

From 2007 to present, Rio has been privileged to have served in three different branches of the military. He firsthand experienced the high-stress, physically and emotionally demanding environment of how the military works. He knows the struggle of constant training to remain proficient in a job while simultaneously being a spouse, a parent, and a holistically healthy human being. Amid this struggle, the reality of war and death is ever looming on the horizon. For these reasons Rio believes God has a special concern for the military and He uses the Chaplains as His instrument to minister to service members and their families.

For Rio, to be a military Chaplain is being the presence of God in the fog of war. In both the good times and the bad, the Chaplain walks alongside the service member to provide care, compassion, counsel, and hope. Whether the service member is fighting in combat or just needs someone to hear their problems, the Chaplain says to them "I will be with you". Rio has felt God's clear call on his life to pursue Navy Chaplaincy so he can use his military experience and spiritual gifts to serve the Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who will be placed in his care.

While he is just starting his journey as a ministry director at his church, Rio has received affirmation from seasoned pastors and chaplains regarding his potential to succeed as a Navy Chaplain. His family is supportive of his call and as a current member of the U.S. Navy Reserve, they are already poised for deployment should the nation call upon him. It is his honor and delight to obediently serve God and country.