

Eric Watters, PhD

Dr. Eric Watters was born and raised in South Florida, in the Miami and Fort Lauderdale areas. He served 3.5 years in the United States Army as an Airborne Field Artillery Cannon Crewmember in the 1/319 AFAR, 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg (NC). Following his military service, Dr. Watters had a 20-year career in local law enforcement in South Florida, the last 10 years of which were spent in senior management positions. Dr. Watters led all the administrative functions of the police department, which served 140,000 full-time residents with a \$50 million annual budget. He also gained significant emergency management experience working in "the hurricane zone," where he worked multiple storms in operations, logistics, and served as a Planning Section Chief. He also taught as an adjunct professor of public administration at Barry University, in Miami Shores (FL), during the last 10 years of his law enforcement career.

In 2018, Dr. Watters retired from his law enforcement career and began a second career as a full-time university professor teaching criminal justice at Colorado Mesa University, in Grand Junction (CO). He also teaches part-time for the University of Maryland Global Campus as an adjunct associate professor of public safety administration. Dr. Watters holds Bachelor (Summa Cum Laude) and Master of Public Administration degrees, a Master of Science in Justice Administration (Homeland Security specialization), and a PhD in Leadership (Criminal Justice specialization). He is also a proud graduate of the 136th Administrative Officers Course at the University of Louisville's prestigious Southern Police Institute.

Dr. Watters has served as an FSO-CS/IS/PE (085-01-10), SO-PE and ICS Committee member (085-01), ADSO-MT (085), and as a branch assistant and instructor for AUXLAMs. He has attained the AUXOP, VE, and IT qualifications, and is working to complete the RBS and boat crew qualifications. Dr. Watters has been asked, quite a few times, why he waited to join the Auxiliary until after he moved from the Florida coast to a landlocked state. In short, he missed being involved, wanted to keep serving his country and community, and now has the time to volunteer.