



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-1000

IN REPLY REFER TO

SECNAVINST 1730.7B  
N097  
12 October 2000

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1730.7B

From: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: RELIGIOUS MINISTRY SUPPORT WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Ref: (a) DoD Directive 1304.19 of 18 Sep 93 (NOTAL)  
(b) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1990  
(c) Title 10, United States Code  
(d) DoD Directive 5120.8 of 20 Mar 95 (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To assign responsibilities for religious ministry support within the Department of the Navy. This revision should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. SECNAVINST 1730.7A.

3. Applicability. This instruction applies to all members of the Department of the Navy.

4. Definitions

a. Chaplains. As commissioned officers, Navy chaplains are professionally qualified clergy of a certifying faith group who provide for the free exercise of religion for all military members of the Department of the Navy, their family members, and other authorized persons, in accordance with reference (a). Chaplains advise commands in matters of morale, morals and spiritual well being. In accordance with Article 1063 of reference (b), chaplains shall be detailed or permitted to perform only such duties as are related to religious ministry support. Chaplains shall not bear arms. Chaplains shall not be assigned collateral duties which violate the religious practices of the chaplain's faith group, require services as director, solicitor, or treasurer of funds other than administrator of a Religious Offering Fund, serve on a court-martial or stand watches other than that of duty chaplain.

b. Chief of Chaplains. The Chief of Chaplains in accordance with Section 5142 of reference (c) is appointed by the President to perform such duties as described by the Secretary of the Navy and law. In this capacity, the Chief of Chaplains serves as the Director of Religious Ministry Support for the Department of the Navy. The

Chief of Chaplains in accordance with Article 1009 of reference (b) is principal advisor and sponsor on matters concerning Chaplain Corps officers and Religious Program Specialists, and as head of the Chaplain Corps is the primary spokesperson regarding professional matters with the military and civilian communities.

c. Deputy Chief of Chaplains. The Deputy Chief of Chaplains as Deputy Director for Religious Ministry Support in the Department of the Navy is detailed by the Secretary of the Navy in accordance with Section 5142a of reference (c) to perform such duties as prescribed by the Secretary of the Navy, and serves as Chaplain of the Marine Corps.

d. Department of the Navy. The Naval Organization is organized under the Secretary of the Navy and consists of the following: The Office of the Secretary of the Navy; the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; the Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; the entire operating forces, including naval aviation, of the Navy and of the Marine Corps, including the reserve components of such forces; all field activities, headquarters, forces, bases, installations, activities and functions under the control or supervision of the Secretary of the Navy; and the U.S. Coast Guard when operating as a part of the Navy under law.

e. Religious Ministry Support. The entire spectrum of professional duties, performed by Navy chaplains and Religious Program Specialists, to include providing for or facilitating required religious needs and practices.

f. Command Religious Program (CRP). A CRP provides religious ministry support that is planned, programmed, budgeted, and implemented to meet identified religious ministry support requirements.

5. Policy. It is Department of the Navy policy that commanding officers shall provide Command Religious Programs (CRPs) in support of the religious needs and preferences for all members of the naval service, eligible family members and other authorized personnel. The Chief of Chaplains, as the Director of Religious Ministry Support for the Department of the Navy, shall advise the Secretary of the Navy on policy formulation and oversight pertaining to the implementation of religious ministry support, plans, programs, and facilities.

a. Organizational Placement and Responsibilities

(1) The Chief of Chaplains, as Director of Religious Ministry Support for the Department of the Navy:

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(a) Advises the Secretary of the Navy on all matters pertaining to the free exercise of religion within the naval service in accordance with Article 1009 of reference (b) and Section 5142 of reference (c). The Chief of Chaplains shall provide regular and frequent advice on:

1. Religious, ethical and moral implications of all Department of the Navy policies and actions.

2. Religious faith-group policies and positions affecting the Department of the Navy.

3. All matters pertaining to the organization and utilization of the Chaplain Corps as a staff corps of the Navy.

4. All matters pertaining to the organization and utilization of Religious Program Specialists.

(b) The Chief of Chaplains serves on the Armed Forces Chaplains Board (AFCB) in accordance with reference (d). As a member of the AFCB, the Chief of Chaplains represents the Secretary of the Navy to:

1. Department of Defense (DoD).

2. Chiefs of Chaplains/Chaplain Services of other DoD components.

3. 3. The Nation's religious faith groups.

(c) Advises the Commandant of the Marine Corps on religious ministry matters in reference to support, plans, programs, policy, personnel and facilities.

(d) Advises the Commandant of the Coast Guard on religious ministry matters relative to the use of Navy Chaplains in the Coast Guard.

(2) The Deputy Chief of Chaplains is the principal assistant to the Chief of Chaplains. He shall also serve as Chaplain of the Marine Corps, supervising religious ministry in the Marine Corps; and in accordance with reference (d) serve as a member of the AFCB.

(3) The Chief of Chaplains, as senior Chaplain in the Navy, advises the Chief of Naval Operations on all matters pertaining to the free exercise of religion within the Navy and assists the Chief of Naval Operations in carrying out his responsibilities in accordance with Article 1009 of reference (b) and Sections 5031 and 5032 of reference (c). In this capacity, the Chief of Chaplains:

(a) Directs officers of the Chaplain Corps, Religious Program Specialists and all other designated persons engaged in Religious Ministry Support within the Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps, and other governmental agencies receiving religious ministry support from Navy chaplains.

(b) Serves as program sponsor for the professional development, education and training of Chaplain Corps officers and Religious Program Specialists.

(c) Serves as program sponsor for the Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO).

(d) Provides technical sponsorship for the acquisition, operation, and maintenance of religious ministry support facilities, collateral equipment and other logistical support both ashore and afloat.

(4) The Chief of Chaplains shall, with respect to all duties pertaining to the procurement, distribution and support of Chaplain Corps personnel, report to and be supported by the Chief of Naval Personnel in accordance with Section 5142 of reference (c).

## 6. Responsibilities

a. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) shall exercise oversight to ensure compliance with this instruction and shall implement the policy in this instruction throughout the Navy. CNO shall initiate action with the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Administrator of the Maritime Administration to implement this policy when using Navy Chaplains to provide religious ministry support.

b. The Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) shall issue orders to implement this instruction throughout the Marine Corps.

7. Action. CNO and CMC shall forward implementing instructions to CNO (N097).

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