



VETTED

Adam Samuels

University of Texas at Austin Veteran Accelerated Management Program (2017-COHORT-1)



Motto: "If you want to be successful, it's just this simple. Know what you are doing. Love what you are doing. And believe in what you are doing."-Will Rogers

Age: 45

Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Military Service:

1997 - 2017 US Navy

EDUCATION:

- U. S. Naval War College, Newport RI (2005)
Masters in National Security and Strategic Studies
- Texas A&M University, College Station TX (1996)
Bachelors in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Technology (MMET)

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

- Analyst, Foreign Disclosure Policy, Navy International Programs Office (NIPO)
- Section Head, African Bio-Engagement Programs, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)
- Country Engagement Manager (South Africa), Defense Threat Reduction Agency(DTRA)
- Program Mgr, Foreign National Training/ Exercises, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)
- Program Mgr, Navy Chemical-Bio-Rad-Nuc Defense, Chief of Naval Operations Staff, Pentagon
- Ship Operations Officer/ Air Defense Liaison, USS Monterey (CG61) Cruiser
- Ship Operations Officer/ Industrial Safety Officer, USS Stethem (DDG63) Destroyer
- Regional Training/ Security Officer, Naval Reserve Readiness Command NW Staff
- Squadron Training Officer/Asst N3, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) Nine Staff
- Division Officer (Machinery/Electrical Equipment), USS Porter (DDG78) Destroyer
- Damage Control Assistant(Ship Emergency Manager), PCU Porter (DDG78) Destroyer

Nonprofit Experience:

- Neighborhood Facilitator, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Fairfax Co. (VA) and City of Georgetown (TX)
- Guest Speaker, "Careers in Infectious Disease Prevention and Global Public Health Program", STEM Outreach, San Antonio Health Careers High School
- Guest Speaker, "The Salty Jew: Balancing Religious Faith and Professional Responsibilities in the 21st Century Navy"
- Executive Board, Springfield (VA) Civic Association
- International Student Sponsor, (Naval War College/ Defense Intl. School), Newport RI
- Volunteer Lay Leader on five ships: 2 destroyers, 1 cruiser, 2 aircraft carriers
- Executive Board, Council for International Visitors (CIV), Newport (RI)
- Radio Production Assistant, KAMU-FM National Public Radio affiliate, College Station TX
- Student Vice President, University Jewish Student Union(Hillel)
- Docent, J. Wayne Stark Center Art Galleries, Texas A&M University
- Cadet Academics Officer, Texas A&M Navy ROTC

<p>Tell us a fun fact about you:</p>	<p>From age 10-17 was a member of a five person professional puppet troupe in San Antonio TX, performing 20+ shows per year with adult peers at multiple department stores and paid clients functions. Watched Sesame Street, Muppet Show, and Fraggle Rock through end of High School to replicate and master Jim Henson’s puppet construction and artistic skills. Later, in military career, was Tactical Action Officer on a Ballistic Missile Defense destroyer in Sea of Japan and combated Ebola in Africa (not sure if there is a correlation but it is a fun fact).</p>
<p>Why did you join the military?</p>	<p>Growing up, I toured maritime history museums and battlefields across New England and mid-Atlantic and wanted to be part of the long tradition, not just read or hear about it. The Navy provided an opportunity to see the world outside of my state and even United States borders. Perhaps I would get to meet people from another culture, to share bread and tea and find out how they view us and why. To be part of an organization greater than oneself and accomplish something beyond what I-the introvert-ever thought I could growing up. (Also:I watched “The Hunt for Red October” and “Das Boot” too many times in High School.)</p>
<p>What is the greatest single lesson you learned from your Military Service?</p>	<p>Take the time to know your teammates, professional peers, and clients even if they are different than you, not just blindly jump into the end game mission.</p>
<p>Why did you apply for the Veterans Accelerated Management Program?</p>	<p>Surrounded by other experienced military peers, VAMP will provide focused graduate study of our skills as leaders beyond the box of being a DoD contractor (which is all I was exposed to while on active duty) or self-imposed limits of “what I did in my last job.” I was disappointed by the non-specific military Transition Assistance Program I received at the end of my military career, as likely to be surrounded in TAP class by junior enlisted or officers transitioning at the end of their first tour as a career military leader.</p>
<p>What do you hope to accomplish in the next chapter of your life, both professionally and personally?</p>	<p>To feel like I still can make a difference, be part of a team or product I believe in, and have a purpose beyond the bottom line. I want the stable, retired life where I am not moving every 18-24 months and can spend nights and weekends at home with family and know my neighbors, not have the burden that if I do not go into work on weekends or work overtime every night that my services are not of value and I will not succeed.</p>
<p>What would you tell today’s American public about our nation’s Veterans transitioning out of the military?</p>	<p>Leave opinions of military service based on politically polarized talk show or news pundits or the latest Hollywood action movie behind. Today’s veterans are adaptable, smart, and resilient and quick to take up your mission if you give them the opportunity.</p> <p>From earliest days in our military service, fresh out of civilian school (high school or undergraduate university), we are trained and mentored to perform multiple roles simultaneously (primary and collateral duties); we do not hesitate to seek out information and advice from those lower ranking only on paper but far wiser in experience. We have experience making decisions now, when a critical decision must be made for an organization even if based on limited information, rather than waiting to make the perfect decision next week when it is too late and the opponent will be in the better position.</p> <p>Do not be afraid that we come from driving a tank, sailing a ship, or flying an airplane; as veterans, we will come up to speed quickly at a new job because we had to many times before; you are talking with someone who just completed a successful military career which required changing military jobs titles, areas of responsibility, or geographic or political landscapes every 18 to 24 months yet still maintain the mission success of the organization before moving on to the next one.</p>