



PASTORAL COUNSELING

TASK: To learn what the various components of Pastoral Counseling are.

CONDITIONS: Discussion – Question based

STANDARDS: Soldiers will know the components of Pastoral Counseling to include confidentiality and communication privileges.

REFERENCE(S): AR 165-1



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Pastoral Counseling:

(DISCUSSION) Ask the Soldiers what they think Pastoral Counseling is.

- Pastoral counseling is Confidential between the Chaplain, Chaplain Assistant, chapel office staff and the counselee.
- Chaplains & Chaplains Assistants do not report pastoral counseling to the chain of command.
- Pastoral counseling involves caring for and strengthening Army personnel to survive and grow through the multitude of experiences that are part of military life.



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Communications – Confidential / Privileged:

(DISCUSSION) Ask the Soldiers what the difference is in Confidential and Privileged communications.

- Confidential Communications:

- Any communication given to a Chaplain in trust by an individual, to include enemy prisoners of war (EPWs); formal act of religion or as a matter of conscience.

- Made to a Chaplain acting as a spiritual advisor or to a Chaplain Assistant aiding a spiritual advisor.

- Not intended to be disclosed to third party persons in any context, legal, or otherwise.



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Communications – Confidential / Privileged Con't:

(DISCUSSION) Ask the Soldiers what the difference is in Confidential and Privileged communications.

- Obligations to Confidentiality:

- Privilege of non-disclosure belongs to the individual.

-Privileged Communications:

- Information which is not admissible in court or legal action
- Confidential information is also privileged.



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Privilege of Non-Disclosure:

(DISCUSSION) Ask the Soldiers what the privilege of non-disclosure.

- Non-disclosure:
 - Belongs to the person, guardian or conservator, or personal representative. Can be claimed Chaplain or assistant who received information.
 - Extends beyond death of person.
- Release from privilege:
 - Consent must be given freely by the person and specific to the information; should be written.
- Privilege in the court system:
 - Cannot be violated by CDRs or the courts.
 - If military judge or presiding official decides that no privilege exists, a Chaplain or their assistant may be obligated to testify.