

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE POLICY DIRECTIVE

52-1

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Chaplain

CHAPLAIN CORPS



COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This directive is consistent with the policy in Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 1304.19, *Appointment of Chaplains for the Military Departments*. This publication is applicable for Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, and civilian personnel in fulfilling the mission of the Chaplain Corps. Ensure all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule located in the Air Force Records Information Management System. Refer recommended changes and conflicts between this and other publications to the Air Force Chief of Chaplains Office, Plans and Programs Division, AF/HCX, 1380 Air Force Pentagon, Room 4D286, Washington, DC 20330-1380, on Air Force Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route Air Force Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document has been substantially revised and needs to be completely reviewed.

1. Overview. The Air Force places a high value on the rights of its members to observe the tenets of their respective religions. In addition, spiritual health is fundamental to the well-being of Airmen and their families and is essential for operational success.
2. Policy. It is Air Force policy for commanders to provide for the free exercise of religion. Chaplains are the commanders' resource to accomplish this task and serve "as the principal advisors to commanders regarding the impact of religion on military operations." Further, as

explained in Joint Guide (JG) 1-05, *Religious Affairs in Joint Operations*, Air Force “chaplains advise the commander and staff on the ethical, moral, and religious dimensions of armed conflict.” Chaplains may also be tasked with certain liaison functions. Chaplains shall serve a religiously diverse population, providing comprehensive religious support to all authorized individuals within their area of responsibilities.

3. Mission.

3.1. The Air Force Chaplain Corps provides spiritual care and ensures all Airmen and their families have opportunities to exercise their constitutional right to the free exercise of religion.

3.2. Core Capabilities. The core capabilities of the Chaplain Corps are:

3.2.1. Spiritual Care. Meeting the diverse spiritual needs of Airmen and their families.

3.2.2. Advise Leadership. Inform Air Force leaders on matters related to religious, spiritual, ethical, moral, and morale concerns, while advocating for the religious and spiritual needs of Airmen and their families.

4. Responsibilities and Authorities. This directive recognizes or establishes the following responsibilities and authorities:

4.1. Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (SAF/MR). Serves as the agent of the Secretary and provides guidance, direction, and oversight for all matters pertaining to the formulation, review and execution of plans, policies and programs addressing religious, ethical, and quality of life programs.

4.2. Director of Staff (DS), Headquarters Air Force. Serves as the immediate supervisor of the Chief of Chaplains.

4.3. Chief of Chaplains. Principal advisor for religious matters to the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) and is responsible for recruiting, organizing, training and equipping Chaplain Corps personnel.

4.3.1. Develops tactical doctrine and guidance providing oversight of all Air Force Chaplain Corps echelons to meet the religious and spiritual needs of Airmen and their families.

4.3.2. Serves on the Armed Forces Chaplains Board (AFCB) in accordance with DoDI 5120.08, *Armed Forces Chaplains Board*.

4.3.3. Directs the establishment of Religious Support Teams (RSTs). The Religious Support Team is comprised of one Air Force chaplain and one Religious Affairs Airmen at every organizational level. Religious Support Teams are assigned and actively engaged in each squadron, advising leadership, and providing spiritual care that is sensitive to the needs of all Airmen and their families.

4.3.4. Directs the establishment of Senior Religious Support Teams (Sr RSTs). The highest ranking chaplain and Religious Affairs Airmen determine ministry requirements and lead their Religious Support Teams to provide opportunities for worship, spiritual care, and unit ministry across their area of responsibility.

4.4. Deputy Chief of Chaplains. Assists the Chief of Chaplains in establishing guidance on all matters pertaining to the religious and spiritual welfare of Airmen and their families and directing and maintaining a trained, equipped, and professional Chaplain Corps.

HEATHER WILSON
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 30 May 2018

DoDD 1304.19, *Appointment of Chaplains for the Military Departments*, 23 April 2007

JG 1-05, *Religious Affairs in Joint Operations*, 1 February 2018

DoDI 5120.08, *Armed Forces Chaplains Board*, 20 August 2007

Adopted Forms

Air Force Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*, 01 December 2015