



Captain Carl Jerome Cwiklinski

Chaplain Corps, United States Navy

Coast Guard Pacific Area Chaplain



Captain Cwiklinski is the Coast Guard Pacific Area Chaplain. He administers the PACAREA Command Religious Program, providing technical supervision to 11 Chaplains, as well as to a host of Coast Guard Lay Leaders and Clergy Volunteers.

Cwiklinski served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1972 to 1984 and attained the rank of Chief of Warrant Officer before leaving active duty to pursue his vocation to the Orthodox priesthood. While in seminary, he entered the Naval Reserve and attended the Chaplain School Basic Course. He was ordained Priest in 1985, thereupon serving as Orthodox Chaplain at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point until his return to active duty in 1986.

As a Chaplain, he has ministered in the Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard, as well as the Joint and Combined operational environments. His non-operational assignments were with Recruit Training Command and as Flag Secretary for the Navy Chief of Chaplains.

Cwiklinski is Plank-owner of the D17 Chaplain billet. During that assignment, he made extensive pastoral visits to Coast Guard units throughout Alaska and often during patrols and operations in the Bering Sea, the Alaska interior and North Slope. As a Russian Orthodox priest he was a key resource for fostering relations with native Alaskan communities, and the then-nascent partnership with the Russian Border Guard.

Prior to PACAREA, he was assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. He deployed to Egypt shortly after 9-11 and was later assigned as Operations Chaplain for the Coalition Forces Land Component Command in Kuwait. During the liberation of Iraq he coordinated the activities of nearly 300 U.S. and Coalition Religious Ministry Support Teams. He later served as Chaplain of the "Lucky-Forward" Command Post in Baghdad.

In a subsequent deployment, Cwiklinski was Command Chaplain for 1st Force Service Support Group-Forward during operations against the terrorist stronghold of Fallujah, and was senior Camp Chaplain for Camp Al Taqqadum in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

Cwiklinski holds a BA in Anthropology from University of Maryland (1983), an MDiv from St. Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary (1986), Crestwood, New York, and an MA in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College (1999), Newport, Rhode Island.

His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (3), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Coast Guard Commendation Medal. He holds additional qualification designators for Fleet Marine Force Officer and Naval Parachutist. He is the recipient of several ecclesiastical distinctions, including the office of Archpriest.

