



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 1730.1D
N097
06 May 2003

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1730.1D

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: All Ships and Stations (less Marine Corps field addressees
not having Navy personnel attached)

Subj: RELIGIOUS MINISTRY IN THE NAVY

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1730.7B
(b) DoD Directive 1304.19 of 18 Sep 93
(c) NAVPERS 18068F
(d) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1990
(e) Title 10, United States Code
(f) MILPERSMAN
(g) SECNAVINST 7010.6A
(h) SECNAVINST 1730.8A
(i) DoD Instruction 1325.7 of 17 Jul 01 (NOTAL)
(j) SECNAVINST 1640.9B
(k) JOINT PUBLICATION 1-05

(l) SECNAVINST 1730.3G

(m) Manual for Courts-Martial, United States 1984,
Military Rule of Evidence 503
(n) SECNAVINST 4651.8L
(o) DoD 5500.7-R of Aug 93 (NOTAL)
(p) OPNAVINST 4001.1D

Encl: (1) Religious Ministry Report Format

1. Purpose. To implement reference (a) by providing for the free exercise of religion for all naval service members, their families, and all other authorized personnel; establish policy and assign responsibility for providing religious ministry within the Navy. This is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1730.1C.

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

4. Definitions

- a. Religious Ministry. Religious Ministry is the entire spectrum of professional duties performed by Navy chaplains and Religious Program Specialists to provide for or facilitate the free exercise of religion and accommodates the religious practices of military personnel, their families, and other authorized personnel.
- b. Religious Ministry Team (RMT). A RMT consists of at least one chaplain and one Religious Program Specialist. Other members may include additional chaplains and Religious Program Specialists, lay leaders, civilian clergy, contract personnel, civilian staff, and other assigned military personnel.
- c. Command Religious Program (CRP). A CRP is the command's total collection of religious ministry and activities planned and executed within a command by the RMT under the professional supervision of a cognizant chaplain. The CRP requires the annual approval and logistical support of the commander/commanding officer, whose authorization ensures that religious ministry tasks are adequately budgeted and implemented.
- d. Chaplain. A Navy chaplain is a commissioned officer who is endorsed as a religious ministry professional by an organization that has completed all administrative requirements of the Department of Defense for certifying chaplains for military service. A chaplain provides for the free exercise of religion for all military members of the Department of the Navy (DON), their families, and other authorized personnel in accordance with reference (b), and serves in a noncombatant capacity as outlined in governmentally-approved international conventions.
- e. Religious Program Specialist (RP). An RP is a member of the Navy enlisted rating defined in Chapter IV of reference (c), who supports chaplains in providing religious ministry and implementing CRPs as described in this instruction. RPs are combatants.
- f. Lay Leader. A lay leader is an authorized, trained, and command-appointed individual who facilitates, within the framework of the CRP, the free exercise of religion by providing a service consistent with his or her lay status.
- g. Divine Services. Divine Service is a traditional term used in Article 0817 of reference (d) to refer to public worship and faith-based services conducted afloat, in the field, or on military bases and installations by a military chaplain.

h. Religious Offering Fund (ROF). A ROF is a non-appropriated fund established by the commanding officer to provide a means by which voluntary contributions, as acts of religious devotion, are accounted for, safeguarded and disbursed.

i. Area Religious Ministry Coordination Team (ARMCT). The ARMCT is an administrative structure designed to ensure the delivery of religious ministry across command boundaries in a geographic area in which religious ministry requirements exceed the capability of any RMT.

j. Cooperative Ministry. Cooperative Ministry is a coordinated effort among RMTs to assist commanders in meeting the broad range of religious ministry requirements and needs within geographic areas and across command boundaries.

k. Chief of Chaplains. The President appoints the Chief of Chaplains to perform such duties as directed by the Secretary of the Navy and Federal statute in accordance with sections 5031 and 5142 of reference (e). The Chief of Chaplains is the Director of Religious Ministry for the Department of the Navy, and the principal advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the Commandant of the Coast Guard on religious ministry requirements and matters concerning both Chaplain Corps officers and Religious Program Specialists. As head of the Chaplain Corps, the Chief of Chaplains is the spokesperson to the military and to civilian religious communities regarding professional ministry matters.

l. Deputy Chief of Chaplains. The Deputy Chief of Chaplains is Deputy Director of Religious Ministry in the Department of the Navy and Chaplain of the Marine Corps in accordance with reference (a).

m. Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters. The Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters advises and assists the Chief of Chaplains and the Chaplain of the Marine Corps in directing, administering, and leading the reserve components of the chaplain and Religious Program Specialist communities. This includes primary responsibility in advising on administration, supervision, training, and mobilization of chaplains and Religious Program Specialists in the Naval Reserve.

n. Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEA). The Senior Enlisted Advisor is the principal advisor to the Chief of Chaplains on all matters pertaining to the RP rating.

5. Policy

a. General Requirements:

(1) Commanders/commanding officers, hereafter referred to as commanders, shall provide for the free exercise of religion by implementing the policy and procedures set forth in this instruction.

(2) Religious ministry manpower requirements shall be directed by the Chief of Naval Operations (N097).

(3) The RMT shall consist of at least one chaplain and one RP.

(4) Commanders shall ensure the chaplain's direct access to the commander as provided in Article 1151 of reference (d). Commanders shall:

(a) Assign the command chaplain as a principal staff officer directly under the chief of staff or chief staff officer, or as a department head directly under the executive officer, and shall maintain the chaplain's direct access to the commander.

(b) Assign the chaplain as a director or principal staff officer to the commander in naval medical centers and as a director, department head or principal staff officer to the commander in naval hospitals.

(5) The chaplain shall serve as the principal advisor to the commander on all matters related to religious ministry and shall advise on ethical and moral matters and issues pertaining to the command.

(6) The CRP shall be funded and managed as an integral and essential element in command planning, programming, and budgeting activities.

(8) (7) In accordance with Article 1063 of reference (d), chaplains are noncombatants, shall not bear arms, and shall not participate in combatant activities that compromise noncombatant status.

(8) RPs, as combatants, will provide physical security for chaplains as situations require. Specific duties will include but not be limited to: rigging and unrigging for Divine Services and other CRP events; recruiting, training, and supervising CRP volunteers; publicizing CRP programs and events; organizing, coordinating, and supporting religious education programs; serving as a bookkeeper and custodian of an ROF; providing library multi-media resource center services onboard ships; managing CRP program elements and logistical support;