
Religious Ministry Support in the US Marine Corps



U.S. Marine Corps

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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CHANGE 1 TO MCWP 6-12

1. Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 6-12, *Religious Ministry Support in the U.S. Marine Corps*, should be changed as follows:
 - a. On page vii of the Table of Contents, delete the lines and page numbers for "Religious Program Specialist Training" and "Religious Ministry Team Training."
 - b. On pages 5-3 and 5-4 of Chapter 5, delete the entire paragraphs relating to "Religious Program Specialist Training" and "Religious Ministry Team Training."
 - c. No replacement paragraphs or text are to be inserted.
 - d. On all even numbered (left) pages, change "MCRP" to "MCWP" in the header line.
2. Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS



EDWARD HANLON, JR.

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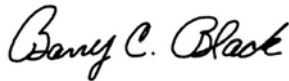
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PREFACE

As Lieutenant General Knutson noted in his foreword, this publication describes the Chaplain Corps' philosophy of providing ministry to the Marine Corps. This ministry is possible because of the partnership formed by the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps, forged in freedom and tempered in the adversities faced together over two centuries of chaplains serving with Marines.

It is my hope that this keystone publication will give commanders and chaplains a clear understanding of the purpose, mission, and principles of religious ministry support and religious accommodation. This, and subsequent publications, will serve as the tools that will enable religious ministry teams to continue to provide the highest quality pastoral care to Marines, Sailors, and their families.

Godspeed in your ministry to the men and women serving in the U.S. Marine Corps.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry C. Black". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BARRY C. BLACK
Rear Admiral, Chaplain Corps,
United States Navy Chief of Chaplains

To Our Readers

Changes: Readers of this publication are encouraged to submit suggestions and changes that will improve it. Recommendations may be sent directly to Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Doctrine Division (C 42), 3300 Russell Road, Suite 318A, Quantico, VA 22134-5021 or by fax to 703-784-2917 (DSN 278-2917) or by E-mail to **morgann@mccdc.usmc.mil**. Recommendations should include the following information:

- Location of change
 - Publication number and title
 - Current page number
 - Paragraph number (if applicable)
 - Line number
 - Figure or table number (if applicable)
- Nature of change
 - Add, delete
 - Proposed new text, preferably double-spaced and typewritten
- Justification and/or source of change

Additional copies: A printed copy of this publication may be obtained from Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, GA 31704-5001, by following the instructions in MCBul 5600, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications Status*. An electronic copy may be obtained from the Doctrine Division, MCCDC, world wide web home page which is found at the following universal reference locator: **<http://www.doctrine.usmc.mil>**.

Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.

Religious Ministry Support in the USMC

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Chapter 1

Fundamentals

Free Exercise of Religion

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. Navy chaplains and Religious Program Specialists (RPs) accompany Marines and Sailors to assist commanders in providing for the right of free exercise of religion to all personnel.

Navy chaplains are professionally qualified clergy of recognized faith groups that have endorsed these men and women to provide religious support to the Department of the Navy. Their ministry serves to promote the spiritual, religious, ethical, moral, corporate, and personal well-being of Marines, Sailors, family members, and other authorized persons appropriate to their rights and needs. The *Code of Ethics for Navy Chaplains* is presented on page 1-6.

Authority and Responsibility

This publication sets forth the doctrine of religious ministry support (RMS) in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). It has been prepared pursuant to the authority granted the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) and the Chief of Chaplains by SECNAVINST 1730.7, *Religious Ministry Support within the Department of the Navy*. The principles and doctrine contained in this manual constitute the formal authority and assignment of implementation responsibilities by the CMC to all commanders.