

## Getting to Know You

*Bill Cozzolino*

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As Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait the price of oil and oil based commodities leapt, as a commodities trader at my computer terminal in a small office in Düsseldorf, Germany, I witnessed the economic effects of the opening salvos of the coming conflict. As the summer gave way to fall and winter and the US stationed more troops and issued diplomatic ultimatata to Saddam Hussein, I came back to the US to enlist.

In January 1991, I went to basic and advanced infantry school as well as Airborne School at Ft. Benning, GA. Just prior to graduation, with Desert Storm already won and troops starting to come home, I was invited to apply for Officer Candidate School. I went to OCS in 1992, graduating in June and heading from the infantry to the [King of Battle](#). I attended the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Ft. Sill as a stopover on his way to permanent assignment at Ft. Polk, Louisiana. Assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 82<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment attached to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Corp Artillery, I held roles as the Service Battery Platoon Leader, Charlie Battery Executive Officer, Platoon Leader and Battery Fire Direction Officer. While at Ft. Polk I became involved with the Boy Scouts of America and served as the Ft. Polk liaison officer to the BSA providing logistical and operational support to local BSA activities. I left the Army in 1995 to assist my family during my father's prolonged illness. I have been in advertising and marketing ever since Army discharge. After working for many clients across

technology, consumer products, food and beverage, and services sectors, I was hired in 2001 by my client IBM to lead marketing results analytics and process improvement worldwide for the server division.

I met Gladys in 2001 in Connecticut and we were married in 2003 in Colombia, South America, among Gladys's family and friends. We relocated to Cary, NC in 2004 to work more closely with the IBM System x and BladeCenter server teams. My mother relocated here for her retirement a year later.



I am active in my community as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Michaels RC Church, an active member of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) and engaged in helping that organization start a satellite chapter in the Research Triangle Park area, and as a member of my neighborhood board of directors. Gladys and I enjoy working in our yard and garden, going to the gym and regularly travel to visit my brother in New Jersey, extended family in Connecticut and Gladys's family in Colombia, South America.

*Bill Coz*