



What can a Chaplain Help with?

TASK: What can a Chaplain Help with?

CONDITIONS: Given an environment that fosters learning, discuss the topic of respect.

STANDARDS: Understand what chaplain's can do to help Soldiers and leaders.

REFERENCE(S): AR 165-1, FM 1-05



What can a Chaplain Help with?

Chaplains bridge the gap between the Constitution's Establishment clause ("Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion...") and the Free Exercise clause ("... nor prohibit the free exercise thereof.").

Chaplains demonstrate the values of religious freedom of conscience and spiritual choice by ensuring that all members of the unit have the opportunity to worship according to the dictates of their tradition or conscience.



What can a Chaplain Help with?

PERFORM/PROVIDE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Chaplains conduct worship services in accordance with their own denominational or faith tradition. However, Chaplains are also responsible to ensure that all members of the unit have the opportunity to worship according to their own traditions. If a Chaplain cannot perform a worship service for a particular tradition, he/she will facilitate or coordinate for a service that meets that need.

As ordained clergy, Chaplains perform the sacraments, rites, and ordinances that are associated with their denomination or faith group. Within the context of a worship service, these may include Communion (Lord's Supper or Eucharist), Baptism, and Confession/Absolution. Other rites not necessarily associated with a formal worship service may include baptism, weddings, and funerals/memorials.

Finally, your Chaplain will pray with you and for you, lifting up not only your needs and concerns, but those of your family and your unit.



What can a Chaplain Help with?

PASTORAL COUNSELING

All Chaplains are ordained members of their denominational or faith tradition and therefore have received intensive theological and pastoral training. Additionally, all Chaplains have civilian pastoral experience helping individuals, couples, and families better cope with whatever is bothering them.

The Chaplain maintains strict confidentiality and will not disclose what you tell him/her unless you specifically authorize him/her to do so.

The Chaplain provides a caring, compassionate ear. He/she will usually offer advice only if you ask, but is more likely to simply help you better understand your situation and find the best solution or course of action.

Many Chaplains have received additional, specialized training:

-Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) trained Chaplains specialize in helping those who are hospitalized or who face significant medical or health-related challenges

-Family Life Chaplains are specially trained to provide individual, marriage, and family therapy.



What can a Chaplain Help with?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIP ENRICHMENT

Chaplains are able to help you better understand your faith journey. Even if you and your Chaplain are from a different religious backgrounds, he/she can help you sort out general matters of faith. Additionally, he/she can help you locate resources to help you in your particular walk.

Chaplains often conduct training events designed to help single Soldiers, couples and families have better relationships. The Army's Strong Bonds program has been an integral part of Chaplains' ministries to their units for several years. Whether a half-day workshop or a weekend-long retreat, these events will assist you to handle stress more effectively, communicate better, resolve conflict better, or even become a better parent.

In addition to the Strong Bonds program, Chaplains conduct regular events in and around the work place. Ask your Chaplain for a schedule of events.



What can a Chaplain Help with?

FOR COMMANDERS, CHAPLAINS...

- provide a pulse-check of the unit's ethical and moral well-being
- advise Commanders on the impact of local religion on operations (and vice versa)
- Ensure that Commanders are aware of religious needs within the unit and assist Commanders in providing for accommodation of religious practices

FOR ALL SOLDIERS, CHAPLAINS...

- Provide a confidential, compassionate, and listening ear
- When requested, offer advice and counsel to assist with problems
- Provide awareness of resources elsewhere on the installation or in the community
- Ensure that religious needs are met to the fullest extent possible