



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHAPLAIN, CAPTAIN HENRY E. THOMAS

Chaplain, Captain Henry “Hank” E. Thomas is a Protestant Chaplain assigned to the California Air National Guard 144th FW, Fresno, CA. He has served as the unit chaplain to National Air & Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) and the Life Cycle Management Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. He also served as a unit chaplain at Nellis AFB, NV, Edwards AFB, CA, and at the United States Central Command, MacDill AFB, FL., and as the installation chaplain for the 425th ABS, Izmir, Turkey. He is the Deputy Wing Chaplain at the 144th FW and is responsible for a chapel program that provides pastoral care for over 1100 Guardsmen assigned to the 144th FW. His care includes providing pastoral counseling, and conducting regular visitation to the military personnel and their families.

His active duty service included combat tours of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, Balad Air Base, Iraq in 2005.

Chaplain Thomas entered the Air Force in 1979 as a Law Enforcement Specialist and served at Castle Air Force Base (SAC), California and Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii (PACAF). He was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1983 and later completed his undergraduate education at Northwest College in Seattle, Washington. Chaplain Thomas re-entered the Air Force Reserve in 2000 as an Aerial Port Transportation Specialist, at Portland Air National Guard base and served for three years. During this time he completed his seminary studies at Western Seminary, Portland, Oregon, and graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2002. He was commissioned as a USAF active duty officer in April 2003, and began his vocation as a chaplain in June of the same year.

His pastoral care experience includes Financial Peace University training, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Trainer, suicide prevention, substance abuse intervention, crisis and disaster counseling, bereavement ministry, combat readiness, marriage and family care, religious education consultant, job stress and adjustment counseling. He is ordained and endorsed by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. He and his wife Christina have been married for 28 years and have three children, Ashley, Alexa, and Joshua and live in Chula Vista, CA.

EDUCATION

- 1988 Bachelor of Arts, Northwest College, Kirkland, WA
- 1994 Master of Arts in Christian Education, Western Seminary, Portland, OR
- 2002 Master of Divinity, Western Seminary, Portland, OR
- 2004 Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Instructor Training, Langley AFB, VA
- 2006 Combat Stress Conference, Psycho-Legal Associates Inc., Huntington Beach, CA

- 2006 Critical Incident Stress Management: Group Crisis Intervention, Psychological-Legal Association Incorporated, Huntington Beach, CA
2009 Squadron Officer School, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2003-Aug 2005, Protestant Chaplain, 99th Air Base Wing, Nellis Air Force Base, NV
2. Jan 2005–May 2005, Protestant Chaplain, 332 Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad AB, Iraq
3. July 2006-May 2009, Protestant Chaplain, 95th Air Base Wing Chapel, Edwards Air Force Base, CA
4. July 2008-January 2009, USCENTCOM HQ, Command Headquarters Element, MacDill Air Force Base, FL
5. June 2009-2010, Installation Chaplain, 425th ABS, Izmir, Turkey.
6. June 2010-Sept 2014, Protestant Chaplain, 88th Air Base Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
7. October 2014 – Present, Deputy Wing Chaplain, 144th Fighter Wing, California Air National Guard, Fresno, CA

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Good Conduct Medal
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
National Defense Service Medal
Iraqi Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Armed Service Reserve Medal
Company Grade Officer of the Quarter (3x), 88th ABW, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

First Lieutenant	7 March 2003
Captain	7 March 2004
Major	Eligible 2015

(Current as of February 2015)