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WAR DEPARTMENT,
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CHAPLAINS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

	Paragraph
Authorization-----	1
Chief of Chaplains-----	2
Appointment-----	3
Duties-----	4
Status-----	5
Chaplains' School-----	6
Detached service to attend conventions, etc-----	7
Funds-----	8
Responsibility of commanding officer in relation to chaplains-----	9
Chaplain's flag-----	10
Graves registration-----	11

1. Authorization.—*a.* There shall be one chaplain for every twelve hundred officers and enlisted men of the Regular Army, exclusive of the Philippine Scouts and the unassigned recruits, authorized from time to time in accordance with the law and within the peace strength permitted by the act cited in *b* below. One chaplain, of grade not below that of major, may be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to be Chief of Chaplains. He shall serve as such for four years, and shall have the grade, pay, and allowances of colonel while so serving. Chaplains shall hereafter have grade, pay, and allowances according to length of active commissioned service in the Army, or, since April 6, 1917, in the National Guard while in active service under a call by the President, and of the respective grades to and including that of colonel upon completion of the same respective periods of service prescribed by law in force on June 30, 1935, for officers of the Medical Corps, i. e., promotion to the grade of captain after three years' service, to the grade of major after twelve years' service, to the grade of lieutenant colonel after twenty years' service, and to the grade of colonel after twenty-six years' service. See sec. 15, act of June 3, 1916 (39 Stat. 176), as amended by sec. 15, act June 4, 1920 (41 Stat. 769), and sec. 4, act July 31, 1935 (49 Stat. 506); 10 U. S. C. 236, 552b; M. L., 1939, sec. 280.

b. The act of Congress approved April 3, 1939 (53 Stat. 558) provides in part as follows: * * * Commissioned officers, other than general officers, shall be assigned to the several branches as follows: * * * Corps of Chaplains, one hundred and fifty-two * * *

2. Chief of Chaplains.—*a. Duties.*

(1) General.

(a) Investigating the qualifications of candidates for appointment, and general coordination and supervision of the work and the duties of chaplains.

(b) Coordinating and supervising all religious work within the Army, and from time to time making recommendations for such action as he deems advisable to promote the moral and spiritual welfare and contentment of the Army.

*This pamphlet supersedes AR 60-5, December 20, 1937.

- (c) Recommending to The Adjutant General the assignment of chaplains to organizations and stations and their relief therefrom.
 - (d) Recommending to The Adjutant General the necessary equipment and supplies for chaplains and their work.
 - (e) Supervising correspondence with individuals or agencies outside the Army with reference to the qualifications of candidates for appointment as chaplains. He may correspond directly with chaplains and they with him, under the conditions set forth in AR 340-15, upon matters which relate solely to their professional activities.
 - (f) Preparing circulars of information and instruction on matters relating to chaplains and their moral, religious, and other work, which, after approval by the Secretary of War, will be distributed to chaplains by The Adjutant General.
 - (g) Maintaining a record of chaplains which will contain only such pertinent extracts of chaplains' efficiency records as will enable him to make prompt and proper recommendations for assignments of chaplains.
 - (h) Promotion of cooperation between the chaplains of the Army and civil religious organizations for the mutual advantage of both military and civil communities.
- (2) The Chief of Chaplains is under the supervision of the Chief of Staff in all matters relating to chaplains and will keep him informed on all matters concerning the appointment and duties of chaplains and all religious activities carried on throughout the Army.

b. Office.—The office of the Chief of Chaplains is not an office of record except of correspondence authorized by *a* (1) (c) and (g) above.

c. Nothing herein contained will be construed as relieving corps area commanders or other commanding officers of responsibility for the efficiency of chaplains under their command.

3. Appointment.—See AR 605-30.

4. Duties.—*a. General.*—The duties of chaplains as prescribed by existing laws are closely analogous to those performed by clergymen in civilian life, modified only by the peculiar conditions attaching to military life and especially by the necessity that each chaplain will, so far as practicable, serve the moral and religious needs of the entire personnel of the command to which he is assigned, either through his own personal services or through the cooperative efforts of others. Within the limits of law, regulations, and orders, he should enlist so far as may be necessary the active aid and cooperation of such military and civilian assistants, both lay and clerical, as the needs of the command may require or the commanding officer may direct.

b. Religious.—Chaplains will hold appropriate religious services for the benefit of the command to which they are assigned at such times and places as may be designated by the commanding officer. The scope of work of chaplains will include such activities as usually attach to formal or informal Sunday or weekday religious observances, Sunday schools, Bible classes, missions, confessions, and such other religious or patriotic exercises as may be appropriate to special occasions. Chaplains will serve as friends, counselors, and guides, without discrimination, to all members of the command to which they are

assigned, regardless of creed or sect, and will strive to promote morality, religion, and good order therein. They will make regular visits to the men in confinement for advice and consultation and will hold religious services for them whenever conditions warrant. When vestments are required or permitted by the church to which a chaplain belongs, he is authorized to use such while conducting religious services.

c. Ceremonials.—Chaplains will conduct appropriate burial services at the interment of members of the military service, active and retired, and for members of the families of these when requested. They are authorized to perform the marriage rite, upon proper legal authorization in each case, and will administer Christian baptism and perform such other religious rites for members of the military personnel and civilians residing upon or employed in the military reservation as may be required, according to their respective creeds or conscientious practice in each case. On Memorial Day the chaplain who is on duty at a post on which a military cemetery is located will, under the direction of the commanding officer, supervise the decoration of the graves therein and will arrange for such public memorial exercises as the place and occasion may warrant.

d. Pastoral duties.—Chaplains will personally interview or advise by public address all recruits coming into the service in matters pertaining to morals and character, and commanding officers will provide such facilities as will insure an adequate performance of this duty. Chaplains will also advise with enlisted men under arrest or in confinement and before trial when deemed advisable by the commanding officer. Such men will be sent for this purpose by competent orders to the chaplain's office or to such other place as may be designated. Chaplains will make regular visits to the sick in the hospital for such spiritual and welfare ministrations as they may be able to give. In a case of grave illness or serious accident to a person in the military service from which death appears imminent, the chaplain will be given prompt notice thereof by the senior officer or enlisted man present. Upon receipt of such information the chaplain will provide such religious or pastoral ministration as the case may warrant. Chaplains should encourage correspondence between enlisted men and their relatives and friends, especially on the part of the sick in hospitals. Inquiries concerning the welfare of enlisted men addressed to other officers of the command may be turned over to the chaplain to answer or cause to be answered by the person inquired of, as the case may be. Visits of a pastoral nature should be made by the chaplain to the families of all military personnel who reside within or near the military reservation.

e. On transports.—See AR 30-1155.

f. Schools.—The duties of chaplains of regiments of colored troops will include the instruction of the enlisted men of such commands in the common English branches of education. Other chaplains are not available as instructors in post or troop schools except when there exists an exigency of the service resulting in a deficiency in the number of officers present for duty, and in the judgment of the commanding officer concerned the chaplain can perform such pedagogical duties without prejudice to his legitimate duties as a minister of religion.

g. Secular.—Chaplains will not be employed on any duties other than those required of them by law, or pertaining to their profession as clergymen, except when there exists an exigency of the service, resulting in a deficiency in the number of officers present for duty at any station, which shall make it necessary.

Under such circumstances chaplains will not be assigned to any duty incompatible with their status as noncombatants under the terms of the Geneva Convention. Chaplains are not available for detail as post exchange, athletic, recreation, or morale officers, or as defense counsel in courts martial.

h. Reports.—On the last day of each month chaplains will render on the prescribed form (W. D., Ch. Form No. 3) a report of all duties performed by them during the month. These reports will be typewritten and in duplicate. The original will be forwarded through military channels to the office of the Chief of Chaplains for his information and for file. The duplicate will be filed with the records of the station from which the report was rendered. Copies of programs, photographs, and other matter illustrating the chaplain's activities may be forwarded with these reports.

i. Supervisory activities.—In addition to such of the activities listed above as may be practicable, the duties of chaplains of corps areas and of divisions and higher tactical units will include the following:

(1) Advisor to the commander and staff in religious and moral activities of the command.

(2) Supervision of the spiritual welfare of the command.

(3) Supervision and coordination within limits prescribed by the commander, of the training and work of the chaplains of subordinate units.

(4) Recommendations as to assignments and transfers of chaplains.

(5) Providing the services of chaplains for units needing them.

(6) Preparation of estimates and allotment of funds for religious activities not specifically charged to other agencies of the command.

(7) Examination of the reports of chaplains of subordinate units and preparation of reports relative to the religious and moral activities of the command.

(8) Acting as liaison officer between the commanding officer and civilian religious groups.

(9) (a) In addition to the above, corps area chaplains will exercise general supervision over Reserve chaplains within their corps areas, will advise and assist them and coordinate their several activities as chaplains; they will provide candidates for appointment or promotion with such forms and information as may be necessary; they will make recommendations concerning assignment of Reserve chaplains to active duty in the corps area; they will endeavor to procure a sufficient number to meet the requirements of the corps area and will act as director in the chaplain's branch in the Army Extension School.

(b) They will exercise general supervision over chaplains of the Civilian Conservation Corps and will satisfy themselves by personal contact or suitable investigation as to the fitness of candidates for appointment; they will advise and assist chaplains of the Civilian Conservation Corps in their problems, coordinate their activities, examine and forward their monthly reports through channels and endeavor to procure a sufficient number to meet the requirements of the corps area.

5. *Status.*—The chaplain as a member of the staff of the commanding officer is his logical consultant in all matters pertaining to public religious observances

in the command and in matters involving morale, morality, and character building. The chaplain will be inspected at such place as the commanding officer may designate, and when turned out with troops will take position as prescribed in Field Manuals. His uniform designation in official address is "Chaplain."

6. Chaplains' School.—See AR 350-1500.

7. Detached service to attend conventions, etc.—See AR 210-10.

8. Funds.—*a. Chaplain's fund.*—See AR 210-50. Those regulations also give all necessary information regarding other funds available and the loss or transfer of all funds.

b. Solicitation of.—Chaplains will not solicit funds for the erection of chapels on military posts except in cases specifically authorized by the War Department.

9. Responsibility of commanding officer in relation to chaplains.—*a.* In the performance of his duties the chaplain is accountable to the commanding officer. Ultimate responsibility for matters of religious and moral nature within a command devolves upon the commanding officer as completely as does that for strictly military matters. Thus it will be seen that a chaplain is directly responsible to his commanding officer and that, on the other hand, without trespassing upon the ecclesiastical field, the commanding officers are obligated to exercise active supervision over chaplains and their activities. To facilitate compliance with the regulations which direct chaplains to hold appropriate religious services for the benefit of the commands to which they are assigned, it will be the duty of commanding officers to afford chaplains serving under them such available facilities as may aid them in the performance of their duties, and to detail such needed assistants to chaplains as may be deemed desirable and practicable by commanding officers. R. S. 1231; 10 U. S. C. 1172 states: " * * * It shall be the duty of the post or garrison commander to set apart a suitable room or building for school and religious purposes." Authorization will be given for such publicity for chaplain activities through official channels as the need may warrant.

b. At military posts, camps, and stations at which no chaplain is available, commanding officers will make reasonable effort to provide religious guidance and services of worship for their commands through civilian agencies of the community. The necessary expense involved is payable from the chaplain's fund if available.

10. Chaplain's flag.—With troops in the field in time of peace the chaplain's flag, as described in AR 260-10, may be prominently displayed at or over the place of divine worship during the progress of services therein, and at other times in front of the tent or billet occupied by the chaplain as an office when authorized by the commanding officer.

11. Graves registration.—Chaplains who in time of war are called in to perform duties in connection with graves registration will be guided by the provisions of AR 30-1805, AR 30-1810, and AR 30-1815.

[A. G. 211.21 (2-12-41).]

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

G. C. MARSHALL,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

E. S. ADAMS,
Major General,
The Adjutant General.