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A lifetime boater, Terry West began his career with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division in 1985. In December 2000, he was promoted to assistant chief of the division, becoming the state's boating law administrator. In February 2005, he was promoted to chief of the Law Enforcement Division and is responsible for managing and administering the statewide agency's 221 conservation officers.

Terry earned a bachelor's of business administration, with a major in accounting, at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Ga., and a master's of public administration from Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga. He is also a Georgia Law Enforcement Command College graduate. He was named the Macon District Ranger of the Year in 1988 and the Coastal South District Ranger of the Year and the State Conservation Ranger of the Year in 1990.

Terry served as treasurer for NASBLA from 2006 to 2008. In addition, he has chaired NASBLA's Law Enforcement and Conference committees.