

CH (COLONEL) CHARLES R. BAILEY
Command Chaplain
United States Army, Europe and Seventh Army

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. In 1971, Chaplain Bailey attended Texas Wesleyan University in Ft. Worth, Texas and graduated in June 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business and religion. Chaplain Bailey then attended Texas Christian University, Brite Divinity School, and graduated 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. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1980. During his time in the reserves he participated in multiple training and operational opportunities throughout the Army. He attended the Chaplain Officer Basic Course in July 1977.

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. He was promoted to Captain in January 1983. Chaplain Bailey's first assignment as a chaplain was with the 3rd Battalion of the 325th Airborne Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division. He then served as Battalion Chaplain, 307th Engineer Battalion, 82nd ABN Division from October 1983 to March 1985 during which he was deployed to Operation Sudden Fury in Grenada. Chaplain Bailey was reassigned to 2nd of the 6th Infantry Battalion, 1st Armor Division, U.S. Army Europe from March 1985 to June 1988. Upon graduation from the Chaplain Advanced Course in December 1988, Chaplain Bailey was assigned as Battalion Chaplain of the 1/17 Cavalry Squadron, 82nd ABN Division. In June 1989, he was reassigned as the 82nd Aviation Brigade Chaplain, 82 ABN Division and participated in Operation Desert Shield and Storm. In June 1991, Chaplain Bailey was assigned to the 504th Infantry Regiment (ABN) as the Brigade Chaplain. Chaplain Bailey then was assigned to the 2nd Brigade, 6th Infantry Division, Fairbanks, Alaska as the Brigade Chaplain from June 1992 to June 1994. Chaplain was chosen to become the senior chaplain Observer Controller at the Combined Maneuver Training Center, Hohenfels, Germany from June 1994 to June 1996. He was then reassigned as the Deputy Division Chaplain for the 1st Armor Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, which was then deployed as Task Force Eagle in Bosnia Herzegovina. At that time he assumed the position as the Deputy Task Force Chaplain for TF Eagle in Tuzla, Bosnia. In June 1997 he was assigned as the Operations Chaplain for Combat Training for the U.S. Army Europe Chaplain's Office. Chaplain Bailey was reassigned in June 1998 to the U. S. Army Chaplain Center and School in Ft. Jackson, SC as the Chief of Concepts, Training, and Doctrine where he completed the field manual for the Chaplain Corps just prior to being assigned as division chaplain to 4th Infantry Division. Selected and attended the Army War College following his division assignment, he was then assigned to the Southern European Task Force, Vicenza, Italy in July 2003 as the command chaplain. While there he participated in Operation Restore Hope in Liberia, Africa and as Command Chaplain for Operation Enduring Freedom VI in Afghanistan. In June 2006 he was assigned as the Combat Development Director at the United States Army Chaplain Center and School, Ft. Jackson, SC. Currently he serves as the Command Chaplain United States Army, Europe & Seventh Army, Heidelberg, Germany.

Chaplain Bailey's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 10 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Master Parachutist Wings, and Honduran Airborne Wings.

Chaplain Bailey and his wife Karen have two children, Patrick, 20, and Matthew, 18. Karen is a native of Odessa, Texas and is a schoolteacher focusing in special education and has been teaching for 15 years at the many places of residence.