

CPT Drew A. Paul Chaplain Corps, United States Army



Chaplain Drew Paul was born in Cleveland, Ohio, as the youngest of six children. He enlisted in the US Army in July 1982 as an infantry rifleman assigned to 1st Ranger Battalion in Savannah, GA. He served on an anti-tank crew as an ammo bearer, assistant gunner, and team leader, and then as the Battalion Commander's driver/radio operator, and later as fire team leader.

While he was attending Ranger School, his unit deployed for combat operations on the Caribbean island of Grenada in October 1983. Drew's roommate, Marlin R. Maynard, was killed in action while filling Drew's duty position. This event had a lasting impact on his life and led him to receive Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior in July 1985. Chaplain Paul received the Gospel through a tract that he had received four years earlier while still in high school.

In September 1985, he transferred to the 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI, where he served for nine months in a Long-Range Surveillance Detachment (Ranger) and nine months as a light infantry instructor. During this time, he surrendered to the Gospel Ministry at Lanakila Baptist Church, Waipahu, Hawaii. Later, while visiting Australia on a military exchange, God burdened him to return there one day as a missionary. In 1987 his active duty enlistment ended, he transferred to 12th Special Forces, US Army Reserve, and enrolled in the Missions Program at Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO. While studying at BBC, Drew met and married BethAnne Koon, a missionary kid raised in Australia. He graduated with a double-major in Bible and Missions in 1991, and he and BethAnne moved to Australia that August. They served for nearly 20 years as missionaries to Australia. During their years of ministry, they taught in Bible College, were active in youth camps, and planted Friendship Baptist Church, Mount Crosby, Queensland. The Pauls served in Australia until October 2010 when God led them to pursue a ministry with the US Army Chaplain Corps.

Drew and BethAnne began their ministry to soldiers as missionaries with Armed Forces Baptist Missions in January 2011, and Drew was later commissioned as a Chaplain in the US Army Reserve in May of that year. He and BethAnne started a coffee shop ministry at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where they served until May 2013.

God opened the door for Drew to move to a full-time Chaplain position as a mobilized Reservist with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). He served as Battalion Chaplain for the Special Operations Aviation Training Battalion for 3 ½ years, from April 2013 until October 2016 and deployed twice during this assignment, once to Afghanistan, and once to Iraq. Chaplain Paul currently serves as a Deputy Chaplain at the Joint Special Operations Command located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He has deployed three times in his current position.

He holds a B.S. Degree in Bible/Missions from Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, a Master of Religious Education from Great Plains Baptist Divinity School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Chaplain Paul's military education includes Basic Training, US Army Infantry Advanced Individual Training, Airborne School, Ranger School, Jumpmaster School, Jungle Warfare Training Course, Primary Leadership Development Course, Chaplain Officer Basic Leadership Course (CHBOLC), Officer Combat Skills Course (160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment), Survival, Evasion, Resistance, & Escape- High Risk (SERE-C), and the Chaplain Captains Career Course (C4).

His military awards include, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (1 OLC), National Defense Service Medal (1 Service Star), Afghanistan Campaign Medal (1 Service Star), Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal (1 Service Star), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (M Device), Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, NATO ISAF Medal, Expert Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, German Parachutist Badge (Bronze), Canadian Parachutist Badge, and Australian Parachutist Badge.

Chaplain Paul is married to the former BethAnne Koon of Melbourne, Australia and they have three sons, Nathaniel (25), Jordan (22), and Daniel (11). The Pauls serve at Fort Bragg, NC, and reside in Fayetteville, NC. They are members of Layton Chapel Baptist Church, Spring Lake, NC, where they are involved in various ministries.