Mike grew up in Fairport, NY and chose to leave the cold of upstate New York to attend The Citadel in 1987. He majored in Electrical Engineering and was commissioned in the Air Force as a Scientific Analyst following graduation in 1991. He was assigned to the Air Force’s Electronic Warfare Center in San Antonio, which later became the Air Force Information Warfare Center in 1993. It was there that Mike cross-trained to an Intelligence Officer and led a team collecting and analyzing data on critical infrastructure in specific areas of interest. In 1995, the Air Force decided to create the very first operational unit tasked with protecting Air Force infrastructure and developing doctrine and capabilities to destroy/disrupt enemy infrastructure. Mike was one of the 10 initial cadre members hand-selected by the 9th Air Force Commander to stand up the 609th Information Warfare Squadron at Shaw AFB in Sumter, SC.

In 1997, Mike separated from the Air Force and joined a start-up called The WheelGroup, which was building the world’s first network intrusion detection system - designed to observe network traffic and provide near-real-time alerts of specific attacks. It grew rapidly and in 1998 Cisco Systems acquired the company and integrated it into a newly formed Security Business Unit. Inside Cisco, Mike rose rapidly through the ranks, ultimately becoming Vice President of Security Services & Cloud operations. By 2012, he was leading a team of 500 people across the world who were focused on advanced security technologies for Cisco including web and email security, threat intelligence operations, 24/7 data center operations on a global scale, and endpoint security generating $250M in annual revenues.

Mike left Cisco in 2015 and joined a private equity-backed data center company called Peak 10 in Charlotte, NC as their first Chief Technology Officer and was responsible for design, development, and 24/7 operations of a nationwide private cloud offering. Peak 10 acquired ViaWest in 2017, and Mike became the Chief Product Officer of the combined company – responsible for all product strategy and software development along with integration of the two product portfolios. In 2020, he rose to the role of Chief Operating Officer overseeing the company’s Cloud & Managed Services business delivering a 17% growth rate between 2020 and 2023 on a $120M annual revenue stream.

Mike has been a member of the Citadel School of Engineering Advisory Board for over 10 years. Mike married his high school sweetheart, Maria, and they have three grown boys. Connor is a class of ‘18 Electrical Engineering graduate studying for his PhD at The University of Arizona. Davis is a class of ‘21 Spanish major living in Valencia, Spain, and Ethan is a class of ‘24 cadet studying at the United States Military Academy.