

## **Biography for Tom Sauer, Founder and CEO of Miramar Health**

A graduate of the US Naval Academy and an 18-year Navy and Marine Corps Veteran, behavioral health became a deep passion of Tom's following the loss of his father to a methamphetamine overdose after decades of struggle with mental illness and addiction, just like so many millions of Americans suffering from our country's disastrous mental health and addiction crisis.

Three weeks after his father's death in June 1999, Tom enlisted in the Marines as a Rifleman, found himself in Annapolis as a midshipman in 2002, and graduated in 2006. As a Surface Warfare Officer, he served onboard USS KEARSARGE (LHD-3) and USS WHIRLWIND (PC-11), deploying to Latin America, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and South Asia. In 2009, Tom transferred into Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), completing his training in early 2011.

During his time as a Navy EOD Officer at EOD Mobile Unit FIVE, Tom trained and readied his team of EOD Special Operators to locate and deal with terrorist nuclear weapons. He and his team deployed as the Western Pacific's Crisis Response Force, in concert with US Army Special Forces, Naval Special Warfare Development Group, Joint Special Operations Command, and Los Alamos National Laboratory. His team worked directly with the highest levels of the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, The White House, and several "other" government organizations.

Additionally, while leading Humanitarian Mine Actions operations on behalf of the US Department of State in Kathmandu, Nepal, Tom directed planning and execution of a robust US program to deactivate remnant landmines and improvised explosive devices left behind after the Nepalese Civil War, in partnership with US civilian agencies and US, Indian, and Nepalese military forces.

As a staff planning officer for Commander, EOD Group ONE and Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center, Mr. Sauer collaborated with America's Pacific partners in writing US Navy and Marine Corps war plans guiding US and allied operations in the event of war with China or North Korea, driving consensus between the US and her closest friends and allies.

As a former Navy Lieutenant Commander from one of the most selective, demanding, and dangerous career fields on earth, Tom's passion shifted to an even more deadly threat to America's Veterans: Our mental health, addiction, and suicide crisis. Today, Miramar Health's incredible team of nearly 100 physicians, nurses, psychologists, therapists, medical technicians, case managers, and support staff (many of whom are Veterans themselves) save lives and relieve human suffering on a daily basis, and there's no better group of Americans needing it more than our own Veterans.

Tom holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the US Naval Academy, and graduate degrees from both UCLA and the National University of Singapore. He is married to the former Ms. Natalie Kratts, a data scientist and former research economist for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. Tom and Natalie live in Orange County California, along with their two golden retrievers, Bosco and Birdie.