



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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MCO 1730.6G
REL
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MARINE CORPS ORDER 1730.6G

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: RELIGIOUS MINISTRY IN THE MARINE CORPS

Ref: See enclosure (1)

Encl: (1) References
(2) Spiritual Readiness and Spiritual Fitness

1. Situation. This Order implements reference (a). This is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. MCO 1730.6F w/Admin CH and MCO 5351.11.

3. Mission. To publish amplifying guidance for the delivery of Religious Ministry (RM) in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This Order is in accordance with references (a) through (r).

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent

(a) Provision, Facilitation, Care, and Advisement are the foundational building blocks for the delivery of RM within the USMC (references (a) and (b)). RM describes the art of combining these four core competencies to create, increase, and sustain the Spiritual fitness of authorized users. The delivery of RM within the USMC must be executed per the guidelines set forth in reference (a).

(b) Chaplains will meet the religious requirements, as defined in reference (c), of Service Members and other authorized personnel assigned to USMC units.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Professional Naval Chaplaincy (PNC). Per reference (a), "Professional Naval Chaplaincy (PNC) is the system by which RM is delivered by the Chaplain Corps (CHC). PNC focuses on the capabilities and capacities of the CHC while RM focuses on matching the competencies of chaplains to the specific needs of authorized users." PNC is further defined in references (a) and (b).

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(b) Professional Conduct. Chaplains, Religious Program Specialists (RPs), and all parties engaged in any facet of RM within the USMC will behave in a professional manner and meet the minimum PNC standards set forth in references (a) and (b). Commanders are obliged to report all failures and discrepancies to senior supervisory chaplains (reference (a)) and accurately document performance on all required evaluations and recommendations.

(c) Spiritual Fitness and Spiritual Readiness. Per sections 0817 and 0820 of reference (d), commanders are responsible for: the health; physical fitness; and the moral and spiritual well-being of the personnel under their command. Per reference (e), commanders enable Marines and Sailors to execute the toughest challenges and recuperate in shorter time by focusing on physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being. Marine Corps Total Fitness requires commanders to own the requirements of spiritual fitness. Spiritual readiness, as defined in references (b) and (f)), is a key element of military readiness within the USMC. Refer to enclosure (2) for additional information on the relationship between spiritual fitness and spiritual readiness.

(d) Barring operational commitments, commanders use appropriated funds to afford chaplains the opportunity to annually attend at least one Religious Organization (RO) activity. RO activities allow chaplains to maintain their professional qualifications while enhancing their ability to deliver faith group-specific ministry more effectively and further develop spiritual fitness throughout the Force. Spiritual fitness permissive temporary duty may be used for additional RO activities.

(e) Commanders should anticipate and expect chaplains and RPs to have CHC community requirements that might require travel. These responsibilities could include, but are not limited to, Senior Leadership Symposium, CHC Communities of Interest, CHC working groups, professional development training, advanced educational opportunities, and recruiting initiatives. When mission requirements permit, commanders are authorized to fund attendance. Chaplains and RPs will prioritize their Command Religious Program (CRP) responsibilities above CHC community responsibilities.

(f) Commanders support CRP community service projects and similar outreach activities as a means of allowing authorized users to benevolently express their religious and personal beliefs per reference (a).

(g) Commanders are authorized to use Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) to increase the spiritual readiness and resiliency of Service Members, to include United States Coast Guard personnel (section 705 of reference (g)), and other authorized users (reference (h)).

(h) Commanders are authorized to use Religious Ministry Teams (RMTs) to support refugees, displaced persons, and others outside the command, who are affected by hostilities, disasters, or disruptions to civil authority (references (a), (i), and (j)). RMT support outside the command should be limited to basic support of human rights, human dignity, and religious needs consistent with pertinent cultural concerns.

(i) Chaplains from foreign militaries may deliver RM in CRPs only when invited by the commander. Commanders shall seek approval from the Chief of Chaplains to ensure proper credentials and ecclesiastical relationships are satisfied before extending invitations. All requests should be sent to the Director of Operations (OPNAV N0973) at chiefchaplains1@us.navy.mil via an echelon 2 or 3 O-6 chaplain. Commanders are not required to seek approval for invitations in emergency situations or when the delivery of RM (as defined in reference (a)) will not be conducted.

(j) Pursuant to references (a) and (j), Facilitation entails chaplains and RPs coordinating faith group-specific support for authorized users with local religious leaders and Religious Non-Federal Entities (R-NFEs). This coordination oftentimes requires the exchange of authorized user's personal contact information from a chaplain or RP to an R-NFE in order to address their specific religious needs. Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of an authorized user may be passed to an R-NFEs at the authorized user's request and should be labeled as PII as specified by applicable laws and policies.

b. Subordinate Element Tasks

(1) The responsibilities of the Deputy Chief of Chaplains / Chaplain of the Marine Corps are delineated in references (a) and (b), additional responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

(a) Establish and publish a charter for the Religious Ministry Operational Advisory Group (RMOAG); and,

(b) Appoint members of the RMOAG.

(2) The responsibilities of commanders are delineated in reference (a); additional responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

(a) Require RPs assigned to operational Marine Corps forces to qualify with Table of Organization and Equipment weapon in accordance with reference (k). As required, qualify RPs to operate government motor vehicle(s) in accordance with reference (k).

(b) Evaluate the performance of chaplains and RPs in accordance with reference (l).

1. Navy Reserve USMC Religious Support (RELSUP) unit Officers-in-Charge (OICs) will be the reporting senior for NR RELSUP chaplains and RPs. Reporting seniors for RELSUP OICs and O-6 members of RELSUPs will be determined by the supported command in accordance with reference (l).

2. In the event a reserve component chaplain's or RP's performance is not directly observable by the RELSUP OIC, the commanding officer or delegated reporting senior observing their performance may submit a Concurrent report or Performance Information Memorandum pursuant to Chapter 4 of reference (l).

(3) The responsibilities of Senior Supervisory Chaplains, Supervisory Chaplains, chaplains, RPs, chaplain assistants, RMTs, Religious Lay Leaders, contractors, support personnel, and volunteers are delineated in reference (a).

c. Special Matters. When making decisions or taking action on religious matters affecting the command, Marine Corps, or Navy as a whole, to include matters not specifically addressed in this Order, commanders will follow higher echelon policy and seek advice from a senior supervisory Navy chaplain and Marine Corps legal counsel.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. Records Management. Records created as a result of this Order shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)-approved dispositions in reference (m), SECNAV M-5210.1, to ensure proper maintenance, use, accessibility, and preservation, regardless of format or medium. Records disposition schedules are located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at: <https://portal.secnave.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>. Refer to reference (n), MCO 5210.11F, for Marine Corps records management policy and procedures.

b. Privacy Act. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure of PII may result in both civil and criminal penalties. The Department of the Navy (DON) recognizes that the privacy of an individual is a personal and fundamental right that shall be respected and protected. The DON's need to collect, use, maintain, or disseminate PII about individuals for purposes of discharging its statutory responsibilities shall be balanced against the individual's right to be protected against unwarranted invasion of privacy. All collection, use, maintenance, or dissemination of PII shall be in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended [reference (o)] and implemented per reference (p).

c. Forms. There are no forms used in this Order.

d. Updates. Updates made to this Order shall be done in accordance with the current iteration of reference (q).

e. Recommendations. Recommendations concerning the contents of this Order are welcomed and may be forwarded to the Chaplain of the Marine Corps via the appropriate chain of command.

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.



G. P. OLSON
Director, Marine Corps Staff

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References

- (a) SECNAVINST 1730.7E
- (b) COCINST 5351.1
- (c) DoDI 1304.28 CH-1, "The Appointment and Service of Chaplains," May 8, 2024
- (d) "United States Navy Regulations," September 14, 1990
- (e) MCO 1500.61
- (f) OPNAVINST 1730.1F
- (g) 14 U.S.C.
- (h) MCO 1738.1B
- (i) JP 3-29, "Foreign Humanitarian Assistance," May 14, 2019
- (j) SECNAVINST 1730.10A
- (k) NAVMC 3500.85C
- (l) BUPERSINST 1610.10F CH-1
- (m) SECNAV M-5210.1
- (n) MCO 5210.11F
- (o) 5 U.S.C. § 552a
- (p) SECNAVINST 5211.5F
- (q) MCO 5215.1K w/Admin CH-1
- (r) MCRP 6-10.1

Spiritual Readiness and Spiritual Fitness

1. Spiritual readiness is an overarching Department of the Navy term that concerns leaders, the warfighters they lead, and the families who support them. Spiritual readiness gives leaders a language with which to champion the benefits of spirituality and religion among their people.

a. Spiritual readiness is the capacity for mission accomplishment that results from a warfighter's connection to the transcendent (or larger, higher sources of strength). Spiritual readiness emphasizes the religious and non-religious means for strengthening a warfighter's inner self.

b. Spiritual readiness is commander's business that can be created, increased, and sustained by PNC. Spiritual readiness can be measured by access to chaplains; Service Members' engagement with the CRP; training, equipment, and resources of the RMT; and metrics tied to the Service Member's practice of one or more of the following:

- (1) Relationship to the divine.
- (2) Membership in a faith community or community of belonging.
- (3) Shared sacrifice for a greater good.
- (4) Pursuit of meaning, purpose, and values.

2. Spiritual fitness is the USMC's framework for spiritual readiness and a key component of Marine Total Fitness.

a. Religious Ministry Teams (RMTs) are poised, positioned, and trained to support leaders at every level in offering spiritual fitness training and education, and helping commanders strengthen the spiritual fitness of their commands.

b. Additional spiritual fitness information may be found in reference (r) and at <https://www.fitness.marines.mil/Resilience/Spiritual-Fitness/>.

3. Commanders must offer new check-ins the opportunity to complete a religious needs assessment and should make the Spiritual Fitness Guide, located at the website listed in subparagraph 2.b. of this enclosure, available to Marines and Sailors.

APPENDIX A

Glossary of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CHC	Chaplain Corps
CREDO	Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation
CRP	Command Religious Program
DON	Department of the Navy
DON/AA	Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration
DRMD	Directives and Records Management Division
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
OIC	Officer in Charge
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
PNC	Professional Naval Chaplaincy
RELSUP	Religious Support
RM	Religious Ministry
RMOAG	Religious Ministry Operational Advisory Group
RMT	Religious Ministry Team
R-NFE	Religious Non-Federal Entity
RO	Religious Organization
RP	Religious Program Specialist
U.S.C.	United States Code
USMC	United States Marine Corps