

Navy Chaplains - Called To Serve

We are religious leaders and naval officers.

We are faithful to our calling as chaplains and strive to grow in our faith.

We have taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and will faithfully discharge our duties.

We respect the dignity of those we serve.

We seek to understand cultural and religious values that differ from our own.

We believe the right to exercise our faith is best protected when we protect the rights of all to worship or not worship as they choose.

We work together to meet religious needs.

We are called to serve our people, the Naval Service and each other.

We hold sacred the trust placed in us.

We Are Navy Chaplains

-- excerpted from SECNAVINST 5351.1
Professional Naval Chaplaincy

Navy Chaplains - Since 1775

Forged in the furnace of conflict and war, the Chaplain Corps was established on 28 November 1775, at the same time the second article of Navy Regulations was adopted. The article stated that "the Commanders of the ships of the thirteen United Colonies are to take care that divine services be performed twice a day on board and a sermon preached on Sundays, unless bad weather or other extraordinary accidents prevent." Although chaplains were not specifically mentioned in this article, one can imply that Congress intended that an ordained clergyman be part of ship's company. Later documents and practice support this conclusion.

By October 1906, the Chaplain Corps came into its own. A board of chaplains appointed by the Secretary of the Navy established guidelines that required all newly commissioned chaplains to be graduates of both college and seminary and that such should receive the endorsement of their denominations. The office of the Chief of Chaplains was established in 1917 as a result of this board's recommendations. Captain John Brown Frazier, a Southern Methodist, became the Navy's first Chief of Chaplains.

World War II brought unprecedented change to the size and scope of the Navy Chaplain Corps. Over 2800 chaplains were called to active duty. In a post-war speech, Admiral Chester Nimitz, commenting on the role of chaplains in World War II said, "By his patient, sympathetic labors with the men, day in, day out, and through many a night, every chaplain I know contributed immeasurably to the moral courage of our fighting men."

Chaplains have served with distinction throughout the entire history of the United States Navy. In times of war and peace, chaplains have stood beside the men and women of the sea services. The abolition of flogging, the removal of alcohol aboard ship, physical training, entertainment and recreation aboard ship, education, and spiritual leadership are but a few of the contributions made by the men and women of the United States Navy Chaplain Corps.

- excerpted from [Chaplain & RP's Guide to Professional Naval Chaplaincy](#)

Chaplain Support in the Navy Reserve



*Facilitate
Provide
Care
Advise*

Navy Reserve Chaplains

Who are we?

We are over 200 commissioned officers in the Navy Reserve, representing numerous faith groups. We are endorsed by religious organizations to serve as Navy Chaplains, receive specialized training to care for military members and their families, and mobilize and serve just like all in the Navy Reserve.

What do we offer?

- We offer a wide spectrum of counsel, advice, and pastoral care for service members and their families.

- We keep 100% of your communications with us in complete confidence unless you direct otherwise.

- We are Naval Officers who understand the challenges of Navy life and religious ministers available to help you grow in your faith.

- We offer religious ministry that is faith specific, and we facilitate religious ministry for faiths other than our own.

- We advise leaders at all levels in the Naval Service regarding morale, ethics, and spiritual well-being.

Who can call a chaplain?

Any Reservist or family member.

You can call a chaplain about...

- Stress in relationships or within the Navy
- Marriage/relationship issues
- Deployment/mobilization – whether for the first time or multiple deployments
- Reintegration with family or Sailor after mobilization
- Religious/spiritual questions
- Moral/ethical issues
- Anything you need to share in confidence!

How do you contact a Navy Reserve Chaplain?

First, you may contact your own unit. Many Navy Reserve units have a chaplain, or a chaplain that covers your unit. If your unit does not have a chaplain, a chaplain in another unit at the NOSC where you drill may be available. Nearby Reserve or Guard chaplains from other services may also be resources.

If you are unable to locate a chaplain at your unit or NOSC, you can reach out to a chaplain through the Navy 311 Website:

<http://www.public.navy.mil/fltfor/navalchaplaincy/chaplincare/Pages/default.aspx>

Or by phone at 1-855-NAVY311 (1-855-628-9311)

Find more information about chaplain support and services for mobilizing Sailors and their families, visit:

<http://www.ia.navy.mil/>

CREDO

CREDO is Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation. Since its beginning in the 1970s, CREDO Chaplains have conducted retreats for spiritual growth, personal growth, and marriage enrichment around the world.

CREDO retreats provide Sailors, Marines and their families the opportunity to get away for a free weekend, or one day seminar, and strengthen their personal lives, marriages, or families.

CREDO retreats are open to all Navy Active and Reserve Component members and their families at no cost to themselves or their commands.

Navy CREDO Centers

- Europe (Naples) 011-081-568-5255
- Hawaii 808-257-1843
- Mid-Atlantic (Norfolk) 757-444-1091
- New England (Groton) 860-694-1147
- Northwest (Bremerton) 360-476-3793
- San Diego 619-532-1437
- Southeast (Jacksonville) 904-542-3923

Marine Corps CREDO Centers

- Camp Lejeune 910-450-1668
- Camp Pendleton 760-725-4995
- Okinawa 011-81-611-745-3041

Please call CREDO Centers for retreat information.