

Multi-denominational Chaplaincy in the Military of the United States of America

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Why:

1. Founding Documents:

Declaration of Independence

- “We hold these truths to be self evident: That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, among them are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness...”

Constitution - Bill of Rights

2. **Implication:** The inherent dignity of the individual citizen/**soldier** (**sailor, airman**, etc.)

3. **Chaplains’ duty** is to connect the **military member** with God, so the emphasis is not on the chaplain but on the individual (**soldier/sailor/airman**)

HOW:

- **10%** Perform and provide services
- **10%** Advise the Commander and staff
(commander's program)
- **20%** Logistic and Admin activities
- **30%** Explain up and down the chain
- **30%** Empathetic listening to
 - Personal Concerns
 - Unit Concerns

Benefits and Challenges

- Mutual understanding and teamwork
 - Insight into another's perspective
 - Insight into one's own perspective
- Cooperation carries over into civilian laity and clergy
- Human Weakness (exacerbated by Religious conflicts and elevated intensity)
- Quotas versus Needs
- Minority Denominations
 - Chaplains to locations
 - Soldiers to chaplains

The Road Forward

- Questions?

1. Applicability to the character of other nations?
2. What common values and characteristics can we build on?

- Discussion?

1. How can one nation's chaplaincy help another without interfering?
2. How does one even ask such a question?

Tanker!

Tanker watching in the night
Ready to begin the fight
With your flaming fists of steel
Pushing forward, set to kill.

Let the tyrant shrink and cower
Seeing your most noble power
Rush into his land of fear.

Sabot till the way is clear.
HEAT the ridgeline, spray the hollow.
Punch the way that others follow.

Track where others would not dare.
Boldly rumble anywhere!

Never do you tread alone.
Human souls with flesh and bone
That break and bleed make up the light
That shines within your metal might.

Let your own light be your Savior
Whose defeat of evil gave your
Life new meaning, strength new goal.

Help Him make His world whole.

Thanks: for who you are and
all that you do.

Blessings: be to each of you as
you strengthen and heal your
military units and as you travel
home.