

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 own sin, his need for forgiveness, and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It was there that God saved John and began a good work in him that has lasted into the ministry.



In high school John watched another brother enter the military as a combat engineer. Twenty years later that brother deployed as a platoon sergeant to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Meanwhile John had attended SDSU, Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, and Central Baptist Theological Seminary. He completed seminary while 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 the 1st Brigade Combat Team with the 34th Infantry Division (Red Bulls). He then served as Battalion Chaplain for three years with the BSB of the same Brigade. Now he is serving as the Brigade chaplain for that same



Preaching the good news to Soldiers in the field

Armored Brigade Combat Team. His military education includes Chaplain Officer Basic, Clinical Pastoral Education, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, and Chaplain Captain Career Course, and Operational Religious Support Leadership Course. CH (MAJ) 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 to come from a military friendly family: his dad served in the Korean War, his brother in OIF, five nephews and even two of his own boys that are in the MN National Guard. But 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."