

GORDON D. RITCHIE



Chaplain Ritchie was born in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1961 and graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana, in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Christian Ministries. While a student he was the College and Career Pastor at Westview Wesleyan Church, Jonesboro, Indiana from 1980-83. After graduation, he assumed the duties as Assistant Pastor at First Wesleyan Church, Waterloo, Iowa and was ordained an Elder in the Wesleyan Church on 23 July 1985.

That fall he began his graduate studies at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky where he graduated with a Masters of Divinity in Human Development and Counseling in May 1988. He then served as Youth Pastor at Lakeview Wesleyan Church and then Assistant Pastor at College Wesleyan Church. Both churches were located in Marion, Indiana.

Chaplain Ritchie was commissioned as a Lieutenant (Junior Grade) on 30 March 1992 and graduated from Chaplains School in Newport, Rhode Island 9 May 1992. Following graduation, he reported to USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1) as Command Chaplain. The ship deployed to WESTPAC in November 92 in support DESERT STORM in the Persian Gulf and RESTORE HOPE in Somalia.

In December 1994, he reported as Headquarters and Service Battalion Chaplain, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Virginia. In July 1996, he was assigned as Chaplain to The Basic School, Weapons Training Battalion and the FBI Academy. Following his tours in Quantico he reported to Joint Maritime Facility, St Mawgan, United Kingdom on 8 November 1997 where he designed and completed construction of a 2.5-million-dollar Worship Facility. Chaplain Ritchie reported to 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune in 4 September 2001 and was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/6 (SOC) that deployed with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM in February 2002. Upon return from deployment he assumed duties as 2nd Marines Regimental Chaplain and deployed with TARAWA TASK FORCE in support of OPERATION IRAQ FREEDOM in February 2003. In 2004, he transferred to 8th Communications Battalion, II MEF. While at 8th Comms he deployed with short notice with the 26th MEU (SOC) in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM-III. Upon return from deployment he was assigned as chaplain for the II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Headquarters Group at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and served as the first chaplain assigned to the new Injured Support Unit and assisted with the transition to what is now called Wounded Warrior Battalion-East. He was selected to attend the Pastoral Residency Program at Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Virginia and was later Board Certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains. He was then assigned as the USMC Wounded Warrior Regimental Chaplain and then the Marine Corps Recruiting Command Chaplain. Both commands are located in Quantico, Virginia. During this time period he completed a Doctorate of Ministry in Spirituality and Trauma from Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC.. He finished his 24-year military career as the Headquarters and Service Battalion Senior Chaplain and the Traditional Protestant Chapel Pastor at Quantico Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA. Now retired in Northern Virginia he enjoys his woodworking business and speaking at local, state, and national conferences.

Chaplain Ritchie is married to the former Lasana Williams of Marion, Indiana. They are the proud parents of four children; Landon Ruel, Corban Sevon, Keanon Tre and a daughter Khesed Delin.