

PAUL R. BELCHER D.Min

Military Chaplain, Practical Theologian, Researcher

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A seasoned active-duty, military, and hospital-proven chaplain with over twenty years of military experience, five of which were within the Defense Health Agency. I am a trained, specialized clinician who researches, creates, and executes standardized didactics for gaps in ministry approaches in areas of Behavioral Health, Drug, and Alcohol Rehab for military and medical providers within the only level-one teaching trauma hospital within the Department of Defense (DoD) and Defense Health Agency (DHA).

EDUCATION

Postgraduate Degree Student, Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA 2024-Present

Doctorate of Ministry, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C., 2019-2022.

Thesis: A Traumatic Impact Spiritual Assessment Tool for Advising and Preparing Service Members for Combat Operations.

Master of Divinity, Wesley Biblical Seminary, Jackson, MS, 2002-2006

Thesis: A Proposed Model of Counseling; Pertaining to God's Transcendence and Immanence.

Bachelor of Science, Southern Wesleyan University, Central SC, 1999-2002

SKILLS

Military Chaplain,
Strategic Leader, Skilled Communicator,

Hospital Chaplain,
Clinical Pastoral Education, Level II

Practical Theology Researcher
PhD Student, Regent University

EXPERIENCE

Department of Defense, US Army Chaplain, 2007-2026

Military Hospital Chaplain Clinician, 2019-Present

Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX, 2022-Present. Serve as a Senior Behavioral Health Clinician; recognized several times by the Behavioral Health Psychiatric team and commended by the Chief of Chaplains and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs for providing the most impactful group process for patients in the inpatient ward. This carefully developed program continues to be highlighted, 70-80% of the time, by participants in treatment as the most impactful group.

Walter Reed Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, 2020-2022. Resource Manager and Researcher who served the Medical, Surgical, and Pediatrics Intensive Care Units during the COVID-19 pandemic. Provided direct advisement to intensive care doctors and nurses concerning ethical matters affecting care and quality of life outcomes.

Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA, 2019-2020. Clinician Pastoral Education Resident. Served as a resident in training and developed a trauma survey to measure the impact of trauma on spiritual formation. The project caught the attention of the Walter Reed Institute of Research-West Division as an instrument for analyzing and communicating to commanders issues affecting service members' spiritual resilience before deploying for combat operations. The tool was validated in 2022 and featured on the WarDocs podcast in August 2025.

Brigade Supervisory Chaplain (Major), 2016-2019

17th Fires Brigade Chaplain, Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA, 2018-2019. Engaged, Equipped, Encouraged, and Employed impactful religious support after failed leadership. Selected as the right chaplain to reset a struggling brigade following toxic leadership. Engaged leaders as a voice of moral authority. Equipped subordinate chaplains with resources to implement religious support programs. Encouraged through skilled counseling approaches. Employed the talents of many to bring hope and healing after the removal of the senior brigade commander.

16th Ordnance Brigade Chaplain, Fort Gregory Adams, VA, 2016-2018. Oversaw the Ordnance Training Doctrine Command's religious support for six thousand advanced individual training (AIT) soldiers, instructors, DA Civilians, and family members. Supervised five chaplains and religious affairs specialists. Developed a matrix for collecting data to track and communicate resiliency issues to the Brigade Commanders through his health promotion council. Led the spiritual vision to start a new chapel service with a weekly attendance of three hundred after two years and had the full participation and support of my senior commanders in attendance weekly.

Battalion Chaplain (Captain), January 2007-2016

266th Quartermaster Battalion, Fort Gregory-Adams, VA, 2014-2016. Provided religious support for culinary specialists, rigors, and instructors at the advanced culinary school. Recognized for applying, writing, and receiving a Chief of Chaplains grant to develop a spiritual resiliency leadership program to increase drill sergeant and instructor resiliency. This affected the spiritual resilience of 200 instructors and 10 drill sergeants. Engaged and brought in Joe Theismann (Washington Redskins Super Bowl quarterback) as a resilience speaker, which affected 6,000 service members on how to better establish goals and transition out of the uniform they love. Pastored the 909 Contemporary Service, growing from 45 participants to 250 regular attendees by casting a vision of consistent biblical preaching to increase Godly growth.

3-25th General Support Aviation Battalion, Wheeler Army Airfield, HI, 2011-2014. Prepared and developed a religious support plan for the Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan deployment in 2012. Wrote and trained the 25th Infantry Division Unit Ministry Team, Aviation Brigade, and Pilot Crew Members on conducting a hero mission ceremony during combat ex-fill operations. Conducted three memorials for ten service members lost during combat operations. Provided five ramp ceremonies for combat heroes. Oversaw the First Cup on Mustang Ramp at Kandahar, Afghanistan Air Base, serving the needs of 10,000 warfighters with coffee, direct counseling, encouragement, an internet café, a library, and contemporary religious support services on Sunday for those warfighters on Mustang Ramp. I flew sixty hours, counseling service members struggling with personal challenges during combat operations.

715th and 205th Military Intelligence Battalions, Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter, HI, 2009-2011. Directed a creative religious support operation, implementing a volunteer outreach project to show soldiers the importance of caring for a community's needs for support. The outreach project removed more than 3,000 pounds of trash dumped into the Kalihi stream, preventing flooding of houses during the rainy season on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Further, it taught more than 250 service members how the military should care for the islands' ohana as visitors. The Installation Security Command saw this outreach program as a best practice for building community between islanders and military personnel, resulting in fewer attacks on service members outside the installation. In this assignment, I was selected to pastor Fort DeRussy Chapel, a tier-one pulpit serving the late Four-star General Fredrick Weyand, 28th Chief of Staff of the Army. Fort DeRussy also ministered to many WWII and Pearl Harbor survivors, as well as Vietnam leaders. The average weekly attendance at this chapel was 400 members.

1st Battalion 9th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Stewart, GA, 2007-2009. Served as the pastoral care provider for all 3rd Infantry Division wounded soldiers during Operation Iraqi Freedom at Forward Operating Base Balad, Iraq. Visited and counseled over one hundred wounded soldiers during the surge operations in 2007. Oversaw the East Side Contemporary Praise and Worship Service on Forward Operating Base Balad, Iraq, planning and staffing nine chaplains' speaking rotations and five worship bands, having more than 300 salvations, and personally baptizing nine new believers in Christ.

HOBBIES & INTEREST

Soldiers' Song and Voices 2023-Present. 501 (c) (3) organization helping veterans with PTSD through music therapy.

Christian Heritage Fellowship, Board of Directors, 2014-Present. 501 (c) (3) organization providing historical, rational, and biblical answers concerning the role of Christianity in the formation of our nation.

Wesleyan Theological Society Member 2024, area of interest: Practical Theology.

Evangelical Theological Society Member 2024, area of interest: Practical Theology.

Developing a Practical Theological Podcast (Soul Docs) to link the best research that addresses societal gaps within ministry theory and praxis.