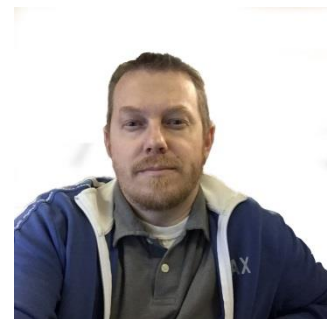




ASW Global says thank you to all of our nation's heroes – those who volunteered their time and sacrificed their lives to keep our country safe and strong during peacetime, and at war. We salute you.

This month, ASW Global is honored to recognize one of its own employees, Troy Williams, ASW's IT Operations Administrator, a native son, and small town kid, who grew up in the Akron metropolitan area. At 15 years of age, Troy had a formidable plan to one day serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Overcoming the surprises and doubts of many, this barely 100 pound, 16 year-old would enlist in the U.S. Marines Corp., and go on to become an information technology (IT) whiz. Choosing IT as a career has served Troy well, both in the military and upon his return to civilian life.

ASW Global is proud to sit down with Troy to discuss his thoughts about military life, his four and a half years working at the company, respecting the National Anthem, and the joy of teaching his kids the value in helping wounded warriors.



1. Troy, so you are a Cleveland-area native?

Yes. I grew up in Norton, Ohio, a small town located in Summit County, right here in the Akron/Canton metropolitan area.

2. What influenced your decision to join the military?

At age 15, I knew that my family wouldn't be able to afford to send me to college, so the next best thing for me was to consider joining the military. I came from a family of Veterans. My father served in the U.S. Army, my uncle was a Vietnam Vet, and my cousin was a Marine. One day I decided to contact all four branches for more information about enlisting. I only heard back from the U.S. Marines Corp. I was a small kid at the time. I weighed barely 100 pounds, so when I told everyone about my decision to enlist, they told me that I'd never make it in the military. I didn't let their opinion dissuade me from my goal; in fact it just fueled my fire. So when I was 16 years old, I enlisted. However, I didn't leave for the military until 1993, when I was 18 years old. At that time, I signed up for four years active duty, and served four years in the Reserves.

3. Could you share some background on your military service, i.e. job duties, special deployments, and please shed some light on what you like most about being a Marine?

I entered the military, after the Gulf War, a.k.a. Operation Desert Shield that occurred in 1991. I completed my military service right before our nation was attacked on 9/11/2001. During my time in the military, I served stateside in North Carolina, and I also served abroad in Okinawa, Japan. I

really enjoyed the opportunity to travel a lot in the military. As a Marine, I enjoyed the fact that it taught me the sense of structure, discipline, and work ethic, which was very good for me. I wasn't even 18 yet when I enlisted, so the experience really forced me to grow up and mature as a teenager. When I decided to join the military, I took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) exam test that showed that I had a high-aptitude for Information Systems. So I decided to go into IT as a career choice.

4. Tell us about your current role at ASW Global, as an IT Operations Administrator. How long have you worked at ASW, and what do you do?

I've worked with ASW Global for four and a half years. In the past, I've worked for some major companies, so working for a smaller company is really nice. I really like the fact that ASW Global is very supportive of its employees. As an IT Manager, my job duties cover a number of areas, such as managing vendor contracts, invoicing, and project management, just to name a few. As a company, we've just acquired two new companies, and three new offices, including one in Dayton and Indianapolis. I'm responsible for configuring the network system for our new offices, as well as overseeing, installing and maintaining all computer equipment.

5. ASW Global recently joined America ICARE, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that services Military Service Members, Veterans and their families, to help sponsor Veterans in need of employment opportunities. What advice can you give employers about the value that Veterans bring to the workplace?

In general, Military Service Members and Veterans are mature – we are a hard-working group of people that have experienced quite a lot. We understand the value of team work, and diversity. In fact the military instills that in you. We come from a variety of different backgrounds and ethnicities, but have come together for a common good. The military teaches us to value our differences, but realize we are all the same, fighting for a common good – one cause; to serve our country. Diversity is the key.

6. Troy, you continue to give back to the community, and recently completed a seven day kayaking challenge to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Family Support Network. Tell us about this special event and why you wanted to give back to the community in this way.

I had planned to take a little vacation over Labor Day to go camping, but in thinking more about the trip, decided to use the time to help raise money for Veterans. I went to my manager at ASW Global and told him I wanted to take extra time off to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project. The company gave me the extra time I needed to make this happen. A



weekend camping trip turned into a week-long fundraiser to help families of deceased and wounded soldiers. I raised \$650.00. I could have just written a check, but I wanted my kids to understand the value in volunteering for a good cause – for me to take the trip, raise money for wounded Veterans, and come back home. I want them to understand that life isn't about just living for themselves, that's it's a very good thing to give back and help other people in need.

7. What is one particular thing that you wished civilians could do to honor Veterans, not only on Veterans Day but throughout the whole year.

First of all I want to say, that I appreciate the fact that so many people stop and say thank you to all of us that served our country. It really means a lot. I really think it's important for civilians to remember that when a person decides to enlist in the military, they don't get to pick and choose what will happen in the world during the time they serve. They could be serving in peacetime or at war. Quite frequently, we send our kids to war and many lose their lives. As American's we may not support the president, his views, or the cause, but we all need to support the men and women who volunteered to sign up and defend our country, so we can enjoy our liberties and freedom as Americans. Let's not take our men and women who served for granted. Even during sporting events, civilians should remember to take their hats off during the singing of the National Anthem. We're only asking for two minutes of your time to show respect for our country, and to honor those who served.

8. Any final thoughts on this past Veterans Day, and any words for your comrades presently serving and those who've returned home?

I just wanted to say that I am truly grateful for the sacrifices that every Service Member, Veteran and their family members have made. When you think no one cares, and no one is paying attention to the sacrifices made, just know that most of us are thankful and appreciative and understand that without you keeping us safe, America could be exposed to surprise attacks like those that occurred on September 11th and Pearl Harbor.

Please visit [America ICARE's](#) website to read Troy's special Veterans Day letter to his comrades presently serving, and those that have transitioned home.

ASW