

# The Mission of the UMT

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## Religious Support Capabilities

Provide Religious Support  
Advise the Commander



Maj. Gen. Edward Merrigan and CH (LTC) Kenneth Honken prepare for their respective roles during the wreath laying of Zachary Taylor at the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Louisville, KY.

## Religious Support Competencies

Nurture the Living  
Care for the Wounded  
Honor the Dead

### UNIT MINISTRY TEAM

UNIT CHAPLAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS SPECIALIST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



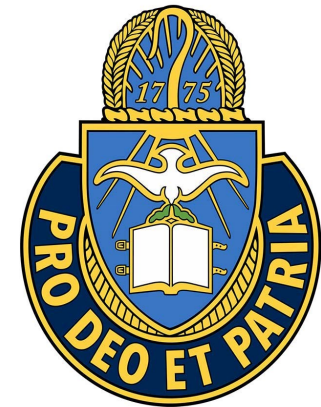
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# US ARMY RESERVE

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## Your Unit Ministry Team (UMT)



*USARC:  
Ready Now!  
Shaping Tomorrow...*

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*The Chaplain Corps:  
Caring for the Soul of the Army*

# Spiritual Readiness

**What is Spiritual Readiness:** “Spiritual Readiness develops the personal qualities a person needs in times of stress, hardship and tragedy. These qualities come from religious, philosophical, or human values and form the basis for character decision making, and integrity.” (FM 7-22, 10-1) Spirituality is often defined as, “a sense of connection that gives meaning and purpose to person’s life.” (10-2) The identifying marks of the spiritual dimension is an understanding of you own “purpose, core values, beliefs, identity, and life vision.” (10-2)

## BUILDING SPIRITUAL READINESS

**READ SPIRITUAL BOOKS:** Readings could be sacred texts such as the Bible, Koran, or Torah or as varied as Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkien, Meditations by Marcus Aurelius, or Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People by Rabbi Kushner.

**PRAY:** Communicating with God, or a “higher power” includes sharing your life and listening for guidance.

**CONTEMPLATION and REFLECTION:** Take time re-view your own experience, make meaning of those experiences.

**SPEND TIME IN NATURE:** Enhance your connection with the natural world. Experience beauty or “wildness” as presented in nature. Watch a sunrise or a sunset.

**YOGA, TAI-CHI, WALKING:** Enhance your connection with your body. Intentional breathing, stretching and practicing mindful presence.

**JOURNAL:** Recording your private ideas, concerns, and thoughts.

**GRATITUDE:** Being aware and expressing thankfulness for the good you have experienced or encountered in your life.

**VOLUNTEER/ACTS OF SERVICE:** Sharing your gifts, talents, and time with others builds your spirituality by helping others.

**BUILD COMMUNITY:** Humans need people. Family and friends are the foundations of our community. Also consider the other communities you are part of. Communities of worship, teams, hobby groups can all support you socially and provide needed meaning and support.

# About the UMT

## Chaplains (56A):

- Serve on the CDR’s personal staff
- Have direct access to the Commander
- Advise the Commander:
- On the **Free Exercise** of Religion
- The Impact of Religion on Operations
- Provide 100% confidential counseling
- Hold rank without command
- Analyze and advise on the impact of religion on operations
- Are NON-Combatants / Will not qualify or train with weapons
- Exercise technical supervision for subordinate Chaplains and Chaplain Candidates



(L to R) SFC Patterson, CH (LTC) James, CH (MAJ) Cox, MSG Burch, the Unit Ministry Team of USACPAOC (2021)

## Religious Affairs Specialists (56M):

- Combatants / Qualify with weapons
- Supervised by the Chaplain
- Practice Confidential Communications
- Serve as trainers for the Command
- Coordinate logistical, administrative, and security support for the UMT
- Exercise technical supervision for subordinate Religious Affairs Specialists

# Religious Support

- Support the Free Exercise of Religion
- Provide Confidential Counseling
- Provide Crisis Support and Intervention
- Execute the Command Driven, Chaplain Led Building Strong and Ready Teams Program
- Support for Casualty notifications / Red Cross Messages
- Administration of religious rites, sacraments, and ordinances IAW Faith Group
- Lead Chapel Services / Text Studies
- Connect Soldiers with caregiving agencies and support programs
- Support for Religious Accommodation, Conscientious Objector, and Hardships requests
- Participate in Unit Ceremonies
  - Memorial Ceremony / Service
  - Promotion Ceremony
  - Retirement Ceremony
- Part of Integrated Soldier Caregiving and Resiliency (CR2C, SHARP, EO, H2F etc)
- Instruct religious / non-religious programs such as:
  - Army values
  - Resiliency and Readiness
  - Ethical and moral decision making
  - Building Strong and Ready Teams



SFC Mary Munyua, Senior Religious Affairs Specialist, 84th Training Command leads a BSRT event “Seven Habits of Successful Soldiers” (Dec 2022)