

Joe Cross

Professional Background

Joe Cross is a U.S. Marine (1993-2014) who retired in 2014 as a Lieutenant Colonel. During his career, he served as an artillery officer with assignments to the 1st Marine Division (Camp Pendleton, CA), 3rd Marine Division (Okinawa, Japan), & U.S. Pacific Command (Camp Smith, Hawaii). Joe completed combat tours in Iraq as a Battery Commander in 2003, and in Afghanistan as a combat advisor to the Afghan National Army in 2007. He also served at the American Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand as a company officer for Marine Security Guard detachments throughout the Asia-Pacific region and is proud to have had a role in re-opening the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam in 1997. Joe is currently employed as a federal civilian with the Marine Corps Systems Command where he serves as an information technology acquisition manager in a full-time remote position with occasional travel to Quantico, Virginia.

Professional Certifications

Project Management Professional (PMP), Project Management Institute
Security +, Computer Training Industry Association (COMPTIA)
Network +, COMPTIA

Educational Background

Joe holds a B.A. in History from the University of Memphis (1993), and an M.A. in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma (2006).

Personal Information

Joe is married to Kylie Cross, a native of Brisbane, Australia. Kylie is a former registered nurse and held numerous positions while a military spouse. She is currently a full-time student at Park University (St. Louis, Missouri) and is completing a second degree in Social Psychology. Their son is Jack Cross, a May 2023 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a newly commissioned Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force (Civil Engineering Corps). Their daughter is Elsie, a rising 7th grader at John Sevier Middle School, where she is an enthusiastic member of the JSMC Orchestra (violin) and was recently invited to join the Symphony of the Mountains orchestra for Fall 2023. Lastly, the family has a Pembroke Welsh Corgi named Shadow who enjoys walks at Ridgefield's Park and confronting deer.

Joe first visited friends in Kingsport in 1993 while in college. He has traveled through the area numerous times over the years, often enroute to assignments in Quantico, Virginia from his hometown of Portland, Tennessee. He has been a full-time resident of Kingsport since the summer of 2022, where he and Kylie fully appreciate the wonderful community and people, unique history, rustic natural beauty, and top-notch public school system.