

UNITED STATES ARMY CHAPLAINCY



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How do I become an Army chaplain?

Contact a regionally based chaplain recruiting team at goarmy.com/locate-a-recruiter and they will assist you with the process.

Where do Army chaplains serve?

Chaplains may serve on active duty or in the Army Reserve. Chaplains can serve anywhere in the United States and around the world.

What is the difference between active duty and the Army Reserve?

Normally in the Army Reserve, duty is part time and takes place at a location near a Soldier's residence. Soldiers must attend a monthly "battle assembly" and participate in two weeks of duty (usually in the summer). Active duty is full time and may require relocation about every three years.

Can chaplains switch between active duty and the Army Reserve?

Yes, if there is a need and the chaplain is approved for the switch.

Can a U.S. alien, non-resident (green card holder) enter active duty?

No. However, he or she may enter the Army Reserve.

How do clergy with weekend civilian responsibilities fulfill their Army Reserve duty?

Understanding the unique nature of a clergy's weekend responsibilities, Army Reserve commanders will normally allow for an alternate schedule.

What are the duties of a chaplain?

Chaplains serve as officers on the commander's staff, providing professional expertise on the free exercise of religion, troop and unit morale, quality of life matters, ethical decision making, combat stress, pastoral counseling and the impact of religion on a command's mission. Chaplains also serve as congregational leaders, counselors and teachers in fulfillment of their calling and religious practice.

Are chaplains required to provide ministry for all religions?

No, chaplains will only perform ministry within the dictates of their faith group. However, they do ensure that all Soldiers are enabled to practice their faith.

Do chaplains carry weapons or engage in combat?

Chaplains are not issued weapons and are not allowed to engage in combat actions. Chaplains are noncombatants. They are teamed with a chaplain assistant who carries a weapon and serves to protect the Unit Ministry Team (UMT) in combat.

What is meant by ecclesiastical endorsement or approval?

The Department of Defense has established and maintains a list of recognized faith groups that are approved for endorsing clergy for the military chaplaincies. A chaplain applicant must secure an endorsement, while a chaplain candidate receives an approval from one of these groups in order to enter the Army chaplaincy.

How long is the physical examination?

The physical examination is scheduled early in the morning at a regional Military Processing Station and takes about six hours.

What are the physical requirements?

All Soldiers must meet the Army's height and weight standards which are age based. They must also be able to pass a physical fitness test. Maintaining a high level of physical fitness is the responsibility of each individual chaplain.

Can my family come to the Chaplains Basic Leadership Course with me?

The government will not pay for family travel or lodging expenses. Guests are welcome to visit and may also attend the graduation.

How much money do chaplains earn?

The pay and allowances depend on rank, time-in-service and component.

Will I be deployed to a war zone?

All Soldiers are subject to being deployed according to the needs of the Army.

For more detailed answers, visit goarmy.com/chaplain

