

LTC Michael T. Shellman Chaplain Corps,
United States Army



While serving as senior pastor of the Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, TN, Chaplain Shellman began serving as a Reserve Chaplain. God then granted him the desire of his heart to enter active duty status in the United States Army. Chaplain Shellman reported to duty for his first assignment on September 11, 2000 at the 101st Air Assault Division, Fort Campbell, KY, serving as a Chaplain in an infantry Battalion. On September 11, 2001 his unit was alerted to prepare for a possible combat deployment and then deployed in January 2002 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Chaplain Shellman was the first Army chaplain deployed to Afghanistan and served as the Task Force Rakkasan Command Chaplain. While providing religious support to the soldiers, Chaplain Shellman was also part of several missions during the beginning of the war. One key combat mission was Operation Anaconda in which 1,425 soldiers conducted an air assault mission into the rigid mountains of Afghanistan killing several hundred enemy and yet sustaining minimal casualties.

After a few months home from the first deployment, Chaplain Shellman's unit was deployed again in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. His unit was one of the first to enter Iraq and conducted several missions throughout the country including Baghdad and Babylon.

While in Iraq, Chaplain Shellman received orders to serve in 2nd Battalion 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, NC. Upon reporting to the United States Special Forces Command, Chaplain Shellman deployed on three combat tours.

Chaplain Shellman was then assigned to 3rd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, GA. In accepting this position, Chaplain Shellman successfully completed the challenging Ranger School and Ranger Orientation Program. Chaplain Shellman deployed twice with 75th Ranger Regiment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Following his assignment with the 75th Ranger Regiment, Chaplain Shellman enjoyed a very fulfilling assignment serving as the Brigade Chaplain for the Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning, GA. This position proved to be very rewarding as he directly impacted Soldiers training to be Ranger qualified.

After serving in operation units since the beginning of his career, Chaplain Shellman was placed in a staff position at Fort Leavenworth, KS, as the Pastoral Coordinator. This allowed him to focus on Garrison ministry and supporting Chapel programs.

Chaplain Shellman was then assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, KY. In accepting this position, Chaplain Shellman successfully completed the rigorous three-week selection process referred to as the Officer Green Platoon. Chaplain Shellman served in three deployments with this unit.

Chaplain Shellman is currently serving as the Deputy Command Chaplain at the Joint Special Operations Command located at Fort Bragg, NC. He has already served on two short deployments.

Chaplain Shellman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Theology from Maranatha Baptist University, a Master of Divinity degree from Temple Baptist Seminary, and a Master of Arts degree in Bible Studies from Maranatha Baptist Graduate School of Theology. Chaplain Shellman's military education includes the following Schools: Air Assault, Airborne, Ranger, Jumpmaster, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) Course (High Risk), and Command and General Staff College.

Chaplain Shellman's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Valorous Unit Award with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Unit Award with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Meritorious Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with Arrowhead Device, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral 2, NATO Medal, Combat Action Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ecuadorian, Chilean, Guatemalan, and Romanian Jump Wings, and the Ranger Tab.

Chaplain Shellman is married (Cheryl) and has three wonderful married daughters (Brittany, Jessica, Megan) who have faithfully supported him fully during all his training and deployments.