



LIEUTANANT COLONEL VIRGIL P. TRAVIS, JR.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CLASS OF 1977

Dr. Travis was born and raised in Southern, Ohio. He attended Wheelersburg High School and enlisted directly out of high school into the United States Air Force in 1971. He served until the close of the Vietnam War. He then enrolled into the University of Kentucky ROTC program in 1995 while also assigned to the Kentucky Army National Guard. Dr. Travis served as Cadet Sergeant Major, was a member of Pershing Rifles, and graduated top 5% of his ROTC class. Upon graduating in 1977, he commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and branched Medical Service CORPS. After serving 12 years in the Kentucky Army National Guard as a Medical Service CORPS Officer, he felt the call to be an Army Chaplain. Chaplain Travis received a direct appointment into the United States Army Chaplain CORP in January of 1989. He served 22 years until retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2008.

Chaplain Travis has been engaged in military deployments since 1989, the first being "Operation Just Cause" in Honduras. He then served in Turkey at the Military Intelligence Field Station during the Gulf War. He continued his Chaplain duties on September 11th, 2001 concerning the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers. Later, Chaplain Travis served as the joint Deputy Command Chaplain at US Central Command in Tampa, Florida where he helped develop the Chaplain Joint Manpower Structure for combat support operations for over 46,000 troops in the Afghanistan and Iraq regions. He further deployed with the United States Special Operations Command - Central Command in Qatar as the forward Command Chaplain. Upon completion of his tour in Iraq, he was re-assigned as the Deputy Command Chaplain in Heidelberg, Germany with the 26th Area Support Command in 2003. Chaplain Travis was re-assigned in 2003 as the Command Chaplain for US Army NATO, in Casteau, Belgium to provide joint operational leadership as the NATO Command Chaplain for 29 different countries. He was also the International Command Chaplain and religious envoy representing the United States during United Nations open sessions and functions in Brussels, Belgium. In May of 2008, Chaplain Travis asked for his retirement assignment as a hospital chaplain working with the "Wounded Warrior Project." He was also asked to develop the military spiritual re-integration component for Soldiers returning from combat in the Middle East.

Currently, Dr. Travis and his wife, Pam Travis, reside in Knoxville Tennessee where he is very active in the community concerning veteran relief programs. In addition, Dr. Travis has his own private counseling practice intended to aid struggling veterans.

