

**Tristian Smith** is an Amazon best-selling author, keynote speaker, and Emergency Management Specialist for the U.S. Department of the Air Force at Offutt Air Force Base. A proud veteran and child welfare advocate, Tristian draws strength and purpose from his journey through the foster care system.

After losing his mother at age seven, he spent his youth in more than 25 foster homes and attended 13 different schools. Determined to rise above the instability of his early life, he wrote his memoir, *Against All Odds*, to share how resilience, mentorship, and a “bend-but-don’t-break” mindset helped him overcome unimaginable adversity. His story has inspired audiences across the country and is now being used to train and educate child welfare professionals and caregivers.

Tristian earned his Bachelor’s degree in History and commissioned as a U.S. Army Officer through ROTC. He served nearly a decade in the military, where he trained and led hundreds of service members before transitioning to civilian service as an Emergency Management Specialist. He holds a Master’s in Emergency Management from the University of Maryland Global Campus and is currently completing a second Master’s in Intelligence Analysis at Johns Hopkins University.

In addition to his federal service and public speaking, Tristian actively volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and as a member of Nebraska’s Foster Care Review Board. In both roles, he advocates for the safety, stability, and long-term well-being of children in the foster care system, continuing his commitment to create better outcomes for the next generation of youth.