

# **LIEUTENANT DANIEL J. McGRATH**

**Chaplain Corps, United States Navy**  
**Ship's Company Chaplain, USS ESSEX (LHD 2)**



Lieutenant Daniel J. McGrath originally hails from Carroll County, Ohio, and has so far spent the majority of his professional life in California and Washington State.

Lieutenant McGrath earned his Bachelors and Masters Degrees with high honors from Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio. He went on to earn a Theology Degree from St. Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Theological College, Berkeley, California. While at Theological College, he was made a deacon in the Anglican Province of Christ the King, and ordained a priest upon graduation. He served as a supply clergyman for parishes in the San Francisco Bay area throughout the summer of 2002. In the fall of 2002, Lieutenant McGrath was called to Church of Our Saviour, Santa Barbara, California, where he served as Vicar for three years. During this time he earned a Doctorate from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and was one of only two students each year to be awarded the prestigious Chancellor Fellowship. In 2005 he was called to St. Bartholomew's Church, Redmond, Washington, serving there as Rector for four years. After seven years in parish ministry, Lieutenant McGrath received a commission in the United States Navy and entered active duty in the Navy Chaplain Corps. He joined the May 2009 class at Officer Development School, Newport Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island, and continued on through the Naval Chaplaincy School, Newport, Rhode Island, graduating August 12, 2009.

Upon completion of Naval Chaplaincy School, Lieutenant McGrath reported to the First Marine Division (REIN), Camp Pendleton, CA. He served consecutively as Deputy Battalion Chaplain of 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion (3d AABn), Battalion Chaplain of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment (2/5), and Battalion Chaplain of 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment (5/11, HIMARS BN). While with 2/5, he deployed out of Okinawa with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, a unit which played an integral role in the massive humanitarian effort known as *Operation Tomodachi* following the Japan earthquake and tsunami of 2011. In March of 2012, Lieutenant McGrath became Command Chaplain of Destroyer Squadron Seven (COMDESRON 7). He deployed with the COMDESRON 7 staff on Pacific Partnership 2012 (PP12), embarking on the San Diego based hospital ship, USNS MERCY (T-AH-19). As officer in charge (OIC) of Community Service activities and Donations for PP12, he coordinated 105 events in Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia and Guam, and supervised 19 site OIC's in the delivery of close to \$250k of donations from major charities such as Project Handclasp and Latter Day Saints Charities. Since February of 2013, Lieutenant McGrath has been Ship's Company Chaplain aboard the USS ESSEX (LHD 2), a ship that is engaged in an historic planned maintenance availability. On the ESSEX, he serves as division officer for the CHAPS Department, oversees Protestant religious ministries, coordinates a Life Skills training series, manages community outreach projects, chairs the Human Factors Working Group, and facilitates the Restricted Sailor Support Group.

Lieutenant McGrath's medals include the Department of Defense Medal, Global War on Terror Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal. He has also earned the Fleet Marine Force Qualification (FMFQO) for Naval Officers, and has twice earned the Sea Service ribbon. He has a published dissertation, and has been a featured author in numerous periodicals.

Lieutenant McGrath is married to Dr. Josephine McGrath of Salt Lake City, Utah. They reside in Otay Ranch, Chula Vista, CA with their four children: Danny, Mary, Gloria, and Gabriel.