

Biography of Chaplain (Brigadier General) Charles R. “Ray” Bailey



Chaplain Bailey is the son of a United Methodist minister in the Nebraska Conference and has grown up living and attending school over a large part of the United States. Chaplain Bailey graduated from Texas Wesleyan University in Ft. Worth, Texas in June 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business and religion. He then attended Texas Christian University, Brite Divinity School, graduating in June 1978 with a Masters of Divinity degree.

Chaplain Bailey was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Chaplain Corps in 1977 as part of the US Army Reserve. During his time in the reserves he participated in multiple training and operational opportunities throughout the Army.

Chaplain Bailey was ordained as an Elder in June 1981 by the United Methodist Church and served churches in Ft. Worth, Corsicana, and Mineral Wells, Texas before entering active duty in June 1982 as a United States Army chaplain.

Chaplain Bailey became the 24th Deputy Chief of Chaplains, United States Army, on July 28, 2011. His previous chaplain assignments include serving as the Command Chaplain United States Army, Europe & Seventh Army, Heidelberg, Germany; Combat Development Director at the United States Army Chaplain Center and School, Ft. Jackson, SC.; Command Chaplain for Operation Enduring Freedom VI in Afghanistan; Command Chaplain, Southern European Task Force, Vicenza, Italy; Division Chaplain, 4th Infantry Division, Ft. Hood, TX; Chief of Concepts, Training, and Doctrine, U. S. Army Chaplain Center and School in Ft. Jackson, SC; Operations Chaplain for Combat Training, U.S. Army Europe Chaplain's Office, Heidelberg, Germany; Deputy Task Force Chaplain for Task Force Eagle in Tuzla, Bosnia; Deputy Division Chaplain for the 1st Armor Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany; Senior Chaplain Observer Controller at the Combined Maneuver Training Center, Hohenfels, Germany; Brigade Chaplain, 2nd Brigade, 6th Infantry Division, Fairbanks, Alaska; Brigade Chaplain, 504th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 82d Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, NC; 82d Aviation Brigade Chaplain, 82d Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, NC; 1/17 Cavalry Squadron Chaplain, 82d Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, NC; 2-6 Infantry Battalion, 1st Armor Division, Germany; 307th Engineer Battalion, 82nd ABN Division, 82d Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, NC; 3-325th Infantry (Airborne), 82d Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, NC.

His military education includes the Chaplain Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Airborne Course, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College, the Division and Installation Chaplain Courses, and the United States Army War College.

Chaplain Bailey has served in Operation Sudden Fury, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Joint Endeavor, Operation Restore Hope, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with 11 Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Master Parachutist Badge, and Honduran Airborne Badge.

Chaplain Bailey is married to the former Karen Goldesberry. They have two sons, Matthew, of Heidelberg, Germany and Patrick, of Charleston, South Carolina.