

Chaplain (Colonel) Thomas C. Vail **UNITED STATES ARMY**



Chaplain Thomas C. Vail is the Command Chaplain for North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command. Ch Vail was commissioned as a Chaplain Candidate, second lieutenant U.S. Army Reserve, in October of 1982 while a graduate student at Harding University. Prior to Chaplain Vail's commission, he graduated from Florida State University in 1978 with a BS in Physical Education. In May of 1984, Chaplain Vail graduated from Harding University with a Masters of Theology in counseling. Chaplain Vail graduated from Saybrook Institute and Graduate School earning a Ph.D. in clinical psychology in June 1997. His dissertation is entitled, "Chaplain psychological type and how its relationship affects customer satisfaction in pastoral counseling." Following graduation from Florida State University, he was a high school football coach from 1978-1980. In 1980, Chaplain Vail was called into the ministry and served as an interim campus minister for the Call Street Church of Christ until June of 1981 when he left for graduate at Harding University. In August 1981, Chaplain Vail became the campus minister for the Highland Street Church of Christ on the campus of Memphis State University. In January 1983, Chaplain Vail began work as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor and served as a counselor until his graduation from Harding University with a Masters of Theology in counseling in May of 1984. Chaplain Vail then entered active duty on 12 June 1984 as a chaplain representing the Churches of Christ. Following the Chaplain Officer Basic Course, Chaplain Vail was assigned as the battalion chaplain for the 3d Battalion, 68th ADA (Hawk) at Fort Bragg, NC. His next assignment was in Germany as the squadron chaplain with the 3d Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 8th Infantry Division (Mechanized). Following this assignment, Chaplain Vail joined the 1st Battalion, 27th Field Artillery (Multiple Launch Rocket System), 41st Field Artillery Brigade, Babenhausen, Germany in April of 1989.

In December of 1990, Chaplain Vail deployed with the 1-27 Field Artillery Battalion to Southwest Asia serving through Operations Desert Shield/Storm. Following Operation Desert Storm, Chaplain Vail returned to the United States and attended the Chaplain Officers Advance Course. He then was chosen for advanced schooling as a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) resident at Walter Reed Army Medical Center completing two units of basic CPE and two units of advanced CPE. Following graduation in December of 1992 from CPE, Chaplain Vail was assigned as the battalion Chaplain with the 704th Main Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized). In July of 1992, Chaplain Vail became the Division Support Command Chaplain 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) serving in that position until June of 1995 when he was assigned as the Chief of the Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care, and served as the Chair of the Patient Rights and Ethics Committee, at Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado. Chaplain Vail was also the Chief of Pastoral Care at the 67th Combat Support Hospital and the Würzburg MEDDAC Würzburg, Germany and served as the chair of the Chair of the Patient Rights and Organizational Ethics Committee. While assigned to the 67th CSH, Chaplain Vail deployed both to Bosnia and Kosovo. Chaplain Vail was then assignment to AMEDDC&S as the Chief of UMT Training and Operations Branch at AMEDDC&S, the Fort Sam Houston Deputy Installation chaplain and then as the Training Manager of the newly formed Department of

Pastoral Ministry Training in April 2002.

In July 2003, Chaplain Vail deployed to Southwest Asia assigned to HQ, 3d Army/ARCENT/Combined Forces Land Component Command, Kuwait as the Deputy Command Chaplain. Upon returning from Southwest Asia, Chaplain Vail was assigned to Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston Texas as the Senior Clinician and Deputy for the Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care. His past assignment was the AMEDDC&S command chaplain and the Chief of the Department of Pastoral Ministry Training at AMEDDC&S, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Chaplain Vail's awards include the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Army's Parachutist Wings.

He is married to the former Patricia E. Coker of Tampa, Florida. The Vail's have three children, Tara (27), Tabitha (23), and Nathan (15).