



## **The Colonel's Corner**

### The Hidden Heroes

By the time I completed 36 years of military service, I had a chest full of medals and was trying to slip quietly into retirement without a ceremony. Then it dawned on me, this would be my last chance to say something of significance to those I had served with, and most important to my wife who had supported me through so many deployments. As a civilian, being gone for a week on a business trip can be a nuisance, but being gone for a year in a combat zone is an entirely different experience. My wife, like all military spouses, had to assume the overwhelming tasks of raising three children, running the household, and trying not to think of the worst thing that could happen to me. Military spouses are the “hidden heroes” that seldom get recognized and who shy away from the spotlight. So my retirement ceremony was a chance to thank her and all military spouses. I hope I made it clear then and, if not now, I could not have accomplished what I did in the Army without my wife’s help and our Army cannot do its mission without the support of military spouses.

Just like with military veterans, if you ignore the altruistic appeal of helping veterans and their spouses start careers, you find out quickly the advantages of hiring people who can deal with anything thrown at them and never fail to achieve the objective. Military veterans and spouses bring so much more talent to the work place and that talent can be realized if first understood. Think about the skills it takes to plan and coordinate all of the activity on your own for a year and you start realizing they have the ability to multi-task and drive any project to completion, which is what any employer seeks in project managers and leaders. I am very pleased to see the scope of Salute’s efforts expand to helping military spouses start careers in the data

center industry. Salute customers will benefit as the combined strengths of military veterans and military spouses are introduced to the industry in greater numbers. I hope you will join me and welcome these “hidden heroes”.



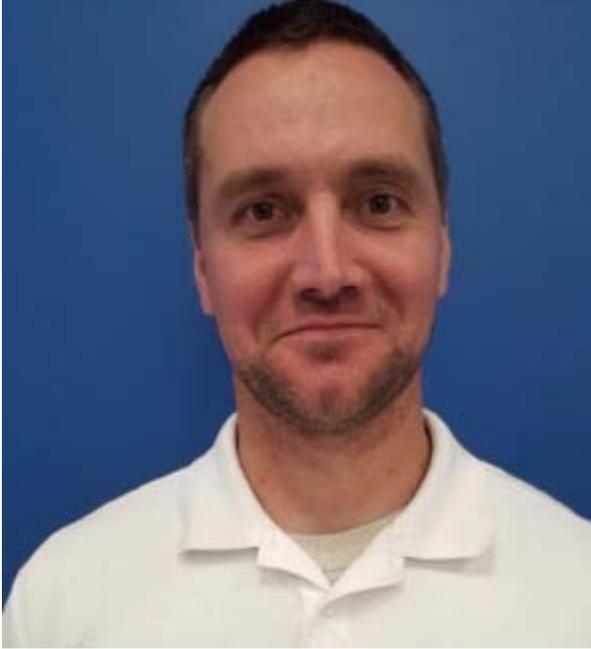
Retirement Ceremony for Colonel and Mrs. Kirby January 2013

### **FEATURED EMPLOYEE**

Chris Shahan served in the United States Marine Corps from 1985-1989. While enlisted he became a multi-channel (MUX) radio operator and technician. Chris came to Salute with over three decades in communications, expertise in engineering, design, project management, installation, and implementation of communication systems. Chris has exceptional leadership skills, along with the ability to influence individuals and motivate project resources to drive desired results. Highly skilled at developing young talent to execute at a high level, his cross-functional team leadership and process improvement delivered outstanding results in managing projects designed to optimize site and system performance to ensure the highest levels of service and operational excellence. Chris excels at streamlining site deployment, testing, and monitoring processes to achieve optimal efficiency.



## FEATURED EMPLOYEE



Chris Ferris joined the Army in November of 1998 as a tank mechanic. He was stationed in South Korea, Ft. Knox, Ft. Riley and a deployment in Iraq. In 2006 after completing his service, Chris went to college seeking a degree in electrical engineering. During Sophomore year, he decided to get a computer science minor and at the end of that year, he changed his major to computer engineering. For Chris' Capstone last school year, his team had the task of 3D object segmentation -creating a program to recognize objects in an image generated by a 3D camera, such as an

Xbox Kinect or Intel RealSense. Chris and his team earned the "Most Imaginative and Creative Solution" award. He will be completing his degree in the next school year. Post military and during school, Chris worked security for Intel. His combination of experiences has been very beneficial as he joined Salute as a Data Center Technician.

## NEW AT SALUTE

We are happy to announce our new office in Charlotte, NC where we will continue the development of our team and support clients in the Virginia and North Carolina markets.

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