

David W. "Spike" Gyger
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AFSOC – Air Force

Biography

David W. "Spike" Gyger enlisted in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, 193rd Special Operations Wing in August 1979 and graduated from Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas in October 1979. Following basic military training he attended Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Specialist technical school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas where he graduated in March 1980. Upon completion of technical school, he returned to the 193rd Tactical Electronic Warfare Group, Civil Engineering Squadron section for duty.

In April 1980 he accepted an air technician position as a carpenter within the 193rd Civil Engineer Squadron where he performed maintenance on all aspects of base support. In August 1980 he was awarded Airman of the 2nd Quarter for outstanding performance. In 1981 he accepted a position within the Traffic Management Office as a Freight Traffic Assistant. In 1993 he was selected as the Traffic Manager NCOIC. Part of his responsibilities included: budgeting and coordinating movement of personnel and commodities utilizing civilian and military airlift, and vessels ensuring proper labeling, and marking of all hazardous materials. He travelled to various states instructing classes to other Air Force and Air National Guard Units, where he served as a technical advisor and certifier of originating hazardous material/waste.

On numerous occasions he was identified as a "Superior Performer" by the Inspector General while serving as the NCOIC of the Cargo Deployment function. On several occasions, he was assigned to the Air Force Inspector General's Team for the Inspection of various units. During his military service of 36 years, SMSgt (Retired) Gyger participated in at least 20 deployments to include worldwide and classified missions. While deployed in Jamaica he was the liaison with the United States Embassy to ensure all port of entry permits and taxes were documented and processed. He was the single point of contact for local vendors ensuring all equipment and supplies from both ships and barges were delivered to the deployed work site. Several deployments included Korea, Wake Island, Azores, Japan, Germany, England, Panama, Qatar, Southern Watch 1998, Allied Force 1999, Operation Enduring Freedom 2002, and in support Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004-2005 plus numerous classified deployments.

Throughout his career he also answered calls to Federal and State Emergency Management. In May of 1996 he was assigned to a Presidential Detail in State College, PA for the visit of President Clinton. When tragedy struck on September 11, 2001, he directly supported the agencies deploying to ground zero of New York City.

David W. “Spike” Gyger held many VFW Positions for the Post, District and Department levels.

During the Department of Pennsylvania 104th State Convention, he was nominated and elected as the Department of PA Commander for 2023-2024.

Spike resides in Hummelstown; PA and he is the proud father of two children and three grandchildren.

