

Steve Zotti, Col. USMC (ret.), was raised in Bellevue, Nebraska. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and graduated from MCRD San Diego in September 1977 as a Series Honorman. He next attended the Naval Academy Preparatory School graduating with distinction. Steve was then appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy where he graduated with Distinction in 1983 with a Bachelors of Science Degree and a minor in Political Science.

Steve served primarily as an infantry officer in staff and command positions from the platoon through battalion, regiment, division and MEF levels. He has served with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines for multiple tours, 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, 6th Marine Regiment, The Basic School and all three divisions and MEFs over his 30 years of service. He commanded the Instructor Battalion at the Marine Corps' Basic School from 2002-2004. In his last operational tour in 2006, he assumed duties as the Team Chief and Senior Combat Advisor to the 7th Iraqi Division, with I-MEF Forward in Ramadi, Iraq, in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. During his career, he also participated in contingency operations in the Balkans, eastern Mediterranean Sea, North Africa, numerous WESTPACs and supported Operation ENDURING FREEDOM as the Night Battle Captain with the Current Operations Branch, US Central Command, MacDill AFB Florida from 2001-2002.

His primary staff tours included: Political Science Instructor, USNA 1990-1992; Commandant's Strategic Initiatives Group, PP&O 1998-2001; Director of the Commandant's Strategic Vision Group, HQMC from 2007-09 where he lead efforts to create and publish the Marine Corps Vision and Strategy 2025; and Chief of Staff and on site Commander for the newly established Marine Forces Cyber Command at Ft. Meade, Maryland. He served his last tour of duty as the Chief, Future Operations Division(J-35), J-3 at USCYBERCOM until his retirement in April of 2013.

Steve transitioned to the corporate world after retirement and currently serves as a Senior Director & COO with Ciena Government Solutions Inc, Ciena Corp, Hanover, MD. CGSI is a \$150 million wholly owned subsidiary of 75 employees within Ciena - a \$4 billion company. He is directly responsible for the \$62 million Services funnel and to the CGSI VP & GM to organize and orchestrate the company's sales, services and business operations.

He is a distinguished or honor graduate from: The Basic School, Expeditionary Warfare School, Army's Command & General Staff College, The Eisenhower School and a graduate of the Marine Corps' School of Advanced Warfighting and the Air War College. He holds a number of advanced degrees to include an MA in US & Comparative Foreign Policy from American University; a Masters of Military Art & Science from Army Command & General Staff College; and a MA in Strategy & Industrial Resources from the Eisenhower School.

His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with combat device and 2 gold stars), the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 gold stars) and the Combat Action Ribbon. Steve is the recipient of the 1994 Leftwich Trophy for outstanding leadership at the company level in Marine Corps ground combat units.

Steve married Priscilla Helene Machado of Arlington, Texas in 1992 and they have 3 incredible daughters: Caroline, Katherine and Kendall.