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# For God & Country

*A Journal for  
Military-related  
Seventh-day Adventists*





# MILITARY SERVICE IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE USA

by Gary R. Councill

Former Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries  
Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army (Retired)

**F**or over a century Adventists in numerous nations have served in the defense forces of the homeland. World War I first pitted European Adventists of one country against Adventists in another country. This tragedy prompted disagreement over military service that persists to this day within the denomination. A fairly common misperception assumes only North American Adventists voluntarily enlist in the military. Only one fourth of nations (55) have ended conscription. The remaining 165 other countries either conscript manpower for their armed forces, or do not have standing armies.

The very first Adventist minister to serve as an Army chaplain was a Belgian, not an American. Though seldom acknowledged because he later joined another faith, his chaplaincy

preceded by several years the first American Chaplain, Virgil P. Hulse. Since then, Adventist clergy have served as chaplains in seven other nations: Bermuda, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Ghana, Malawi, and South Africa. In several other countries civilian chaplains serve Adventists in uniform.

In countries where public law requires citizens to serve in the military, stories occasionally surface about Adventists attempting to practice their faith while serving in the military. A recent book, *Dare to Stand Alone* by Bradley Booth, describes the challenges faced by an Adventist soldier named Ivan in Moldova. Adventist members in military-related service of nations other than the United States do not have the long-standing support systems offered by

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the National Service Organization in the North American Division. This fact highlights the need for Adventist military chaplains.

Adventists in any nation's military face four challenges: Sabbath observance, training with and bearing arms, diet and perhaps most important of all, lifestyle (isolation). Not all countries grant religious freedom, nor do the laws provide for accommodation of religious practice for military members. Therefore, Adventists who follow conscientious convictions can face harsh disciplinary punishment if their practices conflict with military requirements. Like the Apostle Paul on trial for his life before the Roman Emperor Nero (II Timothy 4:16-18), they appear alone, yet they are not alone. The Lord stands beside them for them.

Some Adventists think church members who serve in the military have apostatized from the faith. Those same Adventists will labor to convert murderers, rapists, and robbers in prison, yet judge their fellow members unworthy of support when they serve in defense of their own countries. How illogical! If we are truly consistent in our attempt to reach all people groups, denominational outreach will include those who serve in the military. Adventist military personnel can be positive witnesses in circles usually closed to the church. When Adventist military personnel are faithful, they are truly "saints in Caesar's household" (Philippians 4:22), regardless in which nation's armed forces they are serving.



## ADVENTISTS in UNIFORM



Adventists serving in public service and all veterans are encouraged to join the National Service Organization at [AdventistsInUniform.org](http://AdventistsInUniform.org).

# MINISTRY IN THE DMZ

By ChoongKu Kim, as told to Deena Bartel-Wagner





**I**n high school, ChoongKu Kim was sure that his life calling was to be a Catholic priest. “I’d always been impressed by the priests and teachers,” says Choong. “My prayer to God was that I could become a teaching priest.”

Choong’s life took a different path during his 28<sup>th</sup> year of life. He was exposed to the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and was baptized. His desire to lead others to Christ was still a primary focus. Choong enrolled as a student at Sahmyook University and began his studies. Following university, Choong worked as an editor at the Korean publishing house and as a pastor for 13 years.

Choong became acquainted with

They are isolated from home, parents, family, and friends.”

Choong’s passion to make a difference in the lives of soldiers is evident in his face as he speaks. “While I pastored those early churches, I wanted to reach out to these fellow members,” says Choong. “Some faced Sabbath observance difficulties. I requested meetings with their commanding officers.”

For five years, Choong visited local units and befriended the officers who were close to his church parish. “I had opportunities to introduce the Seventh-day Adventist Church and explain our beliefs to these leaders,” says Choong.

The Republic of Korea has compulsory military and national service. Currently the law states that all males between the ages of 18 and 35 must serve.

Adventist soldiers who were serving in a nearby location. The Republic of Korea has compulsory military and national service. Currently the law states that all males between the ages of 18 and 35 must serve. There are two tiers of service—active and non-active duty. Depending on the branch of service, an individual is required to serve 21-36 months.

“Soldiers are the poorest souls in Korea,” says Choong. “They have to complete their two years of service without freedom.



The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Korea is considered a minority religion. It is not well-known and there can be misperceptions about members’ beliefs. Choong seeks to acquaint military leadership with the

beliefs of the Adventist church. “With this unofficial status, most military leaders avoid becoming involved with the Adventist church,” says Choong. “Helping them understand Adventists will make it easier for our members who are serving in the military.”

Little did Choong

know that these five years were the training ground for a new outreach that he would have when he was transferred to the Gimhwa Adventist Church. The Gimhwa Adventist Church site is located at the forefront of the Military Demarcation Line where North Korea and South Korea face each other. This general outpost can be a lonely area for soldiers to serve.



## The Gimhwa Adventist Church site is located at the forefront of the Military Demarcation Line where North Korea and South Korea face each other.

Following the pattern that he had developed previously, Choong met the officers and befriended them. “One Sabbath three soldiers attended with their soldier-friend who was an Adventist,” says Choong. “They wanted to receive Bible studies.”

For the next six months Choong and the soldiers studied together. “It was a special day when all three were baptized,” says Choong. “The story doesn’t end there. Following

the baptism of the third soldier, he brought several of his friends for studies. They studied and chose to follow Christ in baptism.”

Opportunities to share can come in times of adversity. Following the Bible studies and baptisms, a new commander was assigned to the unit. “He was a fervent believer in his faith tradition,” says Choong. “This created a situation where Adventist soldiers were not given



the freedom to worship on Sabbath. Only one of the soldiers was allowed to attend the weekly services. It was a discouraging time for me.”

Choong prayed for many days that there would be a resolution. “I was low in spirit, but God changed my crisis into His chance!” says Choong. “I decided to make a visit to the military’s celebration of Buddha’s birthday. During the ceremony I was seated next to the division commander. We visited and over lunch we began talking about our religious beliefs. I told him I am a Seventh-day Adventist. I didn’t say a word to the division commander about the Sabbath problem.”

The unit commander who had opposed any Adventist attending Sabbath services observed this interchange. “God was working on the unit commander’s heart,” says Choong. “Later, he came to me and apologized for preventing soldiers from worshipping on Sabbath. After that, they were permitted to attend church.”

Eleven military units are located in the Gimwha region. Making one-on-one contact is the best way for Choong to reach the soldiers. “I often go to the bus terminal and distribute my name card and introduce Sabbath worship,” says Choong.

Six of the guard posts in the region are off-limits to civilians. “To access the posts you must have a reason,” says Choong. “I didn’t have a reason, but I felt compelled to visit these soldiers.” These posts are heavily guarded and trespassers are dealt with harshly.

“I thought about what might happen, but decided ‘If I perish, I perish,’” says Choong. “I took snacks to share with the soldiers and was greeted with warm hospitality.

Kindness and friendship broke down barriers. “Typically, the soldiers



in these outposts stand guard for three months,” says Choong. “During the initial three months that I visited the soldiers I was able to meet 100 soldiers. Over time 10 of them began to attend church.”

Choong continues his visits to these outposts twice a week. He offers snacks, personal care items, friendship, and a listening ear.

Members of the Gimwha Adventist Church wanted to be a part of this specialized ministry. Although they are small in number, their hearts are open to reaching the young men who serve in the Korean military. In November 2012 they joined with the West Central Korean Conference to host a Mission Day. It was the first evangelistic meeting the Adventist church held in a general outpost. “Following the worship service we met with the unit commander and delivered care packages for more than 600 soldiers,” says Choong. “As the commander briefed us at the guard post, we looked out over the demilitarized zone between South and North Korea.”

During the event, the Adventist church was registered with the military





unit as an official religion. This has allowed Choong to have greater access to soldiers. It also permits Adventist soldiers to attend Sabbath worship services at the church.

One Sabbath, during a visit to the general outpost, Choong met a soldier who was obviously depressed. The soldier had been assigned 15 days of standby guardhouse duty because of fighting and coarse language.

“I wanted to continue my visits to him during those days, but wasn’t permitted to do so because I am an unofficial chaplain,” says Choong. “I requested a meeting with the provost marshal and waited four hours before meeting with him. I appealed to see the soldier. I wanted to talk to him about his need to forgive the other soldier who was involved in the fight.” Choong was finally permitted to see the soldier.

Green Camp is a camp where soldiers who are suffering from depression are sent. “The camp has an anti-suicide program and soldiers receive counseling,” says Choong.

Choong’s experiences as he ministers to South Korean soldiers have highlighted the need for official chaplains. “We have the


opportunity to reach 30,000+ soldiers for 20 months with the gospel,” says Choong. “Having an official chaplain would also allow the church to build a church in every battalion barrack. We can apply to the Korean government for a chaplain when we can demonstrate that more than 750 Adventist soldiers are regularly attending church services. Currently, around 400 attend each Sabbath.”

Dr. Jairyong Lee, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific region, has met with the Chief of Chaplains of the infantry division to appeal for an Adventist chaplain.

One Sabbath an Adventist soldier who had taken a break from attending church visited the Gimwha church. “He came with his friend who wasn’t a church member,” says Choong. “He quickly realized that this was the same church that he attended as a child. His mother, the Sabbath School superintendent in her local church, was so happy to hear he was attending church again.”

In his youth, Choong7Ku Kim longed to be a teacher priest. Today, he literally ministers on the frontlines to young adults who, one day, will be future leaders.



A hummingbird with iridescent green and pink feathers is shown in flight, hovering near a cluster of bright red, tubular flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of green and blue, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. The lighting is bright, highlighting the bird's wings and the petals of the flowers.

For you have been  
called to live in  
freedom, my brothers  
and sisters...use your  
freedom to serve one  
another in love.

– GALATIANS 5:13, NLT

# MISSION READY!



**M**ission ready is a term that Denson Kwande lives by in both his professional and private life. As a soldier in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, Denson trains and prepares for the task that is his specialty. As a Christian, he knows his mission is to introduce others to the Jesus that he follows.

The Zimbabwe Defence Forces are composed of the Zimbabwe National Army and the Air Force of Zimbabwe. In this landlocked country, there is no Navy. Denson joined the Air Force in 1981 as an aircraft technician. "This entails working with the simulator, as

well as the propeller and jet planes and helicopters," says Denson.

Stationed at Thornhill Air Force Base, Denson's role today is one of trainer. "I work with apprentices who are learning to service the aircraft components," says Denson. "The apprentices must learn to assemble and disassemble aircraft components and provide the necessary maintenance to keep the planes flying."

Thornhill Air Force Base is one of two main air bases for the Zimbabwe Air Force. It is the home to four fighter squadrons and the Pilot Training School. Squadrons located there include Cobra, which provides advanced jet training and close air support; Hornet; Arrow, which plays an interceptor/fighter role; and Tiger.

Although Denson was satisfied with his professional life, his personal life seemed empty. He had suffered the loss of his wife and was a single parent of three children. "My spiritual life took a new track when I became engaged to marry," says Denson. "My fiancée was a Seventh-day Adventist. At her encouragement, I attended a series of evangelistic meetings near my home." As Denson listened to the messages he found meaning in what



was being said. On October 13, 2001, Denson was baptized.

“I wasn’t sure how my baptism and new faith would be viewed by my military superiors,” says Denson. “I knew that I had committed myself to military service. With my baptism, I had also committed myself to something greater—following Jesus as my Saviour.” When Denson notified his superiors about his baptism they accepted it without any repercussions.

Although he’d been baptized, Denson wanted to keep learning about the Bible and what it said for his life. He also wanted to share what he was learning with others. He purchased his own literature to give to people he met.

“In 2004, I had the opportunity to attend a Festival of Faith that was sponsored by the East-Central Africa Division,” says Denson. This was an exciting event for me and I learned so

Kwande earned a BSc Surveying and Geomatics Honors degree at the Midlands State University, Zimbabwe, in November 2014.

Kwande with the Pathfinder Leadership Award badge above the combined chevron.



I KNEW THAT I HAD COMMITTED MYSELF TO MILITARY SERVICE. WITH MY BAPTISM, I HAD ALSO COMMITTED MYSELF TO SOMETHING GREATER.

# AS HE WORKS WITH PATHFINDERS, A PART OF THE TRAINING THAT HE PROVIDES IS TO LEAD THE YOUTH TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Kwande with Dr. Hyveth Williams at the Festival of Laity in Mulungushi Hall, Lusaka Zambia in June, 2004.



program, Denson was exposed to another aspect of ministry. “Dr. James Zachary was the featured speaker,” says Denson. “He taught us how be trainers in personal and public evangelism.” Denson has put this to use both in the church and in his work.

“We are fortunate to have a church on Thornhill Air Force Base,” says Denson. “There are between 60 and 70 members who come from both military and civilian backgrounds. Our local elder is a veteran himself.”

As a leader in the church, Denson helps to conduct ministry outreach on the base. Additionally, the church is involved in ministry to inmates who are incarcerated at a prison near the base.

much. My understanding of the basic doctrines of the church was expanded.”

Another thing that Denson discovered was the Pathfinder program. “I was excited about this training and became very involved,” says Denson. “I was invested as a Master Guide in 2005. “

Along the way, Denson has been grateful for training that has increased his ability to share the gospel with others. “Hyveth Williams was leading out in meetings that I attended in Zambia. The instruction that she gave helped me learn how to preach,” says Denson.

During a “Go One Million”

Kwande (right) with Zimbabwe Union Conference Youth Director, Pastor Bongani Ndlovu.





One of Denson's greatest joys is the work he does with youth. "I am the senior youth director for our local church," says Denson. "Additionally, I'm involved in the Pathfinder program both at the local and conference levels." The conference has also appointed him as a conference facilitator.

Pathfinders means campouts, learning survival skills, practicing first aid, and tying knots. As Denson works with his Pathfinders, he seeks to pass on more than just knowledge of these practical skills. A more important part of the training that he provides is to lead the youth to a relationship with Jesus.

"My experiences have taken my faith to another level," says Denson. This compels him to help others have those same possibilities.

Denson admits that he is not one to be idle. "I'm always busy with

some kind of outreach or training." He recently graduated with a degree in surveying.

Reflecting on his journey as a Christian and a member of the armed forces, Denson believes that there is a reason that he continues to be a Seventh-day Adventist today. "When I first started attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church I was not a member," says Denson. "That didn't make any difference to my church family. They initially accepted me for who I was and into their circle." That was attractive to Denson and it made him want to know more about this faith.

"I believe we need to change our mindset when we meet other people," says Denson "We should look at everyone as a candidate for heaven. We need to help others to feel at home and offer help and hope. Without this, people become discouraged."

This is the mission readiness that Denson Kwande practices with his apprentices in the air base hangars; with the youth whom he works with and with each person he meets.

Kwande (left) with Mrs. Paul Ratsara, wife of the president of Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division (right) at Anderson Adventist High School, Gweru Zimbabwe in December, 2014.



# SPARED TO SERVE

Dr. Peter N. Landless, as told to Deena Bartel-Wagner



**G**od, how can a surgeon operate with a mangled hand?" a stunned Peter Landless cried out on a deserted road in Africa. He'd learn over time that God's faithfulness continues even when we are in the midst of despair.

Landless was born and raised in South Africa. Following his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, he received the expected letter from the government. It stated

that Peter would be required to complete one year of national service following graduation from secondary school. When Peter enrolled in medical school, the mandatory service was delayed until he completed his studies.

Studies, training, and a new marriage to Rosalind consumed all of Peter's time as he prepared for a career in medicine. The years flew by quickly and soon graduation was followed by a request for service from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. "I was asked to serve as a general practice physician in a clinic in the tiny nation of Lesotho," says Landless. Government officials assured him that his work in a rural hospital among an underserved population would meet his national service requirement.

In spite of the intervening years, the South African government hadn't forgotten about Peter and his mandatory service. One day an envelope arrived and Peter was requested to report for duty. This meant a disruption in his work at the

## **FOLLOWING HIS 17TH BIRTHDAY, HE RECEIVED THE EXPECTED LETTER FROM THE GOVERNMENT.**

clinic, which disappointed Peter, but he put a positive slant on the news. “The required term of service was one year,” says Landless. “It didn’t seem that long before I would be able to return to the clinic and continue with my missionary work.” He was allowed time to make arrangements for the clinic to ensure a continuum of care before his required reporting date.

The beginning of boot camp brought immediate challenges. All candidate officers were required to carry two weapons—a side arm and a rifle. “I could not in good conscience carry those weapons,” says Landless.

This stand wasn’t popular with his fellow soldiers or commanding officers. Insults were hurled and jokes were made. It hurt to be the butt of such abuse, but Landless stood firm.

Just when he thought it couldn’t get worse, Peter needed to stand for his belief on the Sabbath. “I had submitted to proper paperwork stating my stance as a Seventh-day Adventist and requesting Sabbath privileges,” says Landless.

**Dr. Landless spent 11 years serving as a missionary physician.**



## **"THE RSM WAS ADAMANT THAT I TAKE THE TEST ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE, OR I WOULDN'T RECEIVE MY COMMISSION."**

Although the paperwork was completed before he reported to active duty, Landless was destined to spend his Sabbaths alone on the base. "It was difficult to watch my Jewish peers be transported to synagogue each Sabbath morning, while I was left behind to sit in the barracks," he admits.

A final test could have prevented Landless from receiving his commission. Each candidate officer was required to pass a driving test before they would finish boot camp. "When the regimental sergeant major (RSM) told us that the test would take place the following Sabbath, I thought I would just have to file a request for a different date," says Landless. "Not so. The RSM was adamant that I take the test along with everyone else, or I wouldn't receive my commission."

Landless didn't waiver. His response was "So be it!" He believed it would be better to be the only noncommissioned physician in the military than to compromise his beliefs.

The week passed and on Friday afternoon, Landless was preparing for the Sabbath. No word had come that he could take the test at another time, but Landless was at peace. His preparations were interrupted with the delivery of a written memorandum. "I was ordered to report immediately for my driving test, which would be completed before sundown," says Landless. "I never learned why the RSM changed his mind."

With boot camp coming to a close, Landless faced yet another test from the RSM. The culminating

ceremony of boot camp was a parade, which included the awarding of commissions and being posted into military service. Peter's refusal to carry weapons still irked some. "The RSM made it clear to me that if I didn't carry my weapon, I wouldn't march in the parade," says Landless.

During a practice session the commanding office of the medical-services training was on the parade ground to observe the candidates. As Peter's group marched by, the commander singled him out and wanted to know where he had learned his marching skills. Landless explained that he had led his high school brass band.

Then the inevitable question of where his rifle was asked. "Sir, I cannot carry a rifle because of my religious convictions," Landless responded as he explained his beliefs. The officer then ordered that Landless was to march in the graduation parade, sans weapons.

As the excitement of boot camp finished, Landless was in for another challenge. "I received a notice that the term of my national service had been extended from 12 months to 24 months," said Landless. "I was angry, disappointed, and even a bit rebellious at that moment." Then Landless realized that he could have a negative attitude or make the best of those 24 months.

During the next 24 months, Landless saw how his extended time serving as a doctor in the military enhanced his medical training and



skills. He was able to reach out both through the healing power of medicine and offer spiritual healing to those in need.

With boot camp over, each newly-minted army doctor was eager to learn where he would be posted. "I received word that I would be a battalion medical officer at a field hospital in the armored section," says Landless

It was here that one of his greatest tests of faith occurred. Landless would visit remote clinics to care for villagers who had no medical care. "I needed to return to a village where I had treated an critically ill infant the previous week," says Landless.

The weather conditions were less than optimal. Heavy downpours made travel to the village difficult, but Landless and his crew arrived at the village. On the return trip, tragedy

struck! As the two vehicles navigated through the mire, a blast from two anti-tank mines ripped through the vehicles. "Although I had been buckled in, I was thrown out of the vehicle about 60 feet," says Landless. "My glasses had been blown off my face. It was then that I noticed my hand. It had sustained serious injury. My first thoughts were how would I continue to be a mission doctor with a mangled hand."

Landless immediately turned to find his driver and the other members of the group. "The driver had sustained multiple injuries," says Landless. "I stabilized him the best I could and prayed with him before he lost consciousness."

Two anti-tank mines nearly ended the life of Dr. Landless..





For the first time in history, the Southern Cross was awarded to a national service officer.

The wounded were evacuated to a base hospital. It was here that Landless and the driver underwent a series of surgeries. Sadly, the driver died 11 days later from his injuries.

Landless was concerned that his wife and mother would hear about the accident and be worried. "I asked to call them to reassure them," says Peter. "I learned about their impressions to pray for me that day."

The first words Peter's mother spoke to him were, "Have you been in an accident?" Peter told her that he had been. "Mother shared with me that she had been compelled to pray for me at 12:45 p.m.—the exact time of the accident!" says Peter. "When I called Ros, she had a similar story. Church members had gathered for a potluck after church and before praying for the

meal, they were impressed to have a series of prayers for my safety. The time was 12:45 p.m." Peter knew that not only had his life been spared, it was not a coincidence. He'd been spared to serve.

Several surgeries and countless physical therapy sessions led to healing. Although Landless lost the tip of his right index finger, he has full feeling in all of his fingers and has performed many surgeries since that rainy day on a lonely road when it seemed all was shattered.

With his national service at an end, Peter believed that his opportunities to witness to offices and commanders were also drawing to a close. Instead, he received yet another letter. "The return address was from the South African Department of Defense," says

## "THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE AWARD WAS GOING TO BE MADE TO A NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER"

Landless. "My immediate thought, *will this never end?*"

He couldn't believe what the letter said. He was to be awarded the Southern Cross medal for "outstanding service and devotion to service. "This was the first time that the award was going to be made to a national service officer," says Landless. "The letter also gave the date of the ceremony—it would be on Sabbath."

With such an honor to be bestowed on him, would Peter relent this one time and attend the ceremony? "When the colonel called and described parade, the reception, and that I could invite as many people as I wanted, I only had one response for him," says Landless. "Neither my convictions about Sabbath-keeping nor the biblical mandate to honor the Sabbath had changed. I wouldn't attend a Sabbath ceremony."

The colonel's response was, "Very well, we shall mail the medal to you."

A few days later, another letter arrived from the South African Department of Defense. This one carried the news that a ceremony to honor Landless would be held on a day other than Sabbath, but there would be no reception and he was allowed a maximum of five guests.

The years are many since those months of

military service. The life-work of Dr. Peter Landless has included being the principal member of a family practice, a specialist in cardiology and the deputy director of the Cardiology Department at Johannesburg Hospital. From 1993-1995, he served as a part of the cardiology team for President Nelson Mandela. He has been certified in the United States in nuclear cardiology and is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology.

Today, Landless continues his mission and ministry as the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists director for health ministries. He also serves as the Executive Director of the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (ICPA).

Dr. Landless and his wife, Ros, are parents to Bronwen and Jill.





# Councill Retires as ACM Director



It is with mixed feelings emotions that Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) announces the retirement of Gary R. Councill as director of the department. Councill served as director from 2008-2015. He joined ACM as associate director in December 2005. After 45 years of ministry as a Seventh-day Adventist teacher, pastor, chaplain, departmental director, and ecclesiastical endorser, Councill retired 31 January 2015. He continues as an active chaplain/minister serving the spiritual needs of people of all faiths or no faith.

Councill was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Southwestern Michigan was home for most of his school years thru the sophomore year of college. He majored in theology and history with secondary education teaching certification at Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tennessee.

Following two years as a junior high teacher, Councill attended the Seventh-day Adventist Theological

Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. While a seminarian, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1969 and entered the U. S. Army Staff Specialist program for chaplain candidates, serving with various U. S. Army Reserve units for over four years.

Following graduation with the Master of Divinity degree, Councill served as pastor to three churches in the “Badlands” of western North Dakota before entering active duty as an Army chaplain in 1974 at Fort Hood, Texas.

His military career took him to the Federal Republic of Germany, Fort Lewis Washington, Fort Carson, Colorado, Fort McClellan, Alabama, Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, and the Pentagon. His last duty assignment was in the Office of the Chief of Chaplains as the Director of Information, Resources Management, and Logistics. He retired with thirty-two years of active federal service.



Capacity-building among chaplains and ACM leaders played an important role under the leadership of ACM Director Councill.



Chaplain Councill has completed the following military training schools: Officer Basic and Advanced Courses at the U. S. Army Chaplain Center and School; one year of Clinical Pastoral Education (parish model); the U. S. Army Combined Arms Services and Staff School, the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and the U. S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

While at the U. S. Army War College, he wrote several short essays, forty book reports and five major papers: “Regional Strategic Assessment on the Middle East,” “The Division Chaplain: A Look at Leadership Staff Roles and Functions,” “Chaplain Roles in Humanitarian and Civic Assistance Operations,” “Reflections on the History of the United States Army Chaplain Corps,” and “Resourcing the Chaplaincy in the Post-Vietnam Years, 1973-1993.” He also holds a second master’s degree in counseling.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit (2 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (5 OLC), an Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National



From 2006-2008, Gary Councill served as ACM associate director with Dr. Martin Feldbush, ACM Director.



As ACM Director, Councill witnessed the growth of the work of Adventists chaplains worldwide.

Defense Service Medal (2), Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Ribbon (3), the Army Staff Identification Badge, and the Army Physical Fitness Badge.

Councill has been married to his wife, Joyce for over fifty years. They are the parents of three children: Brenda Councill-Johnson, a National Board-certified teacher in Alaska; GS-14 Terry Councill, a chemist with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in College Park, Maryland; and Lieutenant Colonel Larry Councill, a Director of Operations currently deployed overseas from Edwards Air Force Base in California. They have five grandchildren.



Adventist chaplains training expanded under the leadership of ACM Director Councill and his associate, Dr. Mario Ceballos.

# Ceballos Appointed Director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries— General Conference

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**D**r. Mario E. Ceballos serves as director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries and National Service Organization for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. His responsibilities include policy development, administration, endorsement, and certification of chaplains, as well chaplain training for the North American Division and the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist world church.

Ceballos also serves as an adjunct professor at Andrews University and coordinates the Doctor of Ministry degrees in chaplaincy concentrations. He is an adjunct professor at Loma Linda University School of Religion and the Inter-American Adventist

Theological Seminary (IATS).

Ceballos has worked for the Seventh-day Adventist church for more than 35 years, serving as pastor in Puerto Rico, Texas, and Massachusetts; as youth director for the Texas Conference and director of church ministries for the Southern New England Conference. He served as an associate director of spiritual care and adjunct professor to the medical residency program at Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida. He also served as vice-president of Spiritual Services and Missions and adjunct professor of Spirituality and Healing for the Kettering Adventist Health Care and Kettering College of Medical Arts in Ohio.

As a member of the United States Armed Forces active and reserves for 32 years, Mario achieved the rank of Commander. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Boston University. He is also a Board-certified Chaplain by the Association of Professional Chaplains.

Ceballos is married to Dr. Gloria A. Ceballos. They have one married son, Dr. Mario A. Ceballos, a practicing attorney in Orlando, Florida and one grandson, Evan Alexander Ceballos.

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

*For God and Country* is designed for you, our readers. If you are a Seventh-day Adventist in public service we want to hear from you!

We are looking for news, stories from the field, and other items of interest. Your contributions can be sent to the editor at:

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# Anderson Named ACM–North American Director

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Since its inception in 1985 as a department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) has overseen the ministry of chaplains in the North American Division and the world field,” says Dr. Mario Ceballos, Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries–General Conference. “To better serve the world church, ACM is reorganizing. As a part of the reorganization, Dr. Paul S. Anderson has been appointed as the ACM director for the North American Division.”


According to Ceballos, chaplaincy, as an expression of ministry, is expanding rapidly around the world. “With Dr. Anderson’s appointment, each of the 13 world divisions of the Adventist Church has now established ACM departments and appointed directors,” says Ceballos. “In North America alone, there are more than

430 endorsed Adventist chaplains. With this growth, the appointment of a North American Division director has become necessary.”

Dr. Anderson served for 19 years as a U.S. Navy chaplain. His last assignment before retirement from the Navy was as the Deputy Chaplain for Joint Forces Headquarters–National Capitol Region at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. His portfolio includes Joint Plans and Operations for Religious Support for ceremonies and circumstances that might overwhelm the capacity of civil authorities. He also served as the Chief of the Department of Pastoral Care and Clinical Ethicist at the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital on Fort Belvoir.

Prior to his Naval career, Anderson pastored in the Allegheny East and Potomac Conferences of Seventh-day Adventists. He earned four graduate degrees—a Master of Divinity from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, a Master of Education in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland and a Masters of Sacred Theology in Religion and Culture from Boston University. His Doctor of Ministry degree was conferred by Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Anderson also completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.



The background of the top half of the poster features silhouettes of soldiers in a desert landscape at sunset. One soldier is in the foreground on the left, looking down. Two other soldiers are further back in the distance. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow.

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# ADVENTIST MILITARY CHAPEL WORSHIP GROUPS

*(As of 1 May 2015)*

## EUROPE

- **Miesau Army Depot**  
Near Kaiserslautern, Germany  
Point of Contact: SSG Jacob V. Bacahui
- **Rose Barracks**  
Vilsek, Germany  
Point of Contact: Dawadrain D. and Valerie D. Clark and Chaplain (MAJ) Joseph Kilonzo
- **Wiesbaden Army Airfield**  
Wiesbaden, Germany  
Point of Contact: Chaplain (CPT) Tanya Bindernagel
- **Aviano Air Base**  
Aviano, Italy  
Point of Contact: JoNell Varnado
- **International SDA Church**  
**English Language**  
**Darmstadt, Germany**  
Located at Frankfurt International Church  
Daimlerweg 2  
64293 Darmstadt Germany

## JAPAN

- **Misawa Air Force Base**  
Misawa, Japan  
Point of Contact: Corbin Farries

- **Sasebo Navy Base**  
Japan  
Point of Contact: Jennifer Chery
- **Yokosuka Naval Base**  
Japan  
Point of Contact: Willie E. Scott, II

## SOUTH KOREA

- **121st Medical Hospital**  
**Yongsan Army Garrison**  
**Seoul, Korea**  
Points of Contact: Chaplain, Lt.Col., David Buttrick, USAF and Chaplain (CPT) Frantzo Saint-Val, USA

## COMBAT THEATRE AFGHANISTAN

- **Bagram Air Field**  
Point of Contact:
- **Kabul**  
Point of Contact: CW2 Edison F. Cruz, U.S. Army
- **Kandahar Air Field**  
Point of Contact: SGT Richard Eneim
- **Kandahar Air Field**  
Point of Contact: CPT David R. De La Vega, U.S. Army

## KUWAIT

- **Camp Beuhring**

CW2 Dwight D. Fleary, U.S. Army

### **DEPLOYED ADVENTIST CHAPLAINS OVERSEAS (Africa, Europe, Japan, and Korea)**

Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel, David  
Buttrick, USAF, Korea

Chaplain (Captain) Jasmine Johnson,  
USA, Turkey

Chaplain (Major) Joseph M. Kilonzo,  
USA, Grafenwoehr, Germany

Chaplain (Captain) Tanya  
Bindernagel, USA, Wiesbaden,  
Germany

Chaplain (Captain) Frantzo St.Val,  
Korea

LCDR Michael Tagaloa, CHC, USN  
Japan

LT Zachary Juniper, CHC, USN,  
Diego Garcia

NOTE: As you learn of other groups or need to update POC information, please contact ACM at [paul.anderson@nad.adventist.org](mailto:paul.anderson@nad.adventist.org) or [deena.bartel-wagner@nad.adventist.org](mailto:deena.bartel-wagner@nad.adventist.org). The Adventist Military Chapel Worship Groups (AMCWGs) are a function of the National Service Organization–North American Division (NSO-NAD). They operate in locations where there are groups of Seventh-day Adventists serving outside of North America and when leadership is available. Although the AMCWGs are sponsored by NSO-NAD, Seventh-day Adventists from other Divisions, who are serving in the area where a AMCWG is operational, are welcomed and encouraged to attend.



The National Service Organization provides Online Giving for the return of tithes, offerings, and charitable contributions. Giving tithe and offerings online is easy and secure.

## TO GIVE ONLINE

- 1 Go to [AdventistsInUniform.org](https://AdventistsInUniform.org).
- 2 Select Online Giving.
- 3 Create a new account or log in.
- 4 Enter the amounts you wish to contribute.
- 5 Provide your payment information.

A receipt for tax-exempt contributions will be issued.

For future offerings you can access the online giving in your Adventists In Uniform profile.

## WHY GIVE?

Seventh-day Adventist military members and chaplains are encouraged to support National Service Organization and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries as their “local conference.” These organizations provide pastoral care and religious materials for their spiritual well-being. Also support your base chapel program. Military members for countries outside the North American Division are encouraged to contact their conference/union/division ACM leadership for further guidance on how to return their tithes and offerings.





# NAD MILITARY CHURCH

## CHARTER MEMBERSHIP

Are you assigned overseas for six months or longer in some type of official government or military-related service for Canada or the United States (active duty in the armed forces, civilian employee, teacher, AAFES worker, contractor, or family member)? Then you are eligible to join the NAD Military Church. To request a transfer of your membership, visit [AdventistsInUniform.org](http://AdventistsInUniform.org). Click on the link "NAD Military Church."

Membership transfer request forms are available under "Membership."

**YOUR NAD MILITARY CHURCH STAFF AND BOARD LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU!**



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The National Service Organization is the official military-relations office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its primary mission is to provide pastoral care and religious resources to support the spiritual well-being of Seventh-day Adventist military-related personnel.

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The life of a man consists  
not in seeing visions and  
in dreaming dreams, but  
in active charity and in  
willing service.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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