



COMMANDER ALFRED V PENA USCG District 14 Chaplain



CDR Alfred V Pena, a native in Los Angeles, California is a graduate of UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) with a Bachelor's in Anthropology/Archaeology. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree with a Concentration in Cross Cultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary, and a U.S. Naval War College Diploma from the College of Naval Command and Staff. He was commissioned as an Ensign in March 1999 under the United States Navy Chaplain Candidate Officer program.

Upon completion of the Basic School and Chaplain Candidate Course in 2000 he served two years as a reservist while completing the remainder of his seminary education and reported to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington in December 2002. He served as Division Officer and Staff Chaplain providing ministry support to over 10K Sailors.

In April 2006, he was assigned to Destroyer Squadron One, San Diego, California, as DESRON Chaplain to fourteen Navy ships with a total of 1.5K Sailors. He deployed on CARAT 2006 and CARAT 2007, a series of annual bilateral exercises with the armed forces of several Southeast Asian nations, where he planned and conducted over 42 COMREL Projects benefiting over 20K needy children.

In April 2006 he was assigned to 7th Communication Battalion in Okinawa, Japan where he served over 700 Marines and Sailors as Battalion Chaplain and as III Marine Expeditionary Brigade Chaplain on exercises PHIBLEX 2010 and COBRA GOLD 2011.

From June 2011 to June 2014 he was assigned to MCB S.D. Butler Okinawa, Japan as MCIPAC Deputy Chaplain where he supervised over 2K Religious Ministry programs annually at 10 base chapel locations spread out over Okinawa, Mainland Japan, and Hawaii. In addition he also managed the world's largest Religious Offering Fund with an annual intake of over 500K in unappropriated funds.

He was then assigned to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Okinawa, Japan from April 2014 to May 2016 where he served as Deputy Wing Chaplain and Joint Exercise Support Group (JESG) Chaplain responsible for Religious Ministry and COMREL planning & execution for COBRA GOLD 2016 involving over 35K joint deployed U.S. military personnel and positively impacting over 50K local host nation residents.

As of May 2016, CDR Pena is currently serving as U.S. Coast Guard District 14 Chaplain in Honolulu, Hawaii where he is responsible for religious ministry provision for over 3.8K USCG Personnel, family members, and civilian workers across the world's largest USCG AOR including Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Japan, Singapore, and American Samoa.

For 15 years before entering the Navy, he has been on numerous church planting ministry excursions in Japan. He taught English and Music History (Classical and Opera) at Utsunomiya and Yamagata Universities, while ministering with local Japanese Christian Churches. He was guest speaker in numerous churches throughout Japan and California; including guest lecturer at the Far East Christian College in Kobe, Japan where he discussed issues and concepts regarding cross cultural understandings of Christian theology and their interrelationship with everyday life. While in Kobe, he also trained Christian ministry students from Korea upon entering Japan as they prepared for ministry there. He also co-founded and led a number of Japanese outreach ministries with various Asian American Christian Ministries within the United States.

In July 2002, he was approved by the Presbytery of the Pacific (PCUSA) for Ordination as "Minister of the Word and Sacrament" at the Union Church of Los Angeles as part of the Japanese Presbyterian Church network with sister churches throughout the United States and Japan.

CDR Pena's personal decorations include the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2 Gold Stars), the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3 Gold Stars), and the Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Pin.

