

Gerald Lewis, Jr. – Biography

Gerald Lewis, Jr. is the Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Chief of Police at The University of Texas at San Antonio, appointed in August 2016. Chief Lewis oversees the Public Safety Division at UTSA, which includes the UTSA Police Department, Emergency Management, Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management.

Chief Lewis holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Fairleigh Dickinson University and was an adjunct professor at the university. He is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute Executive Training Program.

Lewis is a member of numerous police executive organizations including CALEA (Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies), IACLEA (International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators), NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives), IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police) and PERF (Police Executive Research Forum). He has now served as chief of police at two dually accredited (CALEA, IACLEA) university police agencies.

Lewis joined UTSA after serving as Chief of Police of the East Carolina University Police Department since January 2014, after a distinguished 26-year career as a New Jersey State Trooper. Lewis enlisted with the New Jersey State Police as a member of the 109th State Police Training Class in November 1987. Recognized as the outstanding recruit in his class by his peers, he was selected to deliver his class graduation commencement speech. Lewis received two Division awards for his heroic actions. He received a Meritorious Service Award for his role in the pursuit and arrest of a carjacking suspect. He also received a Certificate of Commendation Award for performing the Heimlich maneuver and saving a choking victim in South Carolina.

Lewis attained the rank of Major and served as the Commanding Officer of the Office of Community Affairs. He previously served as the Director of Communications, the first African-American to hold the position of Chief Spokesperson for the New Jersey State Police.

As the commanding officer of the Office of Community Affairs, Lewis became the face of the New Jersey State Police in the various communities with which he interacted. Lewis partnered with the N.A.A.C.P., clergy, and community leaders to ensure that qualified minority candidates were recruited and afforded the opportunity to become New Jersey State Troopers. The partnership resulted in the two most diverse classes in State Police history, graduating in 2013.

Lewis was the recipient of the prestigious NAACP President's Award presented by the Gloucester County Branch of the NAACP. He was also awarded the inaugural Major Gerald Lewis Community Service Award named in his honor by the Southern Burlington County Branch of the NAACP.

Lewis received the Dr. Edward W. Verner Leadership Award presented by the Newark North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen for facilitating Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Diversity within the New Jersey State Police. He has received awards from the Orthodox Jewish community, New Jersey Elks, New Jersey Chaplains Association, and the Christian Love Baptist Church Community Service Award for his efforts in community outreach.

Chief Lewis now resides in San Antonio, Texas with his wife Michelle and son Aaron (12).