metropolitan Police Department and four years later was selected to be the Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police. He then entered the private sector as a Chief Executive Officer responsible for a multimillion dollar innovative law enforcement program supporting military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The following year, the U.S. Senate appointed Mr. Gainer as the Senate Sergeant at Arms. While serving as Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Gainer was appointed a Commissioner on the Independent Commission on the Security Forces of Iraq, charged with conducting an independent assessment of the Iraqi Security Forces and reporting the findings to Congress. He also served with the Special Envoy for Middle East Regional Security, which was created to advance the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute by assisting in strengthening security institutions.

Born in Chicago, Mr. Gainer is a decorated veteran who served in Viet Nam and retired as a Captain in the United States Navy Reserve. His degrees include a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, a Master of Science in Management, a Juris Doctor degree and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. He is married and has six children and 14 grandchildren.