



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 1738.1
N097
19 Dec 2011

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1738.1

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: CHAPLAINS RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT DEVELOPMENT OPERATION

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1730.7D
(b) 10 U.S.C.
(c) OPNAVINST 5380.1B

1. Purpose. This instruction provides Navy policy, procedures, and responsibilities for governing the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Navy Chaplains' (OPNAV (N097)) sponsored Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) and ensuring standardized OPNAV (N097) approved CREDO programming in the Navy as directed in reference (a).

2. Applicability. This instruction applies to all Navy chaplains and religious program specialists serving in Navy CREDO billets.

3. Background. Military service presents unique challenges and opportunities. CREDO offers transformational retreat-based programs designed to assist authorized users, as defined by sections 1789 and 10141 of reference (b), in developing the spiritual resources and resiliency necessary to excel in the military environment. Since 1971, CREDO has offered spiritual, personal, and relational growth opportunities to tens of thousands of authorized users, profoundly enhancing the lives and service of participants. CREDO provides commanders with a key resource by which to care for and strengthen authorized users.

4. Concept of Operations

a. Standardized Programming. CREDO shall offer the same standardized OPNAV (N097) approved core programs at all CREDO locations to meet specific needs as identified by commanders and Chaplain Corps leadership. In addition, CREDO shall offer OPNAV (N097) approved specialized programs to meet emergent requirements identified by commanders.

b. Spiritual. CREDO programming is spiritual in nature. Spiritual in this sense refers to that which gives meaning and purpose to life, or to the practice of a philosophy, religion, or way of living. CREDO provides a supportive venue where people of various backgrounds can work together, without professing a common belief, to pursue the development of their own spirituality as they define or understand it.

c. Not Faith-Group Specific. CREDO programming is not faith-group specific in nature. Unlike the command religious program which primarily offers faith-group specific programming, or Fleet and Family Support Center programs that are secular in nature, CREDO programming addresses the spiritual aspect of humanity without adhering to the manner and form of any particular religious organization. Programming may include religious beliefs representative of participants when used in a respectful manner that honors the rights of others to determine their own religious convictions.

d. Responsive. CREDO programs respond to identified requirements to meet the spiritual, personal, and relational needs of authorized users.

e. Cooperative. As a significant contributor within Navy family readiness programs, CREDO will coordinate with Fleet and Family Support Center staff, installation chaplains, and other care-related service providers to identify needs and to ensure the most effective and efficient delivery of care.

5. Organizational Structure

a. CREDO is an organizational component within Navy shore installations. Per section 1789 of reference (b), CREDO is funded with appropriated funds to:

(1) Foster resiliency by providing programs on an as-available, no-fee basis to authorized users.

(2) Enhance Command Religious Programs by addressing identified needs.

b. The senior chaplain assigned at each CREDO shall be designated as the Director, CREDO for that location.

6. Action

a. Consistent with reference (a), OPNAV (N097) shall:

(1) Coordinate with Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) to establish a CREDO directors' working group to advise OPNAV (N097) on CREDO policy and programming.

(2) Approve all CREDO policy and programming.

b. CNIC shall:

(1) Include CREDO as an integral and essential element of administration, planning, programming and budgeting activities, supported with appropriated funds at a level consistent with other personnel programs within the Navy.

(2) Coordinate with Marine Corps Personal and Family Readiness Division and the Chaplain of the Coast Guard (CG-00A) as required to ensure cooperative, effective and efficient delivery of CREDO programming across Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard lines.

(3) Coordinate with OPNAV (N097) to establish implementing policy consistent with the intent of this instruction to include:

(a) Organizational structures and staffing standards.

(b) Standard operating procedures.

(c) Standard program approval processes.

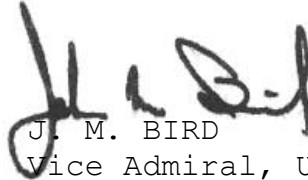
(d) Reporting requirements and metrics.

(e) Training requirements.

(f) Utilization of volunteers in compliance with reference (c).

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7. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of November 2007.



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