

CMSGT JOSEPH F. SHIRER, CAP

CMSGT Joseph F. Shirer was born in Scottdale, Pennsylvania on July 15, 1971. He joined the Civil Air Patrol in June of 1983 in Southmoreland Composite Squadron 1408 and quickly became an active member in the cadet program. CMSGT Shirer attended PAWG Encampment West, PAWG Cadet Leadership School, and Hawk Mountain Ranger School.

He attended each school multiple times on the cadet staff and eventually was the C/CC for the Encampment and Cadet Leadership School and was on the C/command staff for Hawk Mountain. As a cadet, CMSGT Shirer earned the Lifesaving Award, Commander's Commendation, Spaatz Award (1073), the PAWG Cadet of the Year (1991), a senior rating in communications, and the Expert Ranger rating (#176). He transitioned to senior member and became a squadron deputy commander for cadets among other duties.



CMSGT Shirer attended The Ohio State University and studied Aviation Engineering for four years between 1989-1993 and was a midshipman in the NROTC program. In November of 1993, CMSGT Shirer joined the United States Army and attended initial training at Ft. Benning, GA. Shirer graduated from Infantry AIT, Sniper School, Airborne School, and the Ranger Indoctrination Program and was assigned to Charlie Company, 3/75th Ranger Regiment.

After completing his initial tour on active duty, CMSGT Shirer enlisted in the Georgia National Guard assigned to the 121st IN (ABN)(LRS) where he was a team leader on two combat tours to Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After returning from his second deployment, he became an AGR Readiness NCO, CMSGT Shirer was promoted to MSG and 1SG in 3-108th Cavalry R&S Squadron. CMSGT Shirer held positions as observer controller, Air Assault School Section Chief, and master jumpmaster. In 2011 Shirer was promoted to Sergeant Major and was the Chief Operations Sergeant for the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. He was promoted to the G3 and was the G3 Operations Sergeant Major for the Commanding General of the Georgia Army National Guard for 6 years.

During this period Shirer simultaneously held leadership positions as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major for the Chemical, Nuclear, Biological, Radiological Explosive Enhanced Response Force 781st TC (CERF-P) (2 years), the Brigade Command Sergeant Major of the 201st RSG (Homeland Response Force) (1 year), and the Garrison Command Sergeant Major of the Land Dominance Center at Ft. Stewart, GA (2 years). CMSGT Shirer retired from the US Army on July 30th, 2022. CMSGT Shirer completed Air Assault School, Pathfinder Course, Jumpmaster Course, The Total Army Instructor Trainer Course, the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course, Rappel Master School, Observer Controller Academy, Ropemaster Course multiple operations, budget management and training management courses, the US Army Sergeant Major Academy, and all the requisite NCO leader courses.

CMSGT Shirer maintained his Civil Air Patrol membership until being deployed in 2006. He re-entered the CAP in 2022 in SER-GA-108 as the Deputy Commander for Cadets and eventually commander. Shirer obtained the rank of major and held the position of Group 5 Emergency Services Officer and recently attended Hawk Mountain Ranger School 2022 and 2023 on the senior staff.

CMSGT Shirer's military awards include the Oglethorpe Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (5 awards), the Army Commendation Medal (4 awards), the Army Achievement Medal (3 awards), the Good Conduct Medal (6 awards), the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (3 awards), the National Defense Service Medal (2 awards), the Iraqi Campaign Medal with star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terror Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass, M, and numeral 4 device, the NCO Professional Development ribbon with numeral 5, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with number 2, the Overseas Training Ribbon with numeral 4, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachute Badge,

Air Assault Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Excellence in Competition Bronze Pistol Badge, 7 foreign jump wings, the Order of St. George Medal and the Order of St. Maurice Medal.

CMSGT Shirer's CAP awards include the Commander's Commendation, the Achievement Medal, Lifesaving Award with star, Unit Citation, Spaatz Award, Garber Award, Loening Award, Leadership ribbon with silver star, membership ribbon, Yeager Award, Crisis Service Ribbon, red service ribbon 24 years, Find ribbon, Search and Rescue Ribbon (5 awards), Disaster Relief Ribbon with V, Cadet Advisory Council Ribbon with silver star, Special Activities Ribbon (8 awards), Encampment Ribbon (5 awards), and Senior Recruiter ribbon. Shirer has a master rating in communications and additional ratings in cadet programs and emergency services. Shirer has multiple ground team and incident command ratings and is a SET evaluator for multiple roles.

CMSGT Shirer has most recently been selected as the Southeast Region Command Chief. He graduated with a BS in Aviation Management from Charter Oak State College and is a retired Cobb County Police Officer. He is currently employed as a JROTC instructor. Shirer resides in Trion, Ga with his wife Terri Sue Shirer and together they have six children (Coty, Joseph, Brookelynn, Caitlin, Chase, and Ansley) and four grandchildren (Shepard, Luka, Walker, and Levi).