

SENIOR LEADER REFLECTIONS

From the Regimental Sergeant Major

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¹ United States Army

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July 2025 marks 250 years of military chaplaincy in America and in the U.S. Army, in particular. This is a time for celebration. It is also a time to remember that we still have important work to do and need wisdom to do it. Those who have gone before us are important sources of wisdom. Chaplain assistants and now religious affairs specialists have been vital members of unit ministry and religious support teams throughout our history, and they have much to teach us. I encourage all our religious support teammates across the force to attend to their stories.

We tell our stories to celebrate wins when appropriate and we tell them to try to effect change when necessary. I know religious affairs specialists have important things to say. I hear them as I am making my rounds. Please don't stop yourself from saying them in our branch publication; your voice needs to be heard in *Military Chaplaincy Review*.

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U.S. Army Chaplain Corps and Regimental Sergeant Major

SGM Meaghan Simmons is a native of Pevely, Missouri, and entered the United States Army on 14 November 2002. She attended Basic Combat Training and trained as a Chaplain Assistant 56M at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Her duty assignments have included: Office of the Chief of Chaplains Strategy, Proponency and Resources (SPR) Directorate Sergeant Major, V Corps, Fort Knox, Kentucky; 1st Theater Sustainment Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky; Installation Management Command Europe, Sembach Germany; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, United States Army Garrison Benelux, Chievres, Belgium; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, United States Army Garrison Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Fort Jackson South Carolina; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, United States Army Chaplain Center and School, Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Air Assault Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where she deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-101 Brigade, Special Troops Battalion, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, United States Army Garrison Hawaii, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. She is currently assigned to the Office of the Chief of Chaplains, where she serves as the Chaplain Corps and Regimental Sergeant Major.

SGM Simmons' military education includes the Warrior Leader Course, the Advanced Leaders Course, Phase I and Phase 2, and the Senior Leader Course. She is a graduate of Sergeants Major Non-Resident Class 48, the Instructor Course, the Small Group Instructor Course, the Chaplaincy Resource Managers Course, and the Master Resiliency Course. She is also pursuing her Doctorate in Business Administration at Trident University International. SGM Bicklein holds a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Trident University International and a Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies from Liberty University.

SGM Simmons' awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (5th award), Army Commendation Medal (6th award), Army Achievement Medal (5th award), Army Good Conduct Medal (5th award), National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal w/ a Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (numeral 5), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (numeral 4), and Driver and Mechanic Badge.

SGM Simmons has one child.

Put your fingers to keyboards to write and write some more. We need to hear from you. I encourage military chaplains across the services and at every level to support all your religious support teammates as professional writers. Provide them the time and space to be able to write. Your support of their professional development is critical for the success of our religious support mission.

Pro Deo et Patria!

Sergeant Major Meaghan B. Simmons
U.S. Army Chaplain Corps Regimental Sergeant Major

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