



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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MCO 1738.1A
REL
3 Nov 2015

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1738.1A

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: CHAPLAINS RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT DEVELOPMENT OPERATION

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1730.7D
(b) MCO 1730.6E
(c) U.S. Navy Regulations
(d) SECNAVINST 5351.1
(e) GAO Principles of Federal Appropriations Law: Third Edition, Volume I
(f) 10 U.S.C.
(g) MCO 1754.6C
(h) SECNAV M-5210.1
(i) 5 U.S.C. 552a
(j) SECNAV M-5211.5E

1. Situation. This Order provides guidance for Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) programs pursuant to references (a) through (g). This is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. MCO 1738.1.

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

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Service in the Marine Corps presents unique challenges and opportunities. CREDO programs strengthen the religious, moral, and spiritual well-being of Department of the Navy (DON) Service members, civilians, and families, thereby increasing individual and family resilience and enhancing mission readiness.

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(2) Concept of Operations. CREDO programs operate within Command Religious Programs (CRP), per references (a) and (b). CREDO programs are funded with appropriated funds (APF), pursuant to paragraph 6 of reference (a) and Article 0820 of reference (c), at a level consistent with other personnel programs necessary to execute the commander's mission and are offered at no cost to participants.

(a) Organizational Structure

1. As the Director of Religious Ministry for the DON, per reference (a), the Chief of Chaplains shall approve all programs used in CREDO and all position descriptions for persons working in support of CREDO.

2. Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) and Marine Corps Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) provide administrative oversight for the execution of CREDO programs.

3. Regional commanders exercise control of CREDO centers as an element of the region's CRP. The senior chaplain permanently assigned at each CREDO center shall be designated as the CREDO Director for that center.

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

(b) Scope of CREDO Programming. All CREDO programs shall be developed specifically to meet the religious, moral and spiritual needs of DON Service members, civilians, and their families consistent with the definitions for religious ministry in references (a) and (b). CREDO programming, while not faith-group-specific, is religious programming that may be formatted as retreats, workshops, or seminars. CREDO programming may include the expression of religious beliefs representative of the chaplains and participants when done in a manner that honors the rights of others to determine their own religious convictions, as required by the standards and expectations of Professional Naval Chaplaincy, per reference (d). CREDO programs shall be led by uniformed chaplains of the U.S. Armed Forces.

(c) Fiscal Authority

1. Article 0820 of reference (c) and references (a) and (b) provide authorization to expend APF for chaplain programs, to include CREDO.

2. Per reference (e), it is "a general rule that appropriated funds are not available to pay subsistence or to provide free food to government employees at their official duty station". Exceptions can be made only where there is specific statutory authority.

3. Section 1789 of reference (f) provides the Secretary of the Navy discretionary authority to authorize support for certain chaplain-led programs to assist active duty members of the armed forces and their immediate family members and active status members of the reserve component and their immediate family members in building and maintaining a strong family structure. Immediate family members include the member's spouse and dependent children as defined in section 1072 of reference (f). Authorized support services are the costs of transportation, food, lodging, child care, supplies, fees, and training materials for active duty members of the armed forces and their family members while participating in such programs, including retreats and conferences.

4. Persons other than those listed in paragraph 4a(2)(c)3 above may participate in CREDO programs and receive the benefits of those programs but are not authorized to be paid for subsistence (e.g. lodging, travel or childcare) or to receive food at government expense.

5. CREDO directors shall consult with Marine Corps legal counsel and the local comptrollers to ensure APF is properly expended to support CREDO programs pursuant to all applicable laws and regulations.

b. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) MCICOM and MARFORRES

(a) Include CREDO as an integral and essential element of administration, planning, and programming. Coordinate with Marine and Family Programs Division, Manpower & Reserve Affairs Department (M&RA), to ensure CREDO is supported

with APF at a level consistent with other personnel programs within the Marine Corps, pursuant to references (a) and (b).

(b) Coordinate with Commander, Navy Installations Command and the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, to ensure cooperative, effective, and efficient delivery of CREDO programming.

(c) Coordinate with the Chaplain of the Marine Corps to establish policy which implements this Order. CREDO policy shall include, but is not limited to: organizational structures and staffing requirements; program approval processes; reporting requirements and metrics; training requirements; and the utilization of volunteers.

(2) Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs

(a) Provide resource sponsorship for CREDO. Per reference (g), CREDO is classified as a Category A Warfighter and Family Services Morale, Welfare and Recreation program.

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

(3) Chaplain of the Marine Corps

(a) Approve CREDO policies and programming in the Marine Corps. Forward approved program proposals to the Chief of Chaplains for final approval.

(b) Coordinate with Marine and Family Programs Division, MCICOM, and MARFORRES to establish an advisory group including, but not limited to, CREDO directors to advise the Chief of Chaplains on CREDO policy and programming.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. Recommendations/questions concerning the contents of this Order shall be forwarded to the Chaplain of the Marine Corps via the appropriate chain of command for resolution.

b. Records created as a result of this Order shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration approved dispositions per reference (h) to ensure

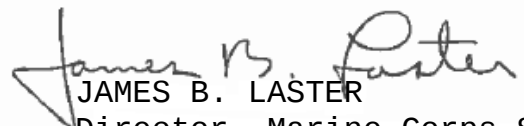
proper maintenance, use, accessibility and preservation, regardless of format or medium.

c. The generation, collection or distribution of personally identifiable information and management of privacy sensitive information shall be in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, per references (i) and (j). Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited.

6. Command and Signal

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

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



JAMES B. LASTER
Director, Marine Corps Staff

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