Army Chaplain advises on calling to military chaplaincy

October 7, 2014

Regent University's School of Divinity (DIV) military chaplaincy candidates and other students considering military chaplaincy recently had the opportunity to fellowship with active duty and retired chaplains and learn more about the calling to serve the spiritual needs of service members and their families. The Military Chaplaincy Dinner was held on Tuesday, Oct. 7 in conjunction with modular week, which brings online students to campus for face-to-face learning and connecting.

Army Chaplain Dean Darroux, post chaplain at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, was the guest speaker.

Darroux, who hails from Island of Dominica West Indies, was a local pastor there when he heard God’s "calling out" to military chaplaincy, to which Darroux answered, "Yes, Lord, I'll become a minister to the military."

Joining the Army as a chaplain, Darroux quickly learned about his new ministry environment.

"I recognized that ministry is about serving soldiers," said Darroux. "These guys are my life; my job is to serve them."

His advice to those considering military chaplaincy included:

- Recognize why they are here: to serve soldiers, helping them make sense of where they are, and helping them process their pain.

- Ministry must be relevant: make it contextual to the soldier.

- Ministry must be intentional and purpose-driven.

- Preaching skills are essential.

- Chaplains must master becoming a military chaplain and staff officer.

"The military chaplaincy session provided me with a well-rounded perspective in regards to following my God-given calling," said Army veteran and Regent student Darren Whitworth '16 (DIV). "I'm prior service, so the interaction with other members of the Armed Services first was refreshing. Interacting with fellow peers who are on the same faith-based journey toward serving God in a ministerial role, spoke depths to the commonality that we all have in serving God, and country. I really appreciate the
way Chaplain Darroux shared some of his insights and experiences that are enhancing his walk with Christ. His explanations of those he serves resonated with some of my perspective in serving members of the military. It was a great session, very informative, and brought clarity to some of my unanswered questions."

The dinner, which was co-sponsored by the Navy Recruiting, is an annual event that has featured notable speakers from the military chaplain ranks, including many eminent and senior military alumni of Regent’s School of Divinity.

Learn more about Regent's office of Military and Veterans Affairs.