

## **MAJ Drew A. Paul**

### **Chaplain Corps, United States Army**

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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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 a 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 friend and roommate, Marlin Roy Maynard was killed in action while filling his 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 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI, where he served for ten months in a Long Range Surveillance Detachment (Ranger) and eight months as a light infantry instructor. During this time, he surrendered to the Gospel Ministry at Lanakila Baptist Church, Waipahu, HI. 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 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, SC, 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 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). He served as Battalion Chaplain for the Special Operations Aviation Training Battalion and Deputy Regiment Chaplain for the 160<sup>th</sup> SOAR (A) for 3 ½ years, from May, 2013 until October, 2016. He deployed twice during this assignment, once to Afghanistan, and once to Iraq. Chaplain Paul served as a Chaplain at the Joint Special Operations Command located at Fort Bragg, NC from 28 September 2016 – 31 May 2021. He deployed five times while serving in that position. On 1 June 2021, Drew began serving as the Headquarters

Chaplain at USSOCOM, MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL. This was a dual-hatted position that required simultaneously serving in the Florida Army National Guard. He continued to serve in this capacity until his position at USSOCOM was eliminated on 30 September 2022 because of budget cuts. Drew served from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023 on active duty orders in Alaska where he was assigned to the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division – Mission 100, a US Army initiative designed to reduce the military suicide rate there. He served there as the embedded Chaplain at the Fort Wainwright Behavioral Clinic. Drew is currently serving on an active duty mission, mobilized with Florida Army National Guard in Texas on the Southwest Border Mission, scheduled to conclude in November of 2024.

Drew holds a B.S. Degree in Bible/Missions from Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO, and a Master of Divinity from Great Plains Baptist Divinity School, Sioux Falls, SD. He has completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education through the Institute of Clinical Pastoral Training, Orlando, FL, and is a Board-Certified Chaplain (BCC) through the National Association of VA Chaplains (NAVAC), the Association of Certified Christian Chaplains (ACCC), the Spiritual Care Association (SCA), and the National Association of Certified Military Chaplains (NACMC), and is a certified Grief Recovery Method Specialist.

Chaplain Paul's military education includes Basic Training, US Army Infantry School, Airborne School, Ranger School, Jumpmaster School, Jungle Expert, Primary Leadership Development Course, Chaplain Officer Basic Leadership Course (CHBOLC), Officer Green Platoon Combat Skills at the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Survival, and Evasion, Resistance, & Escape- High Risk (SERE-C), Chaplain Captains Career Course (C4), and Intermediate Leaders Course DL Phase 1.

His military awards include, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (3 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 & Bronze Hourglass), Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, NATO ISAF Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, 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 (31), Jordan (28), and Daniel (17). The Paul Family resides in Seffner, FL. They are members of Landmark Baptist Church, where they are involved in various ministries. They are currently caring for and assisting their son, Nathaniel in his rehab and recovery from a Traumatic Brain Injury that he received from a car accident on 29 November 2018.