

Commander John Scott Hannon (U.S. Navy, Ret.)

April 11, 1971 - February 25, 2018



Commander John Scott Hannon USN (Ret.), affectionately known to his family as "Scott," was born April 11, 1971, in Nairobi, Kenya. Born to a U.S. Diplomatic Corps family, he grew up living in Tanzania, the Soviet Union, England, Belgium, as well as McLean, VA, and Helena, MT.

then worked as a Special Operations and Policy Staff Officer at the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) until he retired in 2012.

Scott's supervisory, technical and safety qualifications include Military Freefall Specialist, Static Line Parachutist, NSW Sniper (Honor Graduate), Naval Gunfire Forward Controller, Lead Climber, High Performance Small Boat Coxswain, Diving Supervisor, Cast Master, Rope Master, Live Fire Range Supervisor, Joint Special Operations Planner, Amphibious Operations Planner, Advanced High Risk Survival & Hostage Survival, Advanced Combat Trauma Care Provider, Long Range MAROPS, Expeditionary Warfare Staff Planning, Customized Military Mobile Force Protection and others.

Scott was also awarded the Joint Service Commendation medal, Defense Meritorious Service medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal (3), Joint Service Achievement medal, and the Navy, Marine Corps Achievement medal (2) and Joint Meritorious Service Award, and Bronze Star Medal (Gold Star in lieu of the Second Award).

After 23 years of military service, Scott retired to his family home near Helena, Montana. In addition to VA Montana treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, severe depression and bipolar disorder, he was a committed volunteer with a number of local organizations. He was involved with the Montana chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), speaking candidly at events about his wartime injuries. Scott also rescued and rehabilitated injured wild animals at Montana Wild, provided training support for the Lewis and Clark Search and Rescue, worked with at-risk youth with Habitat for Humanity and collaborated with the Prickly Pear Land Trust to help veterans access nature trails.

Scott was open about his invisible wounds of war, and found solace and recovery in many of the causes that also allowed him to give back to his fellow veterans and his community. He was passionate about improving veterans' access to mental health care and integrating service animals into mental health care. Scott worked closely with Montana Wild and VA Montana to develop a group therapy program for veterans that involved birds of prey. Scott was embraced on his journey to recovery by his family, friends, and community. He died from his invisible wounds of war February 25, 2018.

In 1989, Scott enlisted in the U.S. Navy and qualified as a Gunner's Mate in 1990. He graduated with BUD/S Class 173 in March 1991 and, upon completion of SEAL Qualification Training, was assigned to SEAL Team Two.

From 1995 to 1998, Scott completed multiple deployments in Europe, Middle East and Asia with SEAL Team Five, where he was top ranked SEAL Assistant Platoon Leader. He served with SEAL Team Three in the Pacific and Southwest Asia and was named top ranked SEAL Platoon Commander. From 2000 to 2003 Scott was assigned to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team Two operating mini-submarines, and became Task Unit Commander.

Scott was the top rated officer during a six -month advanced maritime special operations course, the most demanding joint training available in the military, and was hand-selected to lead a covered unit in a sensitive "Preparation of Battlespace" mission. In 2003, he joined the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, commonly known as SEAL Team Six, and was eventually responsible for all aspects of curriculum development and individual certification.

Scott graduated in 1995 from the University of Colorado with a B.A. in Political Science. He attended school on a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship. From 2006 to 2008 he received a scholarship to attend the Tuck Business School at Dartmouth College