



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

MCO 1738.1
REL
30 Apr 2012

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1738.1

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: CHAPLAINS RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT DEVELOPMENT OPERATION

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1730.7D
(b) Title 10 U.S.C.
(c) MCO 1754.6B
(d) BUPERSINST 1610.10C
(e) OPNAVINST 5380.1B
(f) SECNAV M-5210.1

1. Situation. This Order provides policy for administration and support of the Chief of Chaplains-sponsored Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) and its programming as directed in reference (a). This Order is new and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Mission. To publish policy, responsibilities, and procedures governing CREDO in the Marine Corps.

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Service in the Marine Corps presents unique challenges and opportunities. CREDO offers transformational, retreat-based programs designed to assist participants in developing the spiritual resources and resiliency necessary to excel in the Marine Corps.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Standardized Programming. CREDO shall offer the same standardized Chief of Chaplains-approved core programs at all CREDO locations to meet specific needs as identified by commanders and Chaplain Corps leadership. Additionally, CREDO shall offer specialized programs to meet emergent requirements identified by commanders.

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distribution is unlimited.

(b) Not Faith Group-Specific. CREDO programming is not faith-group specific in nature. Unlike the Command Religious Program (CRP) which primarily offers faith-group specific programming, or Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) 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. CREDO provides a supportive venue where people of various backgrounds can strengthen their own spirituality. 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.

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

(d) Cooperative. As a significant contributor within the Marine Corps Family Team Building program, CREDO shall coordinate with MCCS staff, installation chaplains, and other care-related service providers to identify needs and to ensure the most effective and efficient delivery of care.

(e) Organizational Structure

1. CREDO is an organizational component within Marine Corps installations and Marine Corps Forces Reserve (MARFORRES). Per section 1789 of reference (b) and reference (c), CREDO is funded with appropriated funds to:

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

b. Enhance CRPs by addressing identified needs.

2. The Chaplain of the Marine Corps (HQMC (REL)) is designated the executive agent for CREDO and its programming throughout the Marine Corps.

3. The senior chaplain assigned at each active component CREDO location shall be designated as the CREDO Director for that location.

4. The Force Chaplain, MARFORRES, shall assign the CREDO Director for MARFORRES.

b. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) Chaplain of the Marine Corps (REL)

(a) Coordinate with Marine and Family Programs Division (MF), Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department (M&RA), to establish a CREDO Directors' Working Group to advise on CREDO policy and programming.

(b) Review and approve all Marine Corps CREDO policy and programming.

(2) DC M&RA (MF)

(a) 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 Marine Corps.

(b) Coordinate with Commander, Navy Installations Command, and the Chaplain of the Coast Guard, as required, to ensure cooperative, effective and efficient delivery of CREDO programming across Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard lines.

(c) Coordinate with HQMC (REL) to develop and conduct periodic training and information campaigns to inform and train commanders and command personnel on CREDO and its programming consistent with reference (c).

(3) Marine Corps Forces Pacific; Marine Corps Forces Command; MARFORRES; and Marine Corps Installation Command. Coordinate with HQMC (REL) to establish implementing policy consistent with the intent of this Order to include:

(a) Organizational structures and staffing standards.

(b) Standard operating procedures.

(c) Standardized program approval processes.

(d) Reporting requirements and metrics.

(e) Training requirements.

(f) Fitness report and evaluation requirements in accordance with reference (d).

(g) Use of volunteers per reference (e).

4. Administration and Logistics

a. Recommendations concerning the contents of this Order may be forwarded to HQMC (REL) via the appropriate chain of command.

b. Records created as a result of this Order, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per reference (f).

5. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.



W. J. WILLIAMS
Director, Marine Corps Staff

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