Tim was born and raised in Fayetteville, NC, and when not playing sports, he served in student government. He graduated from Terry Sanford Senior High School in 1978, then attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He graduated in 1982 with a double major in Political Science and Administration of Criminal Justice. Thereafter, he attended Campbell University Law School, graduated in May 1987, and passed the N.C. State Bar Exam in August 1987.

Tim began his Marine Corps career in 1986, when he attended and graduated from Officer Candidates' School, and accepted a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve. He thereafter returned to and completed his last year of law school. Tim began his active-duty career in January 1988, attending The Basic School. Following graduation, he attended the Naval Justice School then proceeded to 1st FSSG, Camp Pendleton, serving as a Trial Counsel/Prosecutor. He has served as the 13th MEU SJA; Deputy SJA, 1st Marine Division, and an instructor at the Naval Justice School and the Naval War College.

In 1994, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve to return home and began work in a civil litigation law firm, later opening his own law firm in September 1995.

During his time in the Marine Corps Reserve, he served in peacetime and in combat, through six mobilizations/active-duty tours. His assignments include serving with Marine Corps University; 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO); Eastern Regional Defense Counsel; Regime Crimes Liaison Office, Baghdad; Assistant SJA, MARCENT, MacDill AFB; Senior Reserve Trial Judge, Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary, Washington, DC; Governance OIC, II MEF (Forward), Helmand Province, Afghanistan; SJA, 2d MarDiv, Camp Lejeune; Chief of Staff, Training Command, MCB Quantico; SJA, 3D MAW, Miramar; and Reserve SJA, II MEF, Camp Lejeune. He retired as a Colonel in 2019.