

CDR WILLIAM M. STEWART, JR.

CHAPLAIN CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY



CDR William (Bill) Stewart proudly serves as the U.S. Coast Guard DISTRICT THIRTEEN Chaplain. He had most recently served as the Director, CREDO Northwest and before that, the Squadron Chaplain, COMDESRON FIFTEEN, Forward Deployed Naval Forces based out of Yokosuka, Japan. In the same location before that, he served as Deputy Command Chaplain at the base chapel in Yokosuka, one of the largest religious programs in the Navy. Previously, he had served as Battalion Chaplain with NMCB-22, the Fighting Seabees where he mobilized for nine months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Al-Anbar Province, playing a critical role in the historical free elections of Iraq. Ironically, before becoming a chaplain, he served as their Religious Program Specialist for nearly six years. After coming back from a very successful deployment in Iraq, Chaplain Stewart was asked to return to active duty and proudly accepted.

Chaplain Stewart enlisted for active duty service in 1984 where he was selected for the nuclear Electronics Technician program. He later became a Religious Program Specialist, completing assignments on the USS Hunley (AS-31) in Holy Loch, Scotland and at the Harold E. Holt Naval Communications Station in Exmouth, Western Australia. Upon completing nearly five years active duty service, he joined the Naval Reserves where he served through the years with Military Sealift Command MSCO Northern Japan 211 and 111, USMC 4th MARDIV 2-14, Fleet Hospital FH 500 CBTZ 21, Naval Reserve Region South Headquarters, and the Seabees, NMCB-22. His civilian employment was primarily as a college and university instructor in areas such as linguistics and TESOL, educational psychology, human motivation, computer science, and using technology to enhance instruction. Institutions where he taught include the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University, and Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. Ministry outside of the military included short term missionary work in Brazil and Japan. and assisting churches stateside through preaching, counseling, and education.

His formal education started in Inola, OK where he went through primary and secondary schools, graduating in 1981. He then attended Rogers State College where he received an Associates of Technology degree in computer science in 1983. While on active duty as an enlisted Sailor, he attended various schools in both electronics and the Navy's Religious Ministry Program. Directly after release from active duty, Chaplain Stewart started his formal training for ministry at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, OK, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Theology as well as an Associate's Degree in Christian Education in 1990. He then pursued and received a Master's Degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX in 1993 and then an additional Master's Degree in education and linguistics at Oklahoma City University in 1996. He holds a Ph.D. (ABD) in Educational Psychology and Technology at the University of Oklahoma, concentrating in human motivation.

Special achievements and awards in naval service include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (3 awards), Navy Achievement Medal (3 awards), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Battle "E" Ribbon (2 awards), Navy Good Conduct Medal, Navy Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2 awards), Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (5 awards), Overseas Service (10 awards), Armed Forces Reserve Medal (Mobilized), Navy Rifleman (Expert), and Navy Pistol (Expert). Civilian achievements include recognition as Outstanding Graduate at Rogers University, Hillsdale FWB College, and Oklahoma City University, included in the National Deans List of Universities for two years, Who's Who Among American University Students for three years, and selected as Outstanding Young American.