



# United States Navy Biography

## **COMMANDER PON CHANTHAPHON UNITED STATES COAST GUARD OCEANIA DISTRICT CHAPLAIN**



Commander Pon Chanthaphon reported as U.S. Coast Guard's Oceania District Chaplain in Honolulu, Hawaii in May 2023 where he is responsible for the religious ministry provision for over 3,800 Coast Guard military personnel, family members, auxiliarists, and civilian workers across the largest Coast Guard AOR including the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Japan, Singapore, and American Samoa.

From 2020-2023, Chaplain Chanthaphon served as Supervisory Chaplain at 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and deployed with the IWOARG in 2021 in support of Operation RESOLUTE SUPPORT ending the War in Afghanistan with a Non-Combat Evacuation Operation (NEO).

During the 2019-2020 academic year, Chaplain Chanthaphon attended Command and Staff College at Marine Corps University, Quantico, Virginia where he completed his resident-JPME Phase One. He was also a Joint Qualified Officer.

From 2016-2019, Chaplain Chanthaphon was assigned to COMNAVSURFRON-14, CNSL Operational Ministry Center (OMC) Mayport as Tactical Chaplain from which he deployed on USS HUÉ CITY (CG-66) in 2017 as part of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) TWO in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Then, upon his return from the deployment, he assumed duty as Staff Chaplain as Deputy Director of the OMC, as Command Chaplain of USS ROOSEVELT (DDG-80) and USS THOMAS HUDNER (DDG-116), and as Staff Chaplain of three Coastal Patrol Crafts (PC): USS ZEPHYR (PC-8), USS TORNADO (PC-14), and USS SHAMAL (PC-13). Additionally, he served as Liaison Chaplain for USNAVSO/C4F. He completed Navy Chaplain Intermediate Leadership Course in 2018.

From 2012-2016, Chaplain Chanthaphon reported to 3D Marine Division FMF PAC, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan where he served as Tactical Chaplain of 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion from December 2012 to January 2016. With a new challenge arose at the Base Chapel after a struggling seven-month gap, he was permanently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3D Marine Division FMF PAC, III Marine Expeditionary Force in February 2016 from which he assumed duty as the Base Chaplain of the USMC Camp Schwab, Okinawa, Japan until June 2016.

Following his graduation from the Navy Chaplain Basic Course, Chaplain Chanthaphon reported to Naval Hospital Lemoore, Naval Air Station, in Lemoore, California where he served as Command Chaplain from November 2009 to November 2012.

In 2009, Chaplain Chanthaphon completed Officer Development School at Newport, Rhode Island and graduated from the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

In July of 2006, Chaplain Chanthaphon was ordained in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). He was installed as sole pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stockton, California and served there from July 2006 to August 2008. He was direct commissioned in June of 2009 as Lieutenant Junior Grade.

From 2001-2006, Chaplain Chanthaphon attended Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri where he graduated with a Master of Divinity Degree (M.Div).

From 1995-2000, Chaplain Chanthaphon attended college at Concordia University in Saint Paul, Minnesota where he earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree with emphases in Lutheran Theology and Christian Outreach. Then, he worked at U.S. Bank as personal banker and sales associate at Herberger's Department Store for one year in St. Paul, MN.

His personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4 awards) and Coast Guard Achievement Medal with Operational Device.

CDR Chanthaphon is married to his beloved wife, Amy (nee Bressler). Together, they have one son, Jonathon and one daughter, Sophia.