



United States Navy Biography

Commander Cristiano Silva DeSousa



CDR DeSousa currently serves as the Supervisor Chaplain of the Seventh Coast Guard District headquartered in Miami, Florida. Chaplain DeSousa started his service with 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, NC (2006-2009) where he was assigned to 1st Battalion 9th Marines with which he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008. He was then assigned to Carrier Air Wing 3/Harry S. Truman strike group, Virginia Beach, VA (2009-2011) with which he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn in 2010. His next assignment took him to Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, FL and Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, FL (2011-2014).

Chaplain DeSousa was then assigned to Ministry Center Mayport, Comnavsurfron Fourteen, Jacksonville, FL where he served from September 2014 to June 2017. Upon his arrival, he immediately deployed with USS Vicksburg (CG-69) in support of Standing NATO Maritime Group (SNMG-2) operations in the Mediterranean, Black, North, and Baltic Seas from December 2014 to July 2015. Upon his return he performed the duties of Operations Chaplain, Deputy Director, and Acting Director for Ministry Center Mayport until his departure. He was then selected to the CHC AEP program, Ethics Subspecialty, which was completed at Duke University in 2018. He was then assigned as the command chaplain for Marine Corps University at Quantico, Virginia (2018-2021). CDR DeSousa's next tour was with III MIG/3D MEB/III MEF in Okinawa, Japan (2021-2023).

CDR DeSousa, a native of Fortaleza, Brazil, entered active duty in 2006 after six years of civilian pastoral ministry. He is a college graduate of University of Tennessee at Knoxville, holds a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Covenant Theological Seminary at St. Louis, Missouri, and a Master of Theology from Duke University at Durham, North Carolina. He is a 2016 Naval War College Distance Education graduate of JPME I and a Fleet Marine Force Qualified Officer.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3), Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), and other personal awards. CDR DeSousa is the recipient of the 2016 SURFLANT Force Professional Naval Chaplaincy Excellence Award.

CDR DeSousa is married to the former Aimee Janette Lowe of Ocala, FL. They have one child: Giovanni (9). Chaplain DeSousa is ordained by the Presbyterian Church in America.