

AVC Volunteer Position

Lifegroups, Coordinating Council, Chair

USAG Ansbach Chapels

Summary - Lifegroups are basic religious education program, thus an integral element of Commanders' mission

Position Type Ongoing position

Posted 6/23/2016

Duties Lifegroups provide Religious Education to all ages. The education provided is equivalent to traditional Sunday School and are therefore categorized as providing an essential element of religious support in accordance with AR 165-1, para 2-3.a.

Lifegroups are for all ages (children, youth, and adult). Children (0-18yo) who attend will stay within line of sight of their parents. Children, youth, and adults participate equally in this program.

The Lifegroups Coordinating Council is an advisory group made of Lifegroup representatives from each garrison chapel congregation. The Lifegroup Coordinating Council Chairperson (Chair) is the convener of these meetings and works under the supervision of the Garrison Chaplain and Director of Religious Education.

In a joint faith program, each Lifegroup leader will be connected with a chapel congregation providing point of contact and leadership for the Lifegroup program inside that congregation's structure.

All volunteers will work under the Supervision of the Garrison Chaplain through the Director of Religious Education (DRE) and Sponsoring Chaplain. In the absence of a DRE, the IMCOM-Europe Religious Education Program Director (REPD) assists with supervision. Curriculum and resources will be approved and/or provided by the Garrison Chaplain's Office.

The Chair is a SPECIFIED VOLUNTEER who will:
- Weekly - Assist the Garrison Chaplain and congregation Sponsoring Chaplains in promoting advertising of Lifegroup program.

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- Biweekly (or weekly) - Provide assistance to Lifegroup Leaders for their study events.
- Monthly - Lead the Council in planning a fun and fellowship activity for all congregations' Lifegroup groups.
- Quarterly - Lead the Council in planning a spiritual resilience activity for all congregations' Lifegroup groups.
- Semiannually - Lead the Council in planning a service project for all congregations' Lifegroup groups.
- Annually - Attend Lifegroup Volunteer Leadership Training planned by the IMCOM-Europe Lifegroup Working Group.

May also serve on IMCOM-Europe Lifegroup Working Group.

The Chair will record, and report to his/her supervisor, voluntary service either in VMIS or using DA Forms 4713 and 4162.

The Leader will never be alone with a child or youth. All programs will have at least 2 vetted adults attending. Unless with written permission from the Garrison Chaplain and consideration of AT/FP, all Lifegroup events will be on the installation.

If the use of a motor vehicle is required for this program, then the Sponsoring Chaplain will arrange government employee and government vehicle, and the 2 adult rule will still apply.

The volunteer shall maintain strict confidentiality with respect to any personal or command information entrusted to or encountered by the volunteer. Failure to meet confidentiality standards will result in termination of the volunteer. By signing the volunteer agreement, the volunteer agrees to the Department of Defense confidentiality and privacy requirements understands and agrees to adhere to these requirements.

The use of a vehicle is not required to perform these duties and is specifically prohibited.

Credential or License
Required

Yes (see qualifications)

Qualifications

Qualifications for Lifegroup Coordinating Council Chair include:
- Lifegroup volunteers will be aged 18 or older.

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- Attendance at a designated Garrison congregation's worship at least twice a month.
- Demonstrated leadership abilities and understanding of Army Lifegroups.
- Each Army chapel volunteer will serve after completing basic volunteer documentation as provided by the Garrison Chaplain's office. For statutory volunteers, at a minimum, this includes DA Form 2793. Unless VMIS is used, DA Form 4162 and DA Form 4713. For other forms of voluntary service, see the SOPs issued by the Office of the Chief of Chaplains.
- Because of the Specified designation of this PD, completed Army child protection prescreening and background checks. Valid documentation on file at the Garrison Chaplain's office.
- All Lifegroup leaders will sign annual disclosure statements and attend annual training as required in this Position Description.

Involves working with children or youth on a regular basis. Volunteers working with children or youth on a regular basis must have a completed background check (Installation Records Check IRC and CID check; local nationals must also have a local government check).

Training

Required training includes:

- Annual Chapel Child Protection Training
- Annual Lifegroup Leader Training

Other training may include:

- IMCOM-Europe CARE Center Volunteer Training.
- Religious Group and/or academic religious education certification and professional development programs.
- First Aid
- CPR

Involves work with confidential issues. Volunteers who work with confidential issues are required to have training on confidentiality and the safeguarding of privacy protected records.

Orientation

Annual Lifegroup Leader orientation is provided by the Garrison Chaplain's Office and is part of the requirement for all Chapel Volunteers.

Time Required

The time commitment is 10-15 hours per week to include:
- Congregational coordination.

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- Engagement with youth and congregation.
- Preparation and leadership of programs.
- Training.
- Travel to/from Lifegroup programming.

Evaluation

Evaluation is ongoing by the Garrison Chaplain through the DRE and Sponsoring Chaplain.

Evaluation standards include:

- Demonstrated commitment to the Lifegroup Program measured by recorded and reported volunteer service.
- Fulfillment of Chair duties measured by feedback from the congregations and participants.
- Communication and coordination with Garrison Chapel staff and other Lifegroup Volunteers measured by feedback from Garrison Chapel leaders.
- Compliance with Army regulations regarding religion, child protection, and safety measured by chapel records.
- Personal development measured by attendance at and completion of training opportunities.

If the Garrison Chaplain determines that a Lifegroup Chair does not comply with requirements, then the volunteer will be terminated from service.

Benefits

Benefits to Chair include:

- personal religious education and faith development through chapel engagement and leadership.
- professional growth through training and program leadership.
- enhanced resilience through interpersonal and religious support.

Address

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Contact Person

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AVC Coordinator

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