Chaplain (Colonel) Daniel W. Hardin was born in Dayton, Ohio. His education includes: Bachelor of Science, Computer Information Systems from DeVry University, Columbus, Ohio (1997); Master of Divinity, Ashland Theological Seminary (2001); and Master of Science, Community Counseling, Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia (2011). He is ordained a priest with the Anglican Church in North America. Chaplain Hardin is a licensed marriage and family therapist and approved clinical supervisor.

Chaplain Hardin entered active duty in 1987 as an M60A1 and M1 armored crewman where he served four years with the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), at Fort Polk, Louisiana. From 1991 to 2003, he served in the Ohio Army National Guard as a chaplain assistant, chaplain candidate, and battalion chaplain while pursuing military ministry credentials. In 2003 he returned to active duty.

Chaplain Hardin served as a battalion chaplain with: the 1st Battalion, 137th Assault Helicopter Battalion (National Guard); the 1st Battalion, 81st Armored Regiment, Fort Knox, Kentucky; the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment (Airborne), Fort Richardson, Alaska; and the 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia. Chaplain Hardin deployed with 1-501 PIR to Iraq in 2006 where he served as the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Chaplain of FOB Iskandariyah. He served as the Installation Family Life Chaplain and the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Chaplain, 3d Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Chaplain Hardin served as the Family Life instructor and Chaplain Captains Career Course manager at the Us Army Chaplain Center and School, Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Chaplain Hardin most recently served as the Clinical Director of the Watters Family Life Chaplain Training Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In his final assignment, he served as the Director of Training, Religious Leadership Academy, U.S. Army Institute for Religious Leadership, Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Chaplain Hardin retired from active duty on January 31, 2025.

His military education includes: the Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Course, the Chaplain Officer Basic Course, the Basic Airborne Course, the Chaplain Captains Career Course, the Chaplain Family Life Training Program, Fort Benning, Georgia, the Command and General Staff Officer Course, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and the Brigade Chaplain Functional Qualification Course. His awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal (four oak-leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (one silver oak-leaf cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (three oak-leaf clusters), and the Good Conduct Medal, the Reserve Component Achievement Medal (two oak-leaf clusters), the Overseas Ribbon, the Iraqi Campaign Medal (two campaign stars), the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (bronze hourglass device), the Combat Action Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

Chaplain Hardin is married and has four children and two grandchildren. In his spare time he enjoys Corvettes, collecting silver coins, amateur radio, and flight simulation.