I joined the United States Marine Corps in 1991 and attended boot camp in San Diego, CA. After graduating boot camp and attending combat training in Camp Pendleton, I was off to Twentynine Palms, CA for Basic Electronics Training for my MOS (2811), Digital Switchboard Repair for 9 months, then Biloxi, MS for detailed switchboard programming school for 3 months. After completing my MOS schooling I was off to Okinawa Japan for 12 months to do my new trained job in Marine Wing Comm Squadron 18 where I got to do exercises in Korea, Thailand and small Pacific islands. When I returned from Okinawa I was placed in Headquarters Service Battalion, Comm Co. where I was trained further in LAN services as a LAN Services Administrator becoming certified in Banyan Vines (became Novell) and then transferred to Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group 13 as the shop chief for the telecom and cryptology equipment maintenance and repair where I was station aboard US Navy vessel USS Odgen and traveled the Pacific and Middle East, ultimately deployed in Somalia for UN Operation United Shield, then returning to the US via Perth Australia and Pearl Harbor Hawaii where I carried out my remaining months back and HQSVCBN, COMM Co until my honorable discharge in April of 1996.

I joined the military because I was look for a way to better myself, pay for college and build a career, I specifically joined the Marines because if I was going to do it, I wanted to do it best and outdo my stepfather (Army) and Grandfather (Airforce)

My fondest memory of being the Marines was getting 14 days leave in Perth Australia after 67 days on the water after leaving Somalia. In Perth a fellow Marine and I decided to get away from the port area and the thousands of other Marines and Sailors and explore the area. Boarded a city bus and just got off when we saw something fun, turned out to be a festival celebrating Scottish heritage when there was a bagpipe band performing. We watched and enjoyed for a couple hours, then asked a local for a good place to have dinner and was turned onto a restaurant on a river a few miles away. We walked there and bellied up to the bar for a drink and dinner. The bartender asked us if we had recently arrived in port on the Navy ships (evident as we were in our Marine uniforms). When we said yes,

we had come in on the USS Ogden, she immediately went and go the owner. He introduced himself to us and made it a point to say that his name was Jeff Ogden and if at all possible, he would some something from the ship with the name USS Ogden on it. We of course said we could visit the ship store and get him some memorabilia which he was grateful for. So grateful that he said that he was the owner of a few establishments in Perth and that he would love for us to be his guests while in Perth as a gesture of is appreciation. We had no idea what he had in store for us. He took us to one of his pubs that night with an open tab and VIP treatment, then had he manager there arrange car service to take us to his Windsor Hotel (a stunning Victorian style hotel on the river and overlooking the zoo) late that night for a complimentary stay. The next day we went back to the ship to gather as much USS Ogden items as we could buy (hats, mugs, pens, flag, etc) and we took it back to where we originally met him the afternoon before. He was gone but had instructed the manager there to make sure we were setup as the hotel, the pub and the riverfront restaurant as guests with no expenses incurred. We had the best 11 days of our lives, met some amazing people and carried some of the best memories to this day because a kind business man wanted something with his namesake on it from our ship. 5 years ago, I was able to hunt down Jeff Ogden through a co-worked who grew up in Perth and knew him…called him and handed me the phone and I was able to personally thank him 30 years later for the amazing thing he did for 2 Marines….he fondly remembered us and still had much of the USS Ogden items on display in his office.

I have been leading product organizations for the last 16 years, across numerous communications and technology companies. Prior leading product, I was in sales operations leadership, prior to that I led customer project management and prior to that was as a leader and individual contributor in the IT space, all with various communications and technology companies from AT&T to Northrop -Grumman and BTI to Earthlink and Global Capacity since 1997.

Today I lead the product team for SASE, SSE, SD-WAN, Security, LAN Services and Data products at Windstream Enterprise. My typical day involves creating and maintaining bridges across the organization and ensuring my team has the support they need to drive products from concept to launch and ultimately retirement. Additionally, I ensure that my team is constantly evaluating the market, hearing

from our customers and prioritizing product initiatives that drive revenue, reduce churn and enable renewals and making sure they have the executive support needed to deliver on those priorities and that they are aligned with the Windstream vision.

I like to draw on my leadership skill from the Marines, in my everyday life at Windstream. Make data fed decisions, stand fast on your decisions, execute and inspect. Also provide structure and support for my team so they can be successful.

Embrace your military past and the values you learned in the military, but temper those with common sense. We don't always work in the formal "chain of command" environment we did in the military and find the balance of structure and rigor with flexibility and process. I think of the Marine Corps value and how those apply in life and work….Honor, Courage, Commitment. Hold those as your core values and you will do great for you and others. Lastly the Marine Corps Motto, "Semper Fidelis" or Always Faithful remind me to be accountable, committed and faithful to my company, my role, and my team.

On a personal have been married to my wife Chelly since 1990, 1 year before I joined the Marine Corps and we have three amazing children: Maysen our oldest born in 1993, Matthew our middle son born in 1994 and Ashley our youngest daughter born in 2002. All of them now live and work in North Carolina, where my daughter is a Senior and East Carolina University completing her education to be a teacher. At home with us we have four Frenchies: Lola, Fiona, Warner and Sophia who are our fur babies and go most everywhere with us.

Chelly and I love to travel and have been around the world but plan to retire in Italy at some point. For fun, we are both Jeep enthusiasts and have owned many Jeeps over the last 15 years, buying, building, enjoying, selling and doing all over again. Today we own two Jeep Wranglers, pretty heavily modified for off-roading, but still great on the road as well. We attend national Jeep events in Daytona, Myrtle Beach, New Jersey, Pigeon Forge and continue to expand into new regions for other events.