

Mark Nordstrom is an American bishop of the Anglican Reformed Catholic Church and a retired United States Army chaplain whose career has spanned military service, parish ministry, and episcopal leadership. From 2018 to 2025, he served as bishop suffragan in the Special Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy (SJAFC), providing pastoral oversight to military and institutional chaplains. Following his retirement in 2025, he joined the Anglican Reformed Catholic Church in January 2026.

Early Life and Education

Nordstrom entered military service at age eighteen, serving six years as a military policeman before attending college and seminary and then transitioning to ministry roles in two civilian churches for an additional six years. He married Christine Patrizio in 1979, and together they raised three children; the family now includes eleven grandchildren. Both of Nordstrom's sons later followed him into Army service.

In 1987, Nordstrom began ordained ministry in Baptist and Missionary Church congregations. He earned a Master of Theology (Th.M.) from Dallas Theological Seminary and holds undergraduate degrees in aviation science and general studies.

Chaplaincy Career

Nordstrom returned to the Army in 1989 under a direct commission as a chaplain in the Hawaii Army National Guard in a dual ministry status. In 1993 he re-entered active duty as a Chaplain. Over the course of his 33-year military career, he served in a wide range of assignments, including:

- Light infantry and field artillery battalions in the 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii Army National Guard, and the 101st Airborne Division, Ft. Campbell, KY
- A mechanized infantry brigade in the 3d Infantry Division, Ft. Stewart, GA
- Observer-controller duties at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany
- Service in the Combat Developments Directorate at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, Fort Jackson, SC
- Operations officer for the Command Chaplain, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, in Heidelberg, Germany
- Force management officer in the Office of the Army Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon
- Director of Training and Leader Development and Director, Combat Developments Integration Directorate, at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, Ft. Jackson, SC.

He participated in joint relief operations following Hurricane Iniki on the Island of Kauai. In 2003, he deployed to Kuwait and Iraq as the Brigade Chaplain for the 1st Brigade Combat

Team, 3rd Infantry Division — the lead entry force of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). He was present at the battles of As Samawah, An Najaf, the Karbala Gap, Objective Peach, and the assault on Baghdad International Airport. He returned for an additional tour in Iraq in 2005 in Tikrit and throughout the Salah ad Din Province for the election effort. He led a total of 26 Unit Ministry Teams in combat, caring for the wounded and dying, bringing religious support to Soldiers and leaders.

His memoir (to be published) of the 2003 invasion is titled *Letters From Iraq: A Brigade Chaplain on the Road to Baghdad*.

His military decorations include the Presidential Unit Citation, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal with two bronze stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with three campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (numeral four), Hawaii National Guard Medal for Merit, Combat Action Badge, and Air Assault Badge. He retired as a Colonel.

Episcopal Ministry

Nordstrom was ordained in 2010 by Bishop Martyn Minns, Missionary Bishop, Nigeria North American Mission, Convocation of Anglicans in North America. While serving at the Pentagon, he also ministered as volunteer clergy at The Falls Church Anglican. After retiring from active military service, he joined the staff of the SJAFRC as the Governmental Coordinator and later as Vicar General under the Episcopal leadership of Bishop Derek L.S. Jones.

On April 12, 2018, he was consecrated bishop suffragan of the SJAFRC in Birmingham, Alabama, alongside Bishop Michael Williams. In this role, Nordstrom initially oversaw pastoral care and support for chaplains and their families. Like other bishops of the jurisdiction, his canonical residence was initially in the Church of Nigeria North American Mission until 2021, when the SJAFRC completed its transition to a Special Jurisdiction to help train and endorse chaplains for the ACNA.

Nordstrom and Williams retired from the SJAFRC in 2025. In January 2026, both joined the Anglican Reformed Catholic Church as bishops.

Nordstrom now serves as the Bishop Ordinary for the Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy, Anglican Reformed Catholic Church. Chaplains under Bishop Nordstrom's oversight serve in the United States Armed Forces, Veterans Administration, Department of Justice, and other Federal and State agencies, as well as in Hospitals, Hospices, Industry, Education, Law Enforcement, and as Community Chaplains.