

INDUCTEE

George K. Gamble, Ph.D.

Graduated1975
MarriedCarol Kirkwood
Children.Morgan
Resides Tampa, Florida

George Gamble has always been on a quest for excellence. Although he was involved in a myriad of activities in high school, his “outstanding” recognition in sports and junior year induction into the National Honor Society as well as his popularity with his classmates were apt indicators of that “best effort” he always puts forth. He received further recognition of this when he was inducted into the Gahanna Lincoln Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001. At the Ohio State University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics in 1979, George was named a “Distinguished Military Graduate.” He maintained a 4.0 academic average while earning both his graduate degrees: a Masters of Administration at Central Michigan in 1992 and his Ph. D. in Business Administration from Hamilton University in 1999. Central Michigan University honored him as their inaugural Distinguished Alumni in 2000.

George’s military career, like his academic one, is peppered with special duties and awards. He was selected to the U.S. Army’s only Special Operations Aviation unit (The 160th SOAR) in 1987, the unit whose exploits were documented in the movie *Blackhawk Down*. He has served with honor and valor in military conflicts to include Operation Thunderbolt (Counter Drug Enforcement), Operation Earnest Will & Prime Chance (Persian Gulf) and Operation Just Cause (Panama) where he flew the first night combat mission to an urban area under night vision goggles.

Today George Gamble is the Director of Requirements for the United States Special Operations Command where he is responsible for determining their future capability while playing a key role supporting time-sensitive worldwide SOF operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

George’s awards are numerous: His exceptional service to the special operations community was recognized when he was named Central Florida’s “Aviator of the Year” in both 1997 & 1998 for his work showcasing the latest in aviation stealth technology. He is the recipient of Army Aviation’s silver & bronze “Order of Saint Michael” medallions. His military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Senior Army Aviator Badge, Parachutists Badge, Air Assault Badge and the Ranger Tab. He has been awarded six Presidential Fitness medals, including the gold medal in 2004 & 2005. Last month Dr. Gamble was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal for his dedicated efforts which ensured the approval of 13 critical SOF missions needs, mitigating mission failure or loss of life in support of current combat operations in Iraq & Afghanistan.

Major General Maxwell C. Bailey, director of Operations, Plans and Policy described George “as a multitalented officer who has earned, by participating in numerous sensitive missions, an outstanding reputation within Army SOF aviation.” The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, praised his performance by acknowledging, “George’s dedication to the Special Operations Command is keeping us a step ahead of the rest of the world.”

George Gamble and his wife Dr. Carol Kirkwood-Gamble, a licensed general dentist, own Westchase Dental Associates, named “Dental Facility of the Year in 1998 by the Docobo Corporation. They reside in Tampa, Florida, with their “beautiful” daughter Morgan.