

Erik Gilliam, President, National Seabee Divers Association

Erik Gilliam is a Navy vet who, as a Hospital Corpsman/Diving Med Tech, served eight years on active duty (1975 – 1983) and eighteen years in the Navy Reserves (1984 – 2002). Typical for many Hospital Corpsmen his duties focused on trauma care, preventive medicine, and medical administration. Additionally, the prevention, recognition and treatment of diving injuries were the focus of his duties as a Diving Med Tech. The majority of his active duty and Reserve assignments were with various diving commands, including Underwater Construction Team 2 (UCT-2), Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 (MDSU-2), UCT-1 and SEAL Team 4. Erik also received additional training, and certification, as an Instructor and served in an instructor billet at the Navy Submarine School, New London. The instructor/diver billet he was assigned to at the Sub School was at the Submarine Escape Training Tank. While in the Reserves, Erik was recalled to active duty to support Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. During the year recalled he was assigned initially to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda and later reassigned to SEAL Team Four. At the time of his retirement Erik held the rank of Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman.

For a year after leaving active duty he worked as a commercial diver in New England and then turned his focus to education. While attending the University of Florida, Erik worked part time at the Hyperbaric Medicine department at the Shands Hospital, which is affiliated with UF. He successfully applied his diving med and diving systems knowledge gained from during his Navy service to the Hyperbaric Medicine department's operations. From his experience at Shands, Erik learned firsthand the clinical benefits and use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Erik completed a Bachelor's Degree in History from UF in 1988. In early 1989 he accepted a job with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) as a Training Specialist supporting the development and teaching of training applications for the Composite Health Care System (CHCS), DoD's electronic medical information system.

Erik worked at SAIC for twelve years and for the most part work in various roles supporting the development and deployment of CHCS. After SAIC, Erik worked with a variety of companies that were involved, for the most part, with the development and deployment of medical information systems. During this time, on both medical and non-medical projects, Erik used and improved his skill and knowledge of training, system deployment, customer service/support, project and program management. He earned his Program Management Professional (PMP) certification in 2007 and has actively maintained that certification since.

In March of 2011 Erik accepted a Government position with the Air Force working in the Medical Modernization Division of the Air Force Medical Support Agency (AFMSA). In this role he provides oversight for medical research and medical equipment development projects. Erik played a significant part in the initial development and subsequent refinement of the AFMSA strategic plan for medical modernization research. His knowledge of diving and hyperbaric medicine, military field medicine, as well as experience with the Special Warfare community, have had direct application to the work that AFMSA is funds, supports and directs. Erik's project management experience has been well utilized in his collateral role of Contracting Officer

Representative (COR) for the Division's Advisory and Assistance Support contract. Experience Erik gained from managing and supporting staff assigned to locations across the U.S. and Europe has been used successfully to develop and maintain formal and informal lines of communication with a wide variety of stakeholders. The command staff at Air Force Major Commands (MAJCOMs), commercial and academic researchers, vendors and senior Air Force leadership represent the range of stakeholders that Erik effectively communicates with on a regular basis. His ability to incorporate and apply knowledge gained from a wide range of experiences and education to move the AFMSA mission forward has been appreciated. Erik was recognized as the AFMSA Civilian (Cat III)* of the Quarter, October – December 2011 and subsequently recognized as the AFMSA Civilian (Cat III) of the Year, 2011. Recognition of his accomplishments was capped by being named the Air Force Surgeon General's Civilian (Cat III) of the Year, 2011.

*Civilian (Cat III) – Government civilian personnel, GS 13 – GS 15