

U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS

INVESTING
IN **PEOPLE**,
CONNECTING
THEM IN **SPIRIT**,
CULTIVATING
COMMUNITY!





ARMY PRIORITY #1 **PEOPLE**

CHAPLAIN CORPS PRIORITIES

#1: PEOPLE



#2: COMMUNITY



"CARING FOR THE SOUL OF THE ARMY"
OUR **PEOPLE MATTER!**

U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS

THE CHAPLAIN CORPS STORY

The Continental Congress created the Chaplain Corps on July 29, 1775. With the encouragement of General George Washington, the Congress authorized one ordained Chaplain, serving at the rank of Captain, for each regular regiment of the Continental Army, to ensure that American Soldiers would always have spiritual support and guidance near at hand.

The Chaplain Corps has evolved and diversified along with the rest of the Army. Roman Catholic Chaplains were added to the Corps during the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). Jewish and African-American Chaplains were added during the American Civil War (1861-1865). The Army subsequently commissioned its first female Chaplain in 1974, its first Muslim Chaplain in 1993, its first Buddhist Chaplain in 2009, and its first Hindu Chaplain in 2011.



U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS

THE CHAPLAIN CORPS TODAY

The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps is the most multifaceted and capable chaplaincy in history. The keys to this success have been the faithfulness of Chaplain Corps members; the quality of the Corps' leaders; the superiority of the Corps' education, training, and development; and the ability of the Corps – Regular Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve – to conduct its sacred mission successfully, within a complex and continuously changing environment.

The Chaplain Corps mission is vital to the readiness of the Army and the Nation, because the Chaplain Corps "Cares for the Soul of the Army." The Corps' members do this within the Army's formations at every level and at locations around the globe, by ensuring the constitutionally-mandated free exercise of religion, while delivering spiritual and religious care directly to Soldiers, their Families, and Army Civilians, and by providing advisement on religion, morals, ethics, and morale.



U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS SENIOR LEADERS

CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS

Chaplain (Major General) Thomas L. Solhjem

25TH CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS

Chaplain (Major General) Thomas L. Solhjem became the United States Army's 25th Chief of Chaplains in May 2019. He is ordained as a minister and endorsed as an Army Chaplain by the General Council of the Assemblies of God; and he has served in multiple key assignments and on multiple deployments, supporting a wide array of Army units and Soldiers.

As the Chief of Chaplains, Chaplain (Major General) Solhjem leads the Army Chaplain Corps in providing religious support to the Soldiers, Families, and Civilians of the U.S. Army.



“Our responsibility to “Care for the Soul of the Army” includes the duty to provide help, hope, and healing to everyone in our ranks.”

– CH (MG) TOM SOLHJEM
CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS



U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS SENIOR LEADERS

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

Sergeant Major Ralph Martinez

9TH CHAPLAIN CORPS REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

Sergeant Major Ralph Martinez entered military service in August 1988. Prior to assuming duties as the Chaplain Corps Regimental Sergeant Major, Sergeant Major Martinez served in key leadership positions at United States Army Forces Command, United States Central Command, United States European Command, and United States Army Africa Command. Sergeant Major Martinez served five tours in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, in addition to deploying in support of Operation Joint Forge.



– SGM RALPH MARTINEZ
REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR



U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS SENIOR LEADERS

DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS

Chaplain (Brigadier General) William Green, Jr.

26TH DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS

Chaplain (Brigadier General) William Green Jr. became the United States Army's 26th Deputy Chief of Chaplains in August 2019. He is ordained as a minister and endorsed as an Army Chaplain by the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; and he has served in multiple key assignments and on multiple deployments, supporting a wide array of Army units and Soldiers.

As the Deputy Chief of Chaplains, Chaplain (Brigadier General) Green supports the Chief of Chaplains in leading the Army Chaplain Corps, to provide religious support to the Soldiers, Families, and Civilians of the U.S. Army.



– CH (BG) BILL GREEN
DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS



U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS SENIOR LEADERS

DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Chaplain (Brigadier General) Thomas G. Behling

DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Chaplain (Brigadier General) Thomas (Tom) G. Behling became the Director of the Joint Chaplains Office, National Guard Bureau, as well as the Senior Army National Guard Chaplain and Deputy Chief of Chaplains for the Army National Guard, in July 2020. He is the primary Army National Guard liaison to the United States Army Chief of Chaplains. He is ordained as a minister and endorsed as an Army Chaplain by the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA). Chaplain Behling provides advice and counsel to the Chief, National Guard Bureau, and the Director of the Army National Guard, and he oversees resources, training, and policy for more than 800 Chaplains serving 350,000 Army National Guard Soldiers, their Families, and Army Guard Civilians.



– CH (BG) TOM BEHLING
DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS SENIOR LEADERS

DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, U.S. ARMY RESERVE

Chaplain (Brigadier General) Andrew R. Harewood

DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, U.S. ARMY RESERVE

Chaplain (Brigadier General) Andrew R. Harewood became the Deputy Chief of Chaplains, United States Army Reserve, in November 2020. He serves as the primary Army Reserve liaison to the United States Army Chief of Chaplains. He is ordained as a minister and endorsed as an Army Chaplain by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Chaplain Harewood provides advice and counsel to the Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, and he oversees resources, training, and policy for more than 700 Chaplains serving nearly 190,000 Army Reserve Soldiers, their Families, and Army Reserve Civilians.



– CH (BG) ANDREW HAREWOOD
DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS
U.S. ARMY RESERVE



U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS

WHO WE ARE

U.S. Army Chaplains are experienced religious leaders and spiritual caregivers, dedicated to serving Soldiers, their Families, and Army Civilians. While all Chaplains have a sacred duty to serve God and Country, and all members of the Army Family, each Chaplain identifies with a specific faithgroup.



CHRISTIAN



JEWISH



MUSLIM



BUDDHIST



HINDU






















CHAPLAIN CANDIDATE

Chaplain Candidates train to become Army Chaplains at the same time they are completing their civilian schooling and training for religious leadership. All Chaplain Candidates are commissioned officers, assigned to the Army National Guard or Army Reserve. They train up to 30 days each year under the supervision of a senior Chaplain, after they have completed phase one of the Chaplain Basic Officer Leader Course.



U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS

WHO WE ARE

OFFICER CHAPLAINS										
Chaplain Candidates		O-1 Chaplain Candidates	O-2	O-3	O-4	O-5	O-6	O-7	O-8	
										
		Second Lieutenant (2LT) Army Reserve	First Lieutenant (1LT) 18 mos	Captain (CPT) 24 mos	Major (MAJ) 11 yrs 5 mos	Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) 16 yrs 6 mos	Colonel (COL) 21 yrs 8 mos	Brigadier General (BG)	Major General (MG)	
ENLISTED RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS SPECIALISTS										
No Insignia	E-2	E-3	E-4	E-5	E-6	E-7	E-8	E-9	E-9	
										
Private (PV1)	Private Second Class (PV2) 6 mos	Private First Class (PFC) 16 mos	Specialist (SFC) 30 mos	Corporal (CPL) 30 mos	Sergeant (SGT) 4 yrs 6 mos	Staff Sergeant (SSG) 8 yrs	Sergeant First Class (SFC) 12 yrs 6 mos	Master Sergeant (MSG) 20 yrs	First Sergeant (1SG) 20 yrs	Sergeant Major (SGM) 22 yrs 6 mos
									Command Sergeant Major (CSM)	Regimental Sergeant Major

The Army established an official position for enlisted assistants to Chaplains in 1909. Known as Chaplain Assistants until October 1, 2017, and now as Religious Affairs Specialists, these Soldiers assist Chaplains with essential administrative and logistical support, while providing expertise in religious support and religious support operations. Since 1929, Army Chaplains themselves have not received training as combat Soldiers, so their enlisted teammates also perform and coordinate for the force protection requirements necessary to conduct religious support operations, and to minimize the personal security risks to Chaplains while they perform their duties in combat situations.

Chaplains and Religious Affairs Specialists serve alongside Department of the Army Civilians in the grades of GS-7 to GS-15, including Directors of Religious Education (DREs) in the grades of GS-9 to GS-13. DREs are the Army's Religious Education professionals. They develop innovative, comprehensive, lifelong faith formation programs for all ages and faith perspectives, as a critical component of ensuring that Army communities are spiritually resilient, and ready to be victorious over the multitude of challenges that come with military life. DREs have been supporting Chaplains in their Religious Education mission since 1948.



U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS

WHO WE ARE

The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps is a Total Army Chaplain Corps – one Corps – across all three Components: Regular Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve.

FY2022 Authorized End Strength	Regular Army	Army National Guard	Army Reserve	Total Army Totals
Chaplains	1,365	814	707	2,886
Religious Affairs Specialists	1,332	765	761	2,858
Component Totals	2,697	1,579	1,468	5,744

The Chaplain Corps also depends on the vital contributions of 145 Department of the Army Civilians.



U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS

TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

In 2016, the Office of the Chief of Chaplains began taking steps to reform the Chaplain Corps to meet Army readiness needs ISO Force 2025 and Beyond. This involves improving Chaplain Corps capabilities to recruit and develop religious support professionals who can operate successfully within the complex strategic environment facing the Army and the Chaplain Corps; and integrating operational religious support functions, to foster stronger, more resilient Army People and more vibrant, more supportive Army Community.

U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS LINES OF EFFORT

RECRUIT

The Chaplain Corps will acquire the specialized religious support talent the Army needs by improving the Corps' marketing, recruiting, and onboarding.

LEAD

The Chaplain Corps will develop our talent by improving the ways we educate, train, and credential the Corps.

ALIGN

The Chaplain Corps will employ our talent by improving the ways we align religious support functions and capabilities across the Army.

REVITALIZE

The Chaplain Corps will empower our talent to help create a new generation of vibrant local Army communities to support and help retain all members of the Army Family.

"Our diverse Chaplain Corps members are continuously engaging with one another to unify and enhance our efforts to deliver religious support across the Army."

CH (MG) Thomas L. Solhjem, Chief of Chaplains

U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS

MESSAGING

- ★ For 244 years, since even before America was a country, the US Army Chaplain Corps' sacred calling and purpose has been to "Care for the Soul of the Army."
- ★ The Chaplain Corps is committed to "Investing in People, Connecting them in Spirit, and Cultivating Community," physically and virtually, regardless of the operating conditions the Army faces.
- ★ The Chaplain Corps directly supports the Army's #1 Priority - People. The Army's People include Soldiers, their Families, Army Civilians, and Army Retirees and Veterans.
- ★ In caring for the spiritual well-being of the Army's People, the Chaplain Corps leverages creative and innovative approaches to positive messaging, counseling, spiritual care, and all religious support programs, including religious services.
- ★ The People of the Army will get through any and all challenges we face by moving forward together, as we stay socially and spiritually connected with each other.
- ★ We must stay socially and spiritually connected to counteract the extreme vulnerabilities that come with isolation: suicide, substance abuse, sexual harassment and assault, and other risk-taking behaviors.
- ★ The Chaplain Corps is always praying for all the members of the Army community, their extended Families, and our Nation, both in response to requests for prayer and as a daily part of accomplishing the Corps' mission of "Caring for the Soul of the Army."



Join the Conversation

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