

Cmdr. Steven Dundas
Chaplain, United States Navy

A California native, Cmdr. (Chaplain) Steve Dundas enlisted in the Army National Guard in August 1981 and was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps Officer in the Army in 1983. Dundas served as a Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer and Company Commander in Germany as well as a battalion and brigade S-1/Adjutant, and has been serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy since 1999.

In 2007, Dundas deployed as an individual augmentee to the Iraq Assistance Group to serve as the chaplain for all Military, Police and Border Training Teams in Al Anbar Province under the command of II Marine Expeditionary Force. During the deployment, Dundas experienced the same unfamiliar sights, sounds, smells and exhaustion as the deployed Marines for whom he provided religious services and counseling. With experience as a trauma department chaplain, Dundas believed he could not be affected by PTSD. However, when he returned home, he felt depressed and angry. After resuming duties at his Navy command, he felt disconnected from the Marines with whom he deployed, as well as disconnected from his faith.

With the support of his unit Medical Officer, Dundas was able to receive the care he needed and learned tools and tips for coping with PTSD. Today, Dundas serves as Command Chaplain for Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune North Carolina where he continues to counsel service members on faith and encourages those who may be coping with psychological health concerns to reach out for additional support.