



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### CHAPLAIN, COLONEL JAMES A. HAMEL

Chaplain, Colonel James A. Hamel serves as the Command Chaplain, Pacific Air Force (PACAF), Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. He implements the commander's religious support program to provide for the free exercise of religion for 46,000 Airmen serving principally in Japan, Korea, Hawaii, Alaska, and Guam. He ensures PACAF Religious Support Teams (RSTs) are prepared, trained, & equipped to conduct religious affairs across the entire range of military operations. He is the principal advisor to the commander regarding the impact of religion on military operations and strengthens ally and partner relations through Key Religious Leader Engagements. He develops theater-specific policies and procedures, establishes manpower requirements, and provides leadership and functional oversight of 134 PACAF Chaplain Corps personnel.

He has served as a Chaplain, Deputy Wing Chaplain, Wing Chaplain, 25 Air Force Senior Chaplain and as Command Chaplain, Air Combat Command. He has also served as an Intern at the Office of the Chief of Chaplains, an Instructor at the Air Force Chaplain Corps College, and a staff officer at the Chaplain Corps Resource Development Center.

Chaplain Hamel is a native of New Jersey and was ordained a Catholic priest in May 1992. He served as a civilian priest in the Archdiocese of Newark (NJ) for eight years and was commissioned a chaplain, first lieutenant, in the Air Force in 1999. He came on active duty in July of 2000.



#### EDUCATION

- 1988 Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.
- 1992 Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry, Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.
- 1999 Master of Public Administration, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack, N.J.
- 1999 Master of Arts in Systematic Theology, Seton Hall University South Orange, N.J.
- 2000 Commissioned Officer Training, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2000 Chaplain Orientation Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2005 Squadron Officer's School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2010 Academic Instructor Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2013 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2017 Master of Strategic Studies, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. July 2000—July 2002, Catholic Chaplain, 319 Air Refueling Wing, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
2. July 2002—July 2003, Catholic Chaplain, 51 FW, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea
3. July 2003—July 2005, Catholic Chaplain, 435 ABW, Ramstein AB, Germany
4. July 2005—July 2006, Chaplain Service Intern, Office of the Air Force Chief of Chaplains, Bolling AFB, Washington D.C.
5. July 2006—November 2007, Chaplain, 11 WG, Bolling AFB, Washington D.C.
6. November 2007—January 2010, Chaplain, 316 WG, Andrews AFB, Md.
7. January 2010—June 2012, Staff Chaplain, Air Force Chaplain Corps College, Ft Jackson, S.C.
8. June 2012—February 2013, Staff Chaplain, Resource Development Center, Ft Jackson, S.C.
9. February 2013—June 2015, Deputy Wing Chaplain, 96 Test Wing, Eglin AFB, Fla.
10. June 2015—July 2016, Wing Chaplain, 96 TW, Eglin AFB, Fla.
11. July 2016—May 2017, Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
12. May 2017—November 2019, 25 AF Senior Chaplain, JBSA-Lackland, Texas
13. November 2019—June 2022, Command Chaplain, Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.
14. June 2022—Present, Command Chaplain, Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster  
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
Air and Space Commendation Medal with six oak leaf clusters  
Meritorious Unit Award  
Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award National  
Defense Service Medal Armed Forces  
Expeditionary Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Captain Dec. 21, 1999  
Major April 1, 2010  
Lieutenant Colonel May 1, 2015  
Colonel Dec. 1, 2017

**(Current as of January 2023)**