Annual Awards Nominations Time
It’s time to prepare your packages for the two Air Force level annual awards in the ANC. The Rev. Samuel Stone Award for the Outstanding ANG Chaplain of the Year. And the Minuteman Award for the Outstanding Air National Guard Religious Affairs Airman of the year. Award period is from 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2018. Packages are due in our office by 15 Jan 2019. Please remember your team and reward your top performers!

Respecting Diverse Holiday Traditions
Many religious, spiritual and cultural traditions are observed this time of year. Here are some symbols and traditions observed in the Readiness Center as we mark the year’s “Winterv.” This celebration seeks to inform and increase respect for our diverse, pluralistic and multi-cultural co-workers and society. We need to avoid any appearance of endorsing or advancing one religion at the expense of others, while we remember that when Airmen engage their religious and spiritual practices, it enhances readiness and resiliency. Note that public displays should be combined with symbols that represent two or more different religious traditions, or be part of a larger multi-cultural display.

Hanukkah is the Jewish wintertime “festival of lights,” celebrated for 8 days with a nightly candle lighting on the menorah. The Hebrew word Chanukah means “dedication” and celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. A menorah is publicly displayed on the grounds of one of the chapels on base. Christmas Trees, evergreen wreaths and garlands symbolize eternal life. In the Middle Ages, apples were placed on these trees, later replaced by round objects such as shiny red balls like we see today. For Christians, Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus. For many, the season lasts for 12 days and culminates on Epiphany marking the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. The Feast of Saint Stephen commemorates the life of a man known for his service to the poor and being the first Christian martyr. It’s an official public holiday in many European countries, in Canada and Australia. Kwanzaa is a 7-day festival observed from Dec 26 to Jan 1 to help African Americans reconnect with their African cultural and historical heritage. It is observed with 7 candles to emphasize the 7 principles of Kwanzaa. On Jan. 6th, many Hispanic and Latino communities celebrate El Dia de los Reyes or “The Day of the Kings,” commemorating the day when the Three Wise Men followed the star to Bethlehem and gave gifts to the baby Jesus. Other festivals include Saint Nicholas Day, Las Posadas, Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Lucia Day, Omisoka, Yule and Diwali.

I looked at holiday practices among 12 different world religions. They all have much in common: songs and prayers; fasting and fasting; lights; gift-giving and good will surrounded by the spirit of love, family and renewal. Plus one more: a time to rest. Amid all the pressures and stressors that can mark the holidays, I pray we will all enjoy some rest these holidays. Ellie Wiesel urged us to “make mountains out of moments” -- to slow down, embrace the season, share meals, parties and savor the company of family and friends. Blessing and peace to you and God’s light and goodness be with you however you observe this merry, happy, and holy season.

“Developing Spiritually Fit Airmen for Homeland and Global Operations.”

Ch Yates

Greetings! December! I would like to first offer all of you my sincere wishes for a Joyous Holiday season and Happy New Year! I hope that the New Year brings you all you ask of it. For those of you who will be traveling, I pray for safe travels for all.

I’ll start with a reminder to all of you to remember to recognize good work. Make sure you are putting together award packages for those exceptional performers in your midst. Also look in the newsletter for the process for applying for the Annual Chaplain and Religious Affairs Airman awards which are due soon.

I haven’t touched a fiscal topic for a while, and seeing as I just received the FY 19 Financial Guidance Link I was prompted to do so. This year has some significantly different fiscal things we are already maneuvering to resolve, reduced O&M chiefly. Here is what this means for you. If you didn’t submit your FY19 budget when it was due (as part of your AMP) in Feb 2018, you are likely already behind the power curve. Please ensure that your leadership knows the days and dollars you’ll need to execute THEIR religious support program.

Along the same lines, about Strong Bonds. Strong Bonds is appropriated funding, FY 19 is where we are going to hold you accountable for treating it as such. Just follow AFI 52-105 which deals with appropriated funds and ensure those dollar amounts are included in your AMP budget. We have received at this writing about 40 requests for Strong Bonds funding.

We are required to follow all fiscal guidance and policy at the Readiness Center for our budget which includes Strong Bonds. Our internal controls require us to provide justification for the quarterly load we are asking for and that ties directly back to the requests you’ve developed including a quarterly spend plan. This is a required audit trail and provides the justification we need to request funds to be loaded into our checkbook account on a quarterly basis.

SMSgt Recore

We need your help! We are going to ease into this for this fiscal year (2019) as this is a new application of an old requirement for you to actually receive Strong Bonds funding. For those of you who will be requesting Strong Bonds funding for FY 19 we are asking you to provide a copy of your AMP Validation letter for the AMP you all developed in Feb 2018 which covers FY 19. This will help us get the quarterly amounts we need loaded right and help us track our spending as we fell significantly short last year which puts the annual allocation amount on a downward slope. Please help us help you so you can serve airmen. Send you validation letters to SMSgt Obst.

For those of you who do not have an AMP, it’s time to ask for a mea culpa. Send a memorandum for record acknowledging that you are not in compliance with the AFI’s governing religious support, programming, readiness and fiscal management and proposing a “get well” plan with a reasonable implementation date. Once we’ve reviewed, (adjusted if necessary) and approved your plan we will load your requested Strong Bonds funds. A suggested get well date would be 1 Feb 2019 (FY 20). Please send your MFR’s to Ch Brewer. For those of you who have submitted a request for funding for an upcoming event the quicker you respond to this the faster you will receive funding. We will work as a team with Ch Brewer as the POC to ensure a rapid turnaround.

I witness and hear testimony daily about the great ministry many of you do. I deeply appreciate the hard work and sacrifice you all willingly take on to be a citizen - airman. I am proud to be a member of this great organization and have the opportunity to serve alongside all of you.

December 12, 2018
Motivation and Purpose of Leadership
What’s your motivation to lead? Prestige? Power? Personal glory? Several leadership gurus will note that a person pursuing leadership solely for external gratification such as these will eventually miss the mark of the true purposes of leadership.

We’ve all seen the tragic endings of ministry leaders, CEOs, and public figures who got sidetracked in making their leadership about themselves and their own personal ambitions rather than about what’s best for those they lead. I like what authors Bill George and Peter Sims share about the motivation and purpose of leadership, “There is nothing wrong with desiring... outward symbols (of leadership) as long as they are combined with a deeper desire to serve something greater than oneself.” (True North, p. 28, 2007) I believe that for the vast majority of ministers and ministry support individuals, we engage in the ministry with a true passion to serve something greater than ourselves (e.g. God and our members).

We’re reminded of this truth in the stories surrounding Hanukkah/Chanukah and the birth of Christ. Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple following the Maccabean revolt against the oppressive Greek-Syrian king, Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Seeking to restore the religious freedom to worship according to their Jewish tradition, Mattathias Maccabee and his son Judah, successfully led the Israelites to defeat a monarchy that opposed this freedom. These leaders remind us that there are some freedoms worth dying for to protect.

Prior to their arrival in Bethlehem, the Magi who visited Jesus shortly after his birth had a timely layover in Jerusalem. While in the City of David, they had an audience with King Herod and declared their purpose, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” As you recall, it was in this setting they initiated a disturbance that resulted in an entourage of religious leaders who advised a head-of-state about a world changing religious matter – the birth place of Christ. Even on this stage, the Magi never diverted from their purpose – serving something or someone greater than themselves. They eventually visited the King of the Jews and fulfilled their purpose of worshiping him.

This holiday season, let each of us reflect upon what our true motivation and purpose for leadership is about. May you also experience the peace and love of God this holiday season as you worship and serve our Lord.

Several of you have inquired about Religious NOTAMS. The Air Force Chaplain Corps office no longer produces monthly NOTAMS. HAF/HC has joined the Air University app and placed an annual Religious Observance Calendar under the Air Force Chaplain Corps section. The 2019 calendar has not been posted as of 27 Nov 2018 but we anticipate that the new calendar will be posted soon.

Ch Gregory

Ch Brewer

Ch, Col Larry D Layne (retired), ALANG with 36 years of service with Brig Gen Jeffery L. Newton, Director of the Joint Staff, ALANG, Ch Layne and spouse receiving the Alabama Commendation Medal, and the Legion of Merit. Ch Layne looks forward to continued full time ministry serving as Elder Care Chaplain with the Baptist Foundation of Alabama.

Finally, ensures that the training is advertised as a religious education stewardship program through the same methods all Chaplain Corps religious programs are advertised, and is not used in compulsory unit financial readiness training or included as materials in installation financial education programs (T-0).

For reference, the military version of Financial Peace University appears to be one of the most viable curriculum that meets these requirements and is currently being used by Active Duty and ANG chaplains.
Participants will submit a short reflection paper based on their learning goals to the supervisor each week, as well as occasional verbatim presentations to the group. At the end of the course each participant will receive one unit of ACPE-accredited CPE. ACPE (Association for Clinical Pastoral Education) is the premiere accrediting body for CPE in the United States. The CPE supervisor for this unit will be Rev. Pam Roberts of R.C. Freedom Ministries (RCFM). Rev. Roberts has extensive experience on such topics as deployment, reintegration, care-giver fatigue, and Post-traumatic Stress.

**REQUIREMENTS:** All participants are required to attend a retreat from 30 Apr- 3 May 2018 (including travel days). During this time participants will experience a renowned program of equine (horse-based) therapeutic techniques in a beautiful, rustic environment in the Rocky Mountains. All skill levels and comfort levels with horses will be accommodated; riding the horses is not required. The costs of the retreat and related travel as well as tuition for the CPE unit will be paid by NGB/HC. All participants must currently be serving in a full-time ministry setting (civilian ministry, ANG Chaplain Corps technician, etc.). Participants will need a computer with a camera, head set and reliable internet connection capable of handling WebEx and Google Hangout (these programs are available free of charge to users).

**PREFERENCES:** Any ANG chaplain and Religious Affairs Specialist is eligible to apply. However, preference will be given to those who have not previously completed any CPE. Applicants who applied for last year’s unit but were not selected are invited to reapply, but an updated application for this year will need to be submitted. Watch for the official e-mail announcement and dates with application procedures coming soon!

*Remember… readiness is not a habit but a lifestyle*

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**Step 4 – vision between each student and the CPE supervisor via a phone conversation.** Additionally, 1 to 2 times per week will include prayer, discussions and presentations by group members. After this thought:

Here are the plans for the distance-based CPE offering:

Eight ANG participants will be selected to complete one basic unit of ACPE-accredited CPE at no cost to them. The format will be distance-based, which means the selected participants will do their required clinical hours for the program in their current ministry settings. Participants will engage in 16 weeks of organized learning during the unit, which will run April 30, 2019 – September 13, 2019. The CPE participants will travel to a pre-determined location for an initial 3 day CPE retreat/orientation.

Afterwards, 300 hours will be spent doing ministry in your current ministry setting, and 100 hours will be spent in group and individual supervision. The students and CPE supervisor will meet as a group one time virtually which will include prayer, discussions and presentations by group members. Additionally, 1 to 2 times per-week will involve individual supervision between each student and the CPE supervisor via a phone conversation.

**Step 5 – Implementation, Monitoring, and Revision**

Ch Williams

Chaplain Corps Colleagues,

As we head into 2019, NGB/HC is working hard to offer another distance-based unit of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) which will commence April 30, 2019. Readiness Division believes CPE is one of the very best training opportunities available to promote pastoral readiness and resiliency, and those who have attended the past years subscribe to this thought:

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*Remember… readiness is not a habit but a lifestyle*
From the Field...

RAA Apprentice Course Graduates, Class 19001

Religious Affairs Airman, TSgt Shaun Reagan, 104 FW, MA ANG, stops for a moment during his visitation to the hospital and poses for a quick picture. TSgt Reagan is presently deployed to the AOR.
Chaplain Corps Annual Awards

- Categories: ANG can be nominated for individual awards (para 1.4) or the Spirit of the Four Chaplains (para 1.5)
- Award period: Individual awards are 1 Jan 18—31 Dec 18; Spirit of the Four Chaplains has no required award period
- Package: Submit package IAW AFI 36-2811
  - Individual award package due to NGB Org box NLT 15 Jan 19, USAF JB A-NAFW NGB HC Mailbox HC CHAP-LAIN CORPS (usaf.jbanafw.ngb-hc.mbx.hc-chaplain-corps@mail.mil)
  - Spirit of the Four Chaplain award package, submit directly to AF/HC Org box NLT 15 Feb 19, HQ USAF/HCX (usaf.pentagon.af-hc.mbx.af-hcx-workflow@mail.mil). See the AFI on specific package requirements.
  - Individual award package contents (para 2.1.1): Three items—Signed endorsement memo from WG/CC, biographical sketch, AF Form 1206
- The attachments below are an effort to save you time (in having to re-submit because of formatting/content errors). Use these and AFI 36-2811 to perfect your package prior to submitting.
The ANG Strong Bonds Support Team Members wish everyone a most Joyful and Safe Holiday Season. It’s truly a pleasure to serve our Chaplain Corps members while meeting the needs of our American Airmen and their Families. Gods Blessings to All.

2nd QUARTER STRONG BONDS FUNDS DISTRIBUTION: 2nd Qtr. Funds Distribution will begin in early January 2019. Wings are encouraged to continue to utilize the Front Load Authority in the month of December and early January to posture Contracts per NGB/FM Capt Matt Riggs. We expect the next funds distribution to cover both 2nd and 3rd Quarters. For more information concerning Strong Bonds Training Requirements please contact either Ch Bruce Brewer or Mr. Ed Brown.

TRAINING AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS PROCESS – IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED!!
All Wing Chaplains and SB POCs – Fiscal Year 2019 ANG Strong Bond Training (Funding) Requirements are due now. Post all training/funding requirements on the ANG Strong Bonds Website at https://airguard.ang.af.mil/A1/A1S/HCSBonds/ using 4 digits: (2019). Your prompt response will assist the ANG Strong Bonds Team in assuring appropriate funding for all ANG Wings/Units requesting retreat trainings. Also, please ensure your Strong Bonds training requirements are included in your 2019 Airmen Ministry Plan (AMP) to include FY19 Strong Bonds financials. Please contact Mr. Ed Brown with questions or concerns at edwin.b.brown.ctr@mail.mil  
*SPECIAL NOTE: The Strong Bonds Program operates on O&M “AV” Funds ONLY! We do not issue MILPERS (ST or AT Days or Dollars).

STRONG BONDS INSTRUCTOR TRAINING CERTIFICATION COURSES – CY 2019: NGB/HC is pleased to announce we will offer 5 opportunities for ANG Strong Bonds Team Members to receive Instructor Certification Training in FY2019

**Laugh Your Way (Couples) – SBITC (LYW) courses at Maxwell AFB, AL for BCC Students and ANG-Wide Students.**
Report the Weekend Prior to BCC Start Date. See dates below:
January 12-13 2019 (11 January Travel Day) – SEATS AVAILABLE!
May 12-13 2019 (11 May Travel Day)
August 12-13 2019 (11 August Travel Day)

**22-27 April 2019 - 150th SOW, New Mexico ANG, Kirtland AFB, NM**
Home Run for Families/Parents – Love Thinks LLC
Fearless Marriage for Couples 8.0 – PREP LLC
Got Your Back for Individuals – PREP LLC

**12-17 August 2019 – 141st ARW, Washington ANG, Fairchild AFB, WA**
Family Wellness for ANG Families – Family Wellness Associates
Speed of Trust for Couples – Covey LLC
PICK Revised “Building Healthy Relationships” – Love Thinks LLC

Again, thanks to every Chaplain, Chaplain Assistant, Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager and Key Volunteers for your continued support and efforts to make the ANG Strong Bonds Program a success. Your efforts have a direct and positive impact on our Airmen and their Families. If you have any questions or concerns regarding anything listed in this newsletter article, please do not hesitate contacting either myself or Ch Bruce Brewer. Gods Blessings,
**Airman Ministry Plan (AMP)** The new ABC Tool has issues flowing smoothly into an AMP product (MPT tab of AFCCARS ABC Tool). Until the issues are resolved, complete your FY20 AMP using the old ABC Tool 1703-1. Only use this old ABC Tool for AMP purposes—not for regular monthly reports to NGB. Once the issues are resolved, we will give detailed instructions on how to transfer your AFCCARS AMP into the most recent ABC Tool.

**Do not be afraid of the AMP (the MPT tab) inside the AFCCARS ABC Tool!!** The AF/HC site notes, “The AMP is a product of the ministry planning process. The AMP is a published document which identifies, validates, and prioritizes ministry deliverables and resource requirements at the tactical-level. The Senior RST develops the AMP in partnership with their team members, and in concert with the Chaplain Corps Strategic Priorities, ... the supported Commander's intent, and other relative requirements. The AMP must be realistic and measurable. MAJCOM-DRU-FOA/HC validates the AMP and the supported Commander (typically the Installation Commander) approves it prior to implementation.” Please take time to input your AMP information into the ABC Tool. Once the initial data is input, the year-to-year update is simplified.

**Reminder 1** In your Master UserFile, format your unit types as Squadron (e.g. 197 SFS, 197 WHQS, 197 MDS). This is the only authorized format. You'll need to categorize (or re-categorized) accordingly.

**Reminder 2** Send your monthly reports to MSgt Angel Huertas (Cc SMSgt Obst).

**Reminder 3** Use the tools provided below FIRST if you need training—if you still have questions, MSgt Huertas or SMSgt Obst will assist.

**TRAINING**

Base Recorders needing initial/refresher AFCCARS training must FIRST watch the training videos below. Also, review the How-To Step-by-Step Guide located on the **ANG/HC SharePoint**. Your AFCCARS Subject Matter Experts* (SMEs) are at your disposal afterwards to assist further.

TEC video #1, AFCCARS Initial Setup Example: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ5V-jmb10JVTQDjxPaOgg3T-QPIBM394](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ5V-jmb10JVTQDjxPaOgg3T-QPIBM394)

TEC video #2, AFCCARS Troubleshooting: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ5V-jmb10JWeyvyaR8tpSydKg-215De](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ5V-jmb10JWeyvyaR8tpSydKg-215De)


*AFCCARS SMEs: MSgt Huertas or SMSgt Obst. If you are unable to access the SharePoint, let us know.
Accessions Process for Religious Affairs Amn

IAW AFI 52-102v2 para 4, the AFEC 5R, and AFI 36-2626 para 2.5, follow these instructions. Wing Chaplains and Superintendents conduct an interview, review the following documents, and then email a package (as a single PDF) to the CFM, SMSgt Recore; courtesy copy SMSgt Obst.

- Retraining memorandum. This must be eSigned or wet signed by the wing chaplain and Superintendent/NCOIC. Include the CFM’s (SMSgt Recore) endorsement block. The CFM will sign and return this to you once the accession has been approved.

- Student Information Sheet. Filled out by/for the member—no signatures required.

- Last 3 EPRs/LOEs. A combo of these is okay too. Examples: one EPR and two LOEs; two EPRs and one LOE. Note: evals have been required for 3 yrs for ANG. If none exist, we recommend you accomplish an LOE with the Airman’s help, and gently request the previous chain to complete an EPR.

- vMPF RIP. The member can print this out by logging into vMPF—Self-Service Actions—Personal Data—Duty History—View/Print All Pages. Don’t remove any pages.

- Fitness printout. Found in AFFMS.

- Form 422. This shows worldwide qualification.

All other Student Information Sheets for HC courses can be found in the folder located on the ANG/HC SharePoint—Chaplain and Religious Affairs Training—Select the enlisted or officer folder—Student Information Forms folders. Send enlisted forms to SMSgt Obst, and officer forms to Ch Brewer.

MFR (at left) and Student Information Sheet (below). Fill these out and include them in the accession package described in the bullets to the left. This package must me routed IAW the description, also to the left. Once routed, standby for approval. Upon approval, begin the official accession into your HC office. These two original documents can be found on the ANG SharePoint—Chaplain and Religious Affairs Training—Religious Affairs Amn Information Forms folder and the Accessions Documents folder.
Key Notes:

Standard ANG Chaplain Corps offices entail the following staffing:

1) O5; 2) O4s; 1) E7; 1) E6; 1) E5

For advertisement modifications/removals/additions, please notify MSgt Huertas

NOTE: We cannot put personal cell phones in your advertisement (it violates PII). We can only input duty cells and official office phones.

- One Chaplain (O4)—192 FW, Joint Base Langley Eustis, VA ANG, POC Ch Incorvilia Comm 757-225-0409, DSN 575-0409
- One Religious Affairs Ann (E5)—164 AW, Memphis, TN ANG, POCs Maj Conger 901-291-7373; Ms. Chism 901-291-7478
- One Chaplain (O3 or O2) 178 WG, Springfield, Ohio ANG, POC Ch Branch, Comm 937-327-2214, DSN 346-2214
- One Chaplain (O5)—142 FW, OR ANG, POC Ch Howard, Comm 509-842-2156
- One Chaplain (O4)—150 SOW, Albuquerque, NM ANG, POC Msgt Quintana Comm 505-853-5128, DSN 246-1920
- One Chaplain (O4)—129 RW, Moffett ANGB, CA ANG—POC Ch Schenone, Comm 707-292-8971; MSgt Henrikson, Comm Two RAAs (E5 & E6) 209-404-3602
- Two Chaplains (O3 & O4)-188 WG, Fort Smith, AR ANG, POC Ch Pair, AR JFHQ/HC, Comm 479-366-9939, DSN 962-5622 One RAA (E5)
- Two Chaplains (O3 & O4)-189 AW, Little Rock, AR ANG, POC Ch Pair, AR JFHQ/HC, Comm 479-366-9939, DSN 962-5622 Two RAAs (E5 & E6)
- One Chaplain (O4)—152 AW, Reno, NV, POC Ch Crandell, Comm 559-454-5152, DSN 830-8785
- One Religious Affairs Ann (E5)—139 AW, St. Joseph, MO, POC Ch Ludwig, Comm 816-236-3175, DSN 356-3175
- One Chaplain (O4)—143 AW, N. Kingstown, RI ANG, POC Ch Yi, 401-267-3269, DSN 476-3269; Msgt Levasseur 401-639-5413
- One Religious Affairs Ann (E5)—146 AW, 146th AW, Channel Islands, CA ANG, POC Ch Love, Comm 805-986-7959
- One Religious Affairs Ann (E5)—123 AW, Louisville, KY ANG, POC Tsgt Lawson, DSN 741-4602
- One Chaplain (O4)—193 SOW, Harrisburg, PA ANG, POC Ch Qualman, Comm 314—565-8009, DSN 565-8009
- One Chaplain (O4)—116 ACW, Robins AFB, GA ANG, POC Ch Bridges, Comm 478-952-0624, DSN: 241-1274
- One Chaplain (O4)—104 FW, Westfield, MA ANG, POC Ch DeVoie, Comm 413-568-9151, DSN 698-1082 One RAA (E5) POC Tsgt Anderson, Comm 413-568-9151, DSN, 698-1572
- One Religious Affairs Ann (E6)—137 SOW, OK ANG, POC Ch Baker, Comm 405-686-5036, Msgt Smith 405-686-5334
- One Chaplain (O3)—169 FW, McEntire JNGB SC ANG, POC Ch Pittman, Comm 803-647-8265, DSN, 583-8265 One RAA (E5)
The Chaplaincy Connection is a monthly newsletter provided to members of the ANG Chaplain Corps (active/retired) and military community. Our intent is to provide members communication on the focus, efforts, and accomplishments of our ANG Chaplain Corps teams. All past newsletters can be found on the ANG/HC SharePoint listed above.

** Locally, Globally—Always Ready, Always on Mission **

Please direct any suggestions, comments, or article submissions for the next newsletter to ** MSgt Angel Huertas**