

Command Sergeant Major (retired) William “Joe” Gainey

William “Joe” Gainey was the first Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He retired April 25, 2008 with the rank of command sergeant major.

Gainey was the first Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a newly created position established to advise the chairman on matters of professional development of enlisted personnel assigned to joint billets. Gainey was the first person selected to serve in this position beginning October 1, 2005.

Gainey enlisted in the Army under the delayed entry program in 1974 and entered basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., on June 17, 1975. Since then, he has served in a number of enlisted leadership positions, from gunner to command sergeant major. He retired after nearly 33 years of service to the nation on April 25, 2008.



Gainey's assignments include: driver, loader, gunner, and tank commander in the 1st Battalion, 67th Armor (Tiger Brigade), 2nd Armored Division, Ft Hood, Texas; gunner, tank commander, and platoon sergeant in the 4th Battalion, 73rd Armored, 1st Infantry Division, Böblingen, Germany; platoon leader in the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored, 24th Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.; drill sergeant and senior drill sergeant in the 19th Battalion, 4th Training Brigade, Ft Knox, Ky.; platoon sergeant and operations sergeant in the 3rd Battalion, 73rd Armor, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; platoon sergeant and first sergeant in the 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Airborne, Joint Readiness Training Center, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.; senior enlisted Armor Branch advisor, Fort Jackson, S.C.

Gainey served as the command sergeant major for the 2nd Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment, and 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany; Eagle Base, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La.; 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.; 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La.; The United States Army Armor Center, Fort Knox, Ky; and as the command sergeant major for the III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas. Gainey served in Operation Joint Endeavor (IFOR), Operation Joint Guard (SFOR 3) and Operation Joint Forge (SFOR 8) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He served as the command sergeant major for the Combined Joint Task Force 7 (CJTF-7) and as the command sergeant major of the Multi-National Corps Iraq (MNC-I) in Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Gainey attended numerous military schools and training programs to include: the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant School; U. S. Army Airborne School; U. S. Army Jumpmaster School; Air Movement Officer's Course; Observer Controller Course; First Sergeants Course; Pathfinder School; and the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Class 41. Gainey holds an Associate of Applied Science degree from Vincennes University, a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Touro University International and a Masters of Arts degree in Education from Trident University International.

Anecdotally, Command Sgt. Maj. Gainey was known to his Soldiers to carry a steel ball bearing from an Abrams tank in his pocket which he called his "military bearing". He would encourage Soldiers to challenge him by asking if he had his "military bearing". If he was able to respond to the challenge by producing it, both he and the challenging soldier would drop and do push-ups. If he did not have it, the soldier would be awarded a battalion coin.

List of Medals and Ribbons

- Army Distinguished Service Medal
- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Legion of Merit (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)
- Bronze Star (with Valor device)
- Meritorious Service Medal (with 1 silver and 2 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)
- Army Commendation Medal (with 1 silver and 2 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)
- Army Achievement Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster)
- Army Good Conduct Medal (silver clasp with 5 loops)
- National Defense Service Medal (with 2 service stars)
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (with 2 service stars)
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Armed Forces Service Medal
- NCO Professional Development Ribbon (with "4" award numeral)
- Army Service Ribbon
- Army Overseas Service Ribbon (with "4" award numeral)
- NATO Medal (with 2 service stars)
- Joint Meritorious Unit Award
- Army Superior Unit Award

Badges

Combat Action Badge

Master Parachutist Badge

Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge

Drill Sergeant Identification Badge

Pathfinder Badge

Expert Rifle Badge

CSM Gainey is also a recipient of:

Gold Medallion of the Honorable Order of Saint George, United States Armor Association

Silver Medallion of the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara, Air Defense Artillery Association

Foreign decorations and awards

German Armed Forces Badge of Marksmanship (Schützenschnur in Bronze)

German Sports Badge (Sportabzeichen in Bronze)