

Chaplain's Guidance for Interviewing a Prospective Conscientious Objector

Applicant's Name:	Date of Interview(s):		
Rate/Rank:	Chaplain Interviewer:		
Phone:	Phone:		
Email:	Email:		
Command:	Chaplain's Command:		
I. Preliminaries			
A. Review DoDI 1300.06 and MILPERSMAN 1900-020 on separations based on conscientious objection.			
B. Notify Applicant that the interview is not confidential or privileged and will be used in an official report to advise the command as it prepares a decision/recommendation regarding the Applicant's request.			
C. Obtain Applicant's signed waiver (see attached).			
D. Explain to Applicant that confidential support can be obtained through either: (1) another chaplain or (2) a separate counseling session with the Applicant.			
II. Applicant's Position on War			
A. Is the Applicant against all types of wars, including wars of self-defense and wars with a benevolent purpose (such as ending slavery, preventing genocide, freeing the oppressed)?			
B. Is the Applicant against all wars as opposed to a specific war, including a war the United States may currently be fighting?			
III. Nature of Moral, Ethical, or Religious Beliefs.			
A. What moral, ethical, or religious beliefs form the basis of the Applicant's opposition to war in any form? Be specific.			
B. How did the Applicant acquire these beliefs (e.g., studying, training, revelation, contemplation, group participation)?			
C. Are the applicant's asserted beliefs honestly and sincerely held? If yes, what is the basis of your conclusion? In what way(s) does the Applicant manifest his/her beliefs?			
D. Is the Applicant's conscientious objection motivated primarily by his/her moral, ethical, or religious beliefs? Does the applicant desire to avoid fulfilling his or her military obligation? What specific facts lead you to your conclusion?			
IV. Relevant Factors. Please assess the Applicant's:			
A. Participation in organizations, groups, churches, or other entities associated with the Applicant's professed moral, ethical, or religious belief;			
B. Credibility and the credibility of the individuals supporting his/her claim;			
C. Timing. Did the Applicant adopt his/her position toward war since joining the Navy, or has he/she held it all along? If he/she has held it all along, why did he/she join the Navy? If he/she adopted it since joining the Navy, how much time elapsed between taking the oath and applying for conscientious objector status?			
D. Is the Applicant's claim of conscientious objection related to membership in a church or religious organization? If so, what are the teachings of the church or religious organization with regard to war and military service?			
VI. Interview Results:			
Yes	No	N/A	
			A. Applicant's beliefs (conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs) are honestly and sincerely held.
			B. Applicant was credible (consistently keeps tenets, practices, etc.).
			C. Applicant's demeanor and pattern of conduct are consistent with the request.
			D. Applicant participates in activities associated with the belief(s).
			E. Persons supporting the claim are credible.
			F. Applicant is opposed to all war, in whatever form and for whatever reason.
			G. Applicant adopted his or her position after joining the Navy.

VII. Process Checklist:		
Yes	No	N/A
		A. Chaplain has prepared a memorandum memorializing the interview, pursuant to the guidance in MILPERMAN 1900-020.
		B. Chaplain reviewed memorandum with Applicant and provided a copy.
		C. Chaplain submitted the memorandum and this document to the commanding officer via chain of command.
		D. Chaplain submitted a copy of the memorandum and this document to the supervisory chaplain by separate correspondence.
		E. Chaplain referred Applicant to command to process request.

WARNING ADVISEMENT ABOUT STATEMENTS MADE DURING A CONSCIENTIOUS
OBJECTION EVALUATION

I, _____, have been advised
that statements that are made during the course of my
conscientious objection evaluation are not confidential and may
be disclosed by Chaplain _____ to further my
conscientious objection request.

Date

Counselee

Date

Chaplain