



LCDR Saejeong I. Kim

Chaplain

Oceania District

United States Coast Guard



Lieutenant Commander Saejeong Kim reported as the United States Coast Guard Oceania District Chaplain in March 2026, leading the religious ministry for all Coast Guard personnel in the central Pacific, western Pacific, and Oceania regions.

Born in Chicago and raised in South Korea, LCDR Kim initiated her monastic training in 1998 and was ordained as a Won-Buddhist Priest in 2006. Her academic credentials include a Bachelor of Arts in 2004 and Doctor of Philosophy in 2016 from Won Kwang University, with doctoral research focused on mindfulness in Won Buddhism with special reference to mindfulness-based stress reduction, alongside a Master of Art in Won Buddhism from the Won Institute of Graduate Studies in 2006.



Prior to her 2018 active-duty commission, she served as a Won-Buddhist priest at the temple in Chapel Hill, North Carolina from 2007 to 2011, at the international retreat center in South Korea from 2012 to 2015, and at the temple in Los Angeles, California from 2016 to 2018, having entered the Navy Chaplain Corps as a Reservist in 2017.

From 2018 to 2021, Chaplain Kim served as the Deputy Director for Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central, CREDO Det Bahrain, providing a wide range of resiliency training to Sailors and Marines in support of units across the 5th fleet.

From 2021 to 2023, she served as COMDESRON TWO Deputy Squadron Chaplain, managing command religious programs for seven destroyers, leading waterfront Warrior Toughness implementation, and deploying with the Gerald R. Ford Strike Group.

From 2023 to 2026, Chaplain Kim served as the regimental chaplain for Combat Logistics Regiment 3, leading religious ministry teams for four battalions, and deployed to Balikatan 23, Korean Marine Exchange Program (24.1/25.1), Resolute Dragon (23.2/24.1), and Freedom Banner (24/25).

She is a certified instructor in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, Arbinger Institute's Outward Mindset, Franklin Covey's Speed of Trust, Mind Works' Immunity to Change, Advanced Warrior Toughness Training, Expanded Operational Stress Control, safeTALK (Suicide Alertness for Everyone), and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training by Living Works. She completed Command and Staff College through Marine Corps University's distance learning program (Joint Professional Military Education Phase 1).

Her personal awards include three Navy Commendation Medals and Meritorious Service Medal.