

Chaplain Ross Fearing

Annual Report

February 4, 2026

Overview

In addition to serving as pastor at Sparta RPC, I serve as a Chaplain in the US Army Reserve. Since my last report I have served as Deputy Command Chaplain in the 76th Operational Response Command and have begun serving as a Brigade Chaplain in the 139th Medical Brigade

Duties

As a Brigade Chaplain, I am responsible for providing and supervising chaplain ministry to soldiers throughout the brigade. I supervise five unit ministry teams (normally a chaplain and a religious affairs specialist) and as a group we provide religious support to approximately 1,000 soldiers.

Ministry Update

I really enjoy supervising and developing other chaplains, so the move to the brigade role was exciting. I'm learning about how the Army provides religious support within a deployed medical environment. Due to government funding issues, although I've been assigned to the unit since September, I've only drilled twice. Because we have a large training exercise this summer, the unit is working on a tight schedule, and it has been challenging to integrate into the training rhythm.

I had chapel scheduled on Sunday, but it was a little difficult getting the time and place published. I had anticipated that I might not have anyone attending due to these challenges, but about 15 minutes after our start time, one soldier showed up, so we got started. We looked at John 11, when Jesus allowed Lazarus to die and explained his purpose in it. I was looking at some of the reasons that God causes us to suffer and focused on how God uses our suffering as an opportunity to show his glory to us and to increase our faith. As we worked through the text, it was clear that this soldier was going through some significant suffering at this time and also that she hadn't really thought about God's possible purposes in her suffering beyond correction and testing. I meet many professing believers whose Christian experience is dominated by their need to obey and God's testing of them. It is a great privilege to introduce these men and women to the amazing breadth and depth of God's promises and gifts to us in Christ Jesus.

Speaking of our summer training event, our unit is scheduled to conduct a capstone training exercise this summer in the California desert. While the days are long and the weather hot during these kinds of exercises, because I spend that time living and working with Soldiers in hard work and discomfort, I get many opportunities to minister in natural ways. In these environments, chapel services are well attended, and I've got significant counseling load to believers and unbelievers.

This year will be my in-the-zone promotion board for Lieutenant Colonel. This board will be important for my future in the Army. If I'm not selected for promotion, I will likely complete my service in 2030 after completing 20 years. If I am selected, my future assignments will be in support of divisions and commands. My focus will shift from paying attention to individual unit ministry teams to caring for the structure of religious support over a large, distributed

organization. In Army speak, I'll start looking more at the strategic aspect of ministry rather than the operational.

Prayer Requests

Pray for my ministry within the unit. There are a host of challenges my soldiers are facing that can give opportunity to bear witness of Jesus Christ.

Pray for the upcoming promotion board, that God would guide the board's decisions and guide me where he would have me service.

Pray for our summer exercise that he might give fruitful ministry in that time.

In Christ,
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