



Chaplain Steven Hokana
Assistant Director, LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven Hokana serves as the assistant director of Ministry to the Armed Forces for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). To the position, he brings more than 30 years of experience as an active-duty U.S. Army chaplain.

Hokana graduated with a bachelor's degree in History from Concordia College—New York, Bronxville, N.Y., in 1982. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1987, and his Doctorate of Ministry degree from the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas, in 2006. His dissertation illustrates the redemptive love of God to heal those with anxiety disorder through confession and prayer. He is a board-certified chaplain and an active member of the Association of Professional Chaplains. In addition, he is a member of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) and a Diplomate for the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress.

Hokana's military service has taken him to Southwest Asia, Cuba, Bosnia, Germany, Denmark, Alaska and on multiple stateside assignments. His military and combat operations include Desert Shield; Desert Storm for the liberation of Kuwait; and Stabilization Force 6, a multinational peacekeeping force deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina after the Bosnian war. His involvement in military operations includes Inherent Resolve, Freedom's Sentinel, Enduring Freedom and Resolute Support. During his career, he has provided pastoral care in diverse units, including Combat Service Support, Airborne Infantry, Light Infantry and Armor.

Hokana served as chief of United States Disciplinary Barracks and manager of Chaplain/Chaplain Assistant Training, U.S. Army Medical Command, and he twice served as ministry chief in Army hospitals. His career culminated in his service as chaplain of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), where he supervised up to 44 chaplains and chaplain assistants who provided religious-support operations to thousands of soldiers and Department of Defense civilians and contractors in Iraq, Afghanistan and multiple other nations in Southwest Asia.

Among his awards and decorations are the Army Meritorious Service Medal (awarded nine times), the Army Commendation Medal (awarded six times), the Army Achievement Medal (awarded three times), the Humanitarian Service Medal (awarded twice), and the Parachutists and Air Assault badges. Hokana also is the recipient of the Order of Medical Military Merit and the Bronze St. Martin of Tours award for more than 20 years of service as a chaplain in the LCMS.

Hokana and his wife, Mary, have three children and one grandchild.