



## **Niel Smith, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.)**

Niel is a Site Manager with Amgen's Contract & Development Management group, overseeing external manufacturing relationships. Niel came to Amgen in 2019 following a 22-year Army career and was the company's first U.S. Chamber of Commerce "Hiring our Heroes" fellow, a program that helps transitioning veterans find meaningful post-service employment. In addition to his daily duties, he volunteers as Global Vice Chair and Thousand Oaks site lead for the 400-member Amgen Veteran Employee Network (AVEN), supporting diversity efforts to recruit, promote, and retain veteran talent.

Prior to joining Amgen, Niel served 22 years in the United States Army as an Armored Cavalry officer, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He served as commander of 6<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry Regiment, an Armored Reconnaissance Battalion of 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, TX, deploying to the Middle East in 2017. Niel's military service includes operational and combat deployments to Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria plus additional travels to 46 countries. Other notable assignments include service as senior military adviser to the State Department's Asia-Pacific Bureau, brigade operations officer in Afghanistan, aide-de-camp to the commander of U.S. Army Pacific, operations officer of the Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Center, and company-level combat command during the Iraq Surge.

His numerous military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (3 awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal (6 awards), Army Commendation Medal (5 awards and Valorous Device), Combat Action Badge, and Army Parachutist Badge. Units he has served with in combat were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and Naval Unit Commendation. Raised in Richmond, Virginia, he holds a master's degree from Kansas State University and a bachelor's from James Madison University.

Niel lives in Simi Valley and has two sons - Eric (17) and Calvin (12). In addition to AVEN, He volunteers as an adult leader for Scouts BSA Troop 622 in Simi Valley.