



Captain Karl J. Watje **United States Marine Corps** **Military Mentor**

Capt. Karl J. Watje was born in Seoul, South Korea and adopted to an American family in Bloomington, Minnesota. He attended high school at Bethany Academy located in Bloomington and filled his time playing basketball and baseball. Capt. Watje was a part of the National Honor Society, and a part of the school senate. He received two scholarships from and attended the University of Northwestern (UNW) in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He also volunteered at a non-profit, Breaking Free, where he mentored teenagers escaping human trafficking.

Capt. Watje grew up knowing he was not originally a citizen of the United States. He knew to not take the title of citizen lightly and service to one's country is one of the highest honors. This service was not about glorifying himself, but to give back to the country that gave so much to him and to serve alongside other patriots.



Capt. Watje's enthusiasm to serve his country led to him enlisting in the Marine Corps after two years of attending the UNW in 2009. Upon completing his military training to become a Marine, Capt. Watje returned to college and joined the Marine Corps Reserves. He volunteered to deploy as a Machine Gunner to Afghanistan in 2012. Upon returning, he finished his undergraduate degree in Marketing from UNW. After college, Capt. Watje led a mentorship group of high school students to teach and mentor future leaders.

Capt. Watje commissioned into the Marine Corps at the Officer Candidate Course 220 in 2015. He is a Logistics Officer, which involves providing transportation, medical, supply, services, engineering, and communications capabilities to the Marine Corps. Capt. Watje had many jobs as an officer: Platoon Commander, Battalion Logistics Officer, Operations Officer, and Company Commander.

Upon returning from another deployment, Capt. Watje was selected by the Marine Corps to attend the Army Logistics University at Fort Lee, Virginia. After graduating, he volunteered to shift to Okinawa, Japan. He currently serves at the Jungle Warfare Training Center, as the Logistics Officer, and Jungle Survival Expert.

Capt. Watje has received specialized training in Evacuation Control, Joint Humanitarian Aid, Maritime Prepositioning Forces, Middle Eastern Regional and Cultural Studies, and Jungle Survival. His graduate education includes a Masters in Organizational Leadership from Brandman University. Capt. Watje has traveled and worked in Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Egypt, Japan, and Brazil.

Capt. Watje's hobbies include exercising, reading, writing, musical theater, golfing, and scuba diving. He enjoys Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, and Harry Potter. He volunteers at Sunday Schools around Okinawa, the local library, and professionally writes for the United States Marine Corps.

Capt. Watje understands the importance of mentorship and leading by example to assist the next generation succeed. The next great leaders of the world are emerging from this new generation, and helping them develop is important to him. He would not be where he is today without his leaders who helped mold his abilities and character. Capt. Watje can provide mentorship and servant leadership to teenagers or students to reach their full potential. Only by working together, can the next generation of leaders prosper!