

AMI, PHILIPPINES
GROUP DISCUSSION
DAY 2

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

- Role of militaries not only in fighting but also improving lives
- Chaplains try to find out backgrounds of soldier families & their family problems & how can they help (divorce particular concern)
 - One issue is accepting those who want or are married a second time
- PNP – implementing program to establish a parish pastoral council in every camp who has an active duty member of PNP as head

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

- Operative word is involvement & management
- there are programs where chaplains contributed that emphasize the humanitarian roles of military cadets such as in the Phil Military Academy
- In terms of family life, there should be balance between successful performance of duty & successful family life. Chaplains have a critical role here

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

- American perspective – one role of chaplain is to help soldiers with their work in relation to Iraq for example in light of questions about that war
- Chaplains do not give answers but are empathetic listeners to soldiers and their families
 - Special chaplain programs to assist families cope up with problems of soldier deployments
 - Reintegration Program “Yellow Ribbon”
 - Marriage seminars gives a human understanding of marriage

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

- AFP Chaplains
 - Family visits by chaplains
 - Military Ordinariate of the Philippines Synod that develop programs (curative & preventative) for the Uniformed Services which would be published soon. The program embodies the experience of 25 years of the MOP existence

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

- how should mil organizations employ and manage the chaplaincy to greater effectiveness?
 - Good Commander-Chaplain Relationship using feedback system. MOP Program could also be used by commanders to assist chaplains do their work
 - Austrian – only a few soldiers in contact with chaplains in Austria but more in contact in missions abroad. They look to chaplain more because they trust that the chaplain will keep what they say in confidence. Situation also similar in US

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

- how should mil organizations employ and manage the chaplaincy to greater effectiveness?
 - Importance of Commanders' support to manage spiritual health is critical. Philippines in good condition as many commanders are Catholics but this may not be the same in other countries
 - There are no chaplains in forward operations bases or casualty collection centers(Philippines) . This needs to be addressed
 - In Africa, the Chaplain Service doesn't have much logistics and this is where commanders can help
 - There is also competition if chaplain from one religion and the commander from another
 - Differing Religious practices also affect work of chaplains (i.e. no of wives in Islam vis a vis in Christianity)

Location of the family in the value system of the soldier

- In Germany family is secondary
- Philippines, family center of focus. Duty to state goes hand in hand with duty to family
- PNP also has high regard for family
- Success in career could not compensate for failure of family
- Austria location of family in the value system depends on the stage of family. When a soldier becomes a parent, the location of the family is more in the center
- Africa, the family is secondary, duty goes first. This state of things is acceptable and the extended family role increases
- US other extreme from the Philippines. In the light of deployments, more is done to the soldiers' families

Location of the family in the value system of the soldier

- Where should the family be situated and what opportunities and resources may be brought to bear?
 - Family programs
 - Synod
 - Village/Extended Family
 - Commanders' Support
 - Structural – making the Chaplain Service more responsive to addressing the needs of families of soldiers through developing a dedicated organization
 - Personal Commitment & Enthusiasm of Chaplains

**THANK YOU VERY
MUCH**