

CPT John Shay **Chaplain Corps, United States Army**



Chaplain John Shay was born and raised in Eastern South Dakota. While John was in high school, his oldest brother took him to a Wesleyan Church where he learned of his sin, the sacrifice of Christ, and his need of forgiveness. It was there that God saved John, and began a good work in him that has lasted into the ministry.

John watched his other brother enter the military as a combat engineer. Twenty years later that brother deployed as a platoon sergeant to Iraq in support of OIF. Meanwhile John attended SDSU, and eventually Pillsbury Baptist Bible College. He completed seminary working a variety of software contracts for medical device companies in the Twin Cities.

John also did some post grad work at Central

Baptist Theological Seminary. During this time, the Lord blessed John with six children, and a host of ministry opportunities. It was after his brother's return from Iraq that John's attention turned again to the military ministry and a few years later he joined the Army at age 40.

In 2008, he accessioned as a Lieutenant in the MN Army National Guard. John served briefly under the 84th Troop Command before attending Chaplain Officer Basic in Ft. Jackson, SC. Upon graduation, John returned to become the Chaplain for the 1st Squadron, 94th Cavalry from the Iron Range of MN. He served with them for five years, earned his silver spurs in 2010, gold spurs in 2012, deploying to Camp Buehring, Kuwait in support of OIF and OND with the 34th Infantry Division, Red Bulls. He now serves as Battalion Chaplain in the BSB of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division.

His Military education includes Chaplain Officer Basic, Clinical Pastoral Education, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, and Chaplain Captain Career Course.

CH (CPT) Shay's military awards and decorations include ARCOM and ARCAM and he was inducted as a Noble Patron of Armor in the 1-94CAV.

John is proud of his dad's service during the Korean War, His brother's service in OIF, and two of his own boys that are in the MN National Guard. He has four nephews who have also served (two of them deployed). Most of all, he would want you to know, "I joined to be able to serve those who serve the country. I am honored to wear the uniform, and thankful for the ministry to Soldiers"