

More about Kevin Ryan - Executive Director

Kevin's ties to Bellingham began with his first assignment to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in 2001 where he fell in love with Western Washington and met his wife Andrea who hails from British Columbia. He was fortunate enough to return to Whidbey for another tour in 2006 further concreting his desire to return to Washington following the completion of his service with the Marines. After his retirement from active duty in 2022, Kevin and his family decided to make Bellingham their new home where his daughter and son attend Western Washington University and Sehome High School respectively.

During his time with the Marines, Kevin initially served as an Electronic Countermeasures Officer flying EA-6B Prowlers, later transitioning to become an Aviation Acquisition Officer following his graduation from the prestigious United States Naval Test Pilot School. His service includes a variety of tours including flying EA-6Bs with Marine Electronic Attack Squadrons 1 and 2, directing electronic warfare operations in Iraq with 2d Marine Division, directing developmental flight test operations with Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 23, leading Major Department of Defense Acquisition Programs with Naval Air Systems Command, and leading two of the Navy's most critical Aviation Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul facilities.

Kevin holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Virginia Military Institute, a Master of Science in Engineering Systems from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the United States Naval War College.

Kevin served in combat with the Marines in Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM. His personal military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (2nd Award), Air Medal with combat distinguishing device and 6th strike/flight award, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4th Award), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3rd award).