

**AMI, PHILIPPINES
GROUP DISCUSSION
DAY 2**

GROUP 1

Guide Questions

1. What is the scope and extent of the involvement of the Chaplain's Service in helping soldiers and their families cope up with problems related to faith, work and family life? Related to this, how should military organizations employ and manage the chaplaincy to greater effectiveness?

2. Relative to the practice of religion and devotion to military duty from three perspectives, where is the location of the family in the value system of the soldier? (Is the family at the center or at the periphery or at the margins?) Where should the family be situated and what opportunities and resources may be brought to bear in this regard?

Scope and extent of the involvement of the Chaplain's Service in helping soldiers and their families

- Filipino experience:
 - the main problem/ concern is the soldier's separation from the family (consequences: neglect of children, jealousy, loneliness, etc)
 - Each camp/ commander has its own culture, own value system, leadership style, which can be imitated or has an effect on the soldier.
 - All chaplains are priests and have ranks.
 - One comprehensive pastoral program for the whole country, for all servicemen (e.g. practice of education and basic Bible seminars)
 - Summary: Filipino chaplains have two bosses: the Bishop and Military commander

Scope and extent of the involvement of the Chaplain's Service in helping soldiers and their families

- European experience:
 - Chaplain can freely engage with the soldiers' families; can practice their own programs
 - Chaplains work with the military, but they get their instructions from the Bishop (or religious leaders)
 - No difference in terms of responsibilities between male and female chaplains
 - Countries with soldier programs in working time and family programs in the weekends
 - Summary: the chaplains' scope is outside the formal military structure, but are obliged to cooperate with the military and provide support to soldiers and their families

Location of the family in the value system of the soldier

- Filipino experience
 - It is the center
 - Pressure or expectation to have a family (tradition)
 - Separation is not an option, frowned upon
- European experience
 - Military service as a profession; family is equally important (try to balance)
 - Family in crisis: high instances of divorce
 - Having a family is a **choice**
 - Sense of freedom is strong (as compared 50 years ago)