Becoming a Chaplain In the United States Army Reserve



Prepared by the Chaplains of the 96th Regional Support Command United States Army Reserve Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, UT

Hi. Thanks for glancing through this brochure.

There are many reasons why you might want to consider becoming a chaplain in the Army Reserve. In preparing this brochure, we hope to communicate some of the many benefits that could be yours, should you sense the leading of the Lord to pursue this kind of ministry.

Although we have tried to give as much information as possible, to answer as many questions as we could, and to cover as many issues that might come to your mind, it is likely that there is something we have left out. Therefore, if you have any questions, if there is some information you need, or if you simply want a friendly chat with someone about the possibilities, please give us a call or send an email.

You see, we think that serving the Lord as an Army Reserve chaplain is challenging and fulfilling. If you've never had any military experience, it might seem scary at first. But once you get into a unit and meet the people, it's actually a lot of fun.

Whatever your spiritual gifting, you can find meaningful expression of it in the chaplaincy. Whatever your personality, there is room for you. Whatever your educational and ministerial circumstances, serving as a chaplain can bring greater depth, develop leadership skills, and broaden your understanding about what ministry is all about. The opportunities to make a difference in people's lives are endless!

So take a look at the information on the following pages. Think about it. Pray about it. Talk to your friends and family. Then if you want to talk to someone about what it's really like, give us a call. We promise we won't twist your arm or lay a heavy sales pitch on you. Just straight answers to your questions.

After all, we don't want you if you don't want to be here. And we don't want you if you don't sense a divine prompting to minister in this context. It's not for everybody, but it just might be for you!

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Requirements for Being a Chaplain

There are six basic eligibility requirements for becoming an Army chaplain. They are age, health, education, ecclesiastical endorsement, a background check, and citizenship or legal residence.

Age: A chaplain must be commissioned by age 40. If you have prior military service, you may be able to get an extension. Otherwise your 40th birthday is the deadline.

Health: Every person coming into the Army must pass a complete physical medical exam. In addition, there are minimum requirements for push-ups, sit-ups, and the 2-mile run.

These minimums vary according to age.

Education: Generally speaking, a chaplain must have a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary. However, the way the rules actually state the requirement, all you have to have is an accredited M.A. with 36 units in religious studies and ministry, and a total of 72 cumulative units. Your own endorsing agency might still require the M.Div., so check with your congregation's national office or endorsing agent.

Ecclesiastical Endorsement: Every chaplain is a fully qualified clergyperson recognized by an approved religious body or endorsing agency. Without an official ecclesiastical endorsement, you cannot be a chaplain. Therefore, you should contact your national office and ask them what they require in order for you to receive their endorsement. If you don't know who your endorser is, give us a call and we'll help put you in touch with the right people.

Background Check: For security clearance, the Army will conduct a background check.

Citizenship or legal resident: During the background investigation you will need to provide evidence that you are a U.S. citizen, or that you are a permanent legal resident.

Common Acronyms

The Army uses a lot of acronyms. Therefore, it might be good for you to know some of the more common ones right up front. That way, when you see them in this brochure, or when you are talking to someone about the chaplaincy, you'll know exactly what is being said.

AC: <u>Active Component</u>. The United States Army is made of three components: the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, and the Active Component. The AC is comprised of those who are full-time in the Army, and may also be called the Active Duty or Regular Army.

ARNG: <u>Army National Guard</u>. Each state has its own force known as the Army National Guard. The ARNG may be called to duty by the state or by the federal government.

AT: <u>Annual Training</u>. In addition to serving one weekend per month, the Reserve Components do a two-week duty, usually during the summer. This 2-week duty is called Annual Training, or AT.

RC: <u>Reserve Components</u>. There are two types of Reserve forces in the U.S. Army. They are the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. The RCs serve one weekend per month and two weeks during the year.

RSC: <u>Regional Support Command</u>. The Army Reserve is organized into regions throughout the United States. Each region covers several states and has its own command structure. For example, the 96th RSC consists of units in six states: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. The RSC headquarters is in Salt Lake City, UT.

UMT: <u>Unit Ministry Team</u>. Most battalions and higher echelon units are authorized a chaplain and a chaplain assistant. The chaplain and chaplain assistant together are the Unit Ministry Team.

USACHCS: <u>Unites States Army Chaplain Center and School.</u>

Every Army chaplain of all components goes through the chaplain school for Chaplain Officer Basic Training (CHOBC) and for the Chaplain Career Course (CCC). USACHCS is at Fort Jackson, in

Columbia, South Carolina.

USAR: *United States Army Reserve*. One of the two Reserve

Components of the U.S. Army, the USAR is a federal force, not under state command, as is the ARNG.

USARC: United States Army Reserve Command. The next

higher command for each of the Regional Support

Commands.

Drill Weekends

The biggest time commitment of being a chaplain in the USAR takes place on the monthly drill weekend. For most units this is usually a Saturday/Sunday weekend, from about 7:00 AM until 5:00 PM both days. A USAR chaplain who has ministerial responsibilities at a civilian congregation is usually allowed to meet those congregational obligations, and make up the missed drill time some other time during the month. This would mean serving a day-and-a-half with the unit, and making up the other four hours on another day.

The drill weekend may include conducting religious services, participating in the commander's staff meeting, talking with soldiers one-on-one, counseling, training your chaplain assistant, working with the Family Support Group, and a variety of other activities. Depending on the unit and the training calendar, you might find yourself rappelling from a cliff or a tower, running an obstacle course, getting your military driver's license for the HUMVEE, or playing ping pong or foozball with the soldiers. The opportunities for ministry and for adventure are endless. But to be honest, there are also some boring times, too.

Ministry Opportunities



Depending on your faith tradition, your personality, and your spiritual gifts, the possibilities for ministry are almost endless. The chaplain's primary duty is to provide ministry to those of the same faith group, and to facilitate ministry for those of other faiths.

The Army chaplaincy places a high value on pluralism. This means we respect those whose religious ideas and traditions are different from our own. There are times when we all work together. On the other hand, each chaplain is fully expected to be a clergyperson representing one's own faith group and endorsing agent.

With this in mind, a chaplain has considerable freedom to minister. Here are some of the activities you might include in your ministry plan: counseling, mentoring, worship services, discipleship, Scripture discussion groups, evangelism, concerts, friendship, retreats, seminars, crisis intervention, weddings, prayer meetings, fellowship, teaching, funerals, sacraments or ordinances, community involvement. There is so much that you can do!

Intangibles

In addition to the ministry opportunities and the financial benefits, there are some significant "intangible" benefits to being a USAR chaplain. Things like pride, respect, and patriotism. Or fun, excitement, and community involvement. There is also the historical and nationwide camaraderie of being part of the United States armed forces. There is a special bond among the men and women who have served in our military, and you will be part of that. Chaplains have always been held in honor and admiration by those in the civilian and religious communities, as well. Being a chaplain opens doors for ministry in more ways than you would think.

Chaplain Candidate Program

If you are enrolled in seminary full-time, and are under age 34, you may qualify to be a Chaplain Candidate. A Chaplain Candidate has to qualify in every way that a chaplain does, but not having completed seminary, might not be ordained yet. Chaplain Candidates are commissioned as Second Lieutenants (2LT), can receive tuition assistance for educational expenses, and can serve up to 45 days per year, usually during the summer or between school terms

What About Women?

Women are welcome in the Army chaplaincy. In fact, many female chaplains have found this to be a wonderful arena to develop their ministry and leadership skills. They have experienced acceptance, and have discovered many meaningful ways to make a difference in the lives of individuals and in the units in which they serve.

There are some endorsing agencies that do not endorse women, however. So you'll need to find out if your endorser will approve of women serving as chaplains. If they do not endorse females, you might want to contact an endorsing agency that does. The sooner you find out the better. See page 3's discussion of endorsers.

Chaplain Assistants

Just about every Army chaplain is authorized to have a chaplain assistant. Chaplain assistants are valuable members of the Unit Ministry Team (UMT). They are trained to assist the chaplain in many ways, at the direction of the chaplain. Also, since chaplains are non-combatants and do not carry weapons, during battle conditions the chaplain assistant serves as the chaplain's defender. I suppose you could say a chaplain assistant is part associate pastor, part executive assistant, and part body guard! They are a tremendous asset to the UMT and to the unit.

Job Description of a USAR Chaplain

As an Army Reserve chaplain, you will be called to "wear two hats." You will have a dual role in the unit you serve. First, you are a minister, rabbi, priest, imam, or pastor representing your faith group, ministering to the soldiers in your unit. Second, you are a member of the commanding officer's special staff. As a minister,

you function much the way you would in your civilian ministry. You'll preach, counsel, teach, encourage, disciple, pray, or whatever else it is that you do. Second, as a staff officer, you'll advise the commander on issues of morale, ethics, religion,



morality, and other dynamics that

affect the soldiers in your unit. You'll attend the commander's staff meetings, participate in the Family Support activities, and sometimes get involved in other ways that the commander asks of you. Each unit is different, with different people, needs, circumstances, and atmosphere. So you'll discover creative ways to serve each time you get into a new unit.

Service Options

In general, a chaplain is not obligated to stay in the Army for any set amount of time. You come in as a commissioned officer with a direct appointment, and you basically stay as long as you want. You're paid while you're in, and you get out when you want. If you receive any benefits, however, such as education payments or home loans, then you may be obligated to stay in a specified number of years. If you stay in at least 20 years, then you qualify for a lifetime retirement pension. To stay in, you have to stay in shape physically, you have to get good annual evaluations, and you have to make your promotions on schedule. If you choose to go into the Active Duty Army, your initial commitment would be for three years. After that there is no term, per se.

Benefits of Being in the USAR

There are some pretty neat benefits to being in the Army Reserve. To get a complete picture of the benefits, we suggest you contact the Army chaplain recruiter, but here is a glimpse of what is available: pay, military ID card, discounted military travel & lodging, retirement, low-cost term life insurance, Thrift Savings Plan (military 401K), VA benefits (home loans & education expenses), tuition assistance, and access to all United States military facilities nationwide and internationally as well, including commissary and PX shopping.

Again, we suggest that you contact the chaplain recruiter to get the exact details concerning which benefits apply to you. He is a valuable source of information and will be more than happy to assist you. Or call the RSC chaplain's office. There are lots of ways to get the information you need in order to make the decision that's best for you!

Promotions

Chaplains receive a direct appointment as commissioned officers. Unless there is prior military service, a chaplain candidate will most likely start as a 2nd Lieutenant (2LT), and a chaplain will start as a 1st Lieutenant (1LT). Once you have completed seminary, have done the Chaplain Officer Basic Course at USACHCS, and are in a unit, within a couple of years you will be promoted to Captain (CPT), assuming that you are doing your job well. The Chaplain Career Course is prerequisite to making Major (MAJ). And the Command and General Staff College is a requirement for making Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) and Colonel (COL). If you stick around long enough, stay in shape, take care of your military education, and continue to get good annual reviews, it is reasonable to expect to make it to LTC or COL before you retire.

Reserve Officer Pay Chart

As of 1 January 2002 (per day, per drill period, or per UTA)*

YEARS	2LT/O-1	1LT/O-2	CPT/O-3	MAJ/O-4	LTC/O-5	COL/O-6
<2	69.92	80.54	93.22	100.79	117.90	147.40
02	72.77	91.73	105.68	122.73	138.42	161.93
03	87.95	105.65	114.06	130.92	148.01	172.56
04	87.95	109.21	123.29	132.75	149.81	172.56
06	87.95	111.47	129.19	140.35	155.77	173.22
08	87.95	111.47	135.67	146.53	155.77	180.63
10		111.47	141.08	156.54	160.45	181.62
12		111.47	148.04	164.34	169.11	181.62
14			151.65	169.75	180.45	187.62
16			151.65	175.19	191.86	210.19
18				177.02	197.30	220.90
20				177.02	202.66	231.61
22					208.76	237.70
24					208.76	243.87
26						255.84



* The above chart shows the pay for Reserve Component military officers, ranks O-1 through O-6. Each amount listed is for one drill, day, or Unit Training Assembly (UTA). To determine your pay for a given period, find the amount for your rank and number of years of military service, then multiply this amount by the number of days or UTAs served. A typical drill weekend has 4 drills or UTAs, 2 on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. And a typical summer training period is 15 days. Other training opportunities are sometimes available throughout the year, and would be paid at the same rate per day. These amounts may change in January 2003 as part of a military-wide cost-of-living increase.

Retirement Points for Reservists

One retirement point is credited per day or UTA served, and 15 points are added per year just for being in the system. If you

served 63 drills per year, then, you would have 78 points per year. But there are often other training opportunities and military courses that you are able to attend, and these add up. It takes 50 points within a year to make it a "good" year, and 20 good years qualify you for a retirement pension.



There is a formula the Army uses to determine exactly how much your pension will be, but to keep it simple for now, let's just say you end up averaging 85 points per year for 25 years, and retire as an LTC. Your pension for the rest of your life will be about \$925 per month. A COL's pension would be about \$1,100 per month. Active Duty pensions would be considerably higher.

Civilian Career

Some USAR chaplains are clergypersons in their full-time jobs, but many are not. Their career paths include all sorts of things. There are counselors, educators, bus drivers, prison chaplains, and businesspersons, to name a few. Most employers understand the nature of Reserve duty and have no problem with you being gone once in a while. Federal and state laws protect the jobs and income of those in the Reserve Components. Many congregations are proud to have one of their own in the Army Reserve, and even consider the chaplain to be part of their missions program or outreach into the larger community. So whatever career path you choose, being a USAR chaplain will not hinder you.



In fact, being an Army Reserve chaplain will enhance the quality of life for you, those you work with, and those in the unit you are assigned to.

Ongoing Professional Development

Throughout your career as an Army chaplain, you will be able to receive some of the best training available anywhere, and on a wide variety of topics. The Army wants its chaplains to be topnotch, so we train you or pay for you to attend training. What kind of training? Glad you asked! Here is a list of some the professional development training available for you to take advantage of. Can any of these courses help you in your line of work?

Suicide Awareness & Prevention
Clinical Pastoral Education
Medical Emergency Ministry
Counseling Methods
Resource Management
Critical Incident Stress Management
Mentoring
Decision Making
Self Care
Ministering Across Generation Barriers
Sharpening Your People Skills
Marriage and Parenting Training
Effective Leadership Styles

In addition to the training you'll receive in the Army, you'll also qualify for VA education benefits. This means that with a six-year commitment, you'll be able to pursue an advanced degree such as a Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) or Ph.D. at an accredited graduate school, and the VA will pay you about \$10,000 for your educational and living expenses.

Again, make sure you call the chaplain recruiter, the RSC chaplain, the financial aid office of the graduate school you are thinking of attending, or any Army recruiting office to get precise, current information. Dragnet's SGT Friday was famous for his often quoted line, "Just the facts, ma'am." Whenever you have a question, be persistent and keep asking til you get the facts right.



USAR chaplains in the 96th RSC

Rank & Name	Unit Location	Faith Group	
COL Lynn Humphreys	Salt Lake City, UT	LDS	
COL Berris Samples	Salt Lake City, UT	Baptist	
LTC Bryce Holbrook	Salt Lake City, UT	LDS	
LTC Glenn Woodson	Helena, MT	Methodist	
LTC John Powledge	Colorado Springs, CO	Full Gospel	
MAJ Nathan Byrd	Denver, CO	Presbyterian	
MAJ Brent Jones	Salt Lake City, UT	LDS	
MAJ Jon Mau	Denver, CO	Lutheran	
MAJ Paul Linzey	Salt Lake City, UT	Assemblies of God	
CPT Clay Anstead	Salt Lake City, UT	LDS	
1LT Renee Kiel	Salt Lake City, UT	Lutheran	
1LT Luis Silva	Fargo, ND	Catholic	

Location of USAR Units in the 96th RSC

The 96th Regional Support Command encompasses six states: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. We have units of various sizes throughout the region, which means we need chaplains throughout the region. Wherever you live, chances are there is a unit within driving distance of your home.

Interesting Facts about the Chaplaincy

- 1. The Army Chaplaincy is the oldest of the American military chaplaincies, and predated the Declaration of Independence by almost a year. The Second Continental Congress authorized Chaplains for the Army on 29 July 1775. The same Congress authorized Chaplains in the Navy on 28 November 1775. The Air Force Chaplain Service came into existence on 26 July 1949.
- 2. <u>The Army Chaplain Corps comprises the largest military chaplaincy in the world</u>. As of January 2002, there were 1280 active duty chaplains, 557 USAR/AGR chaplains and 599 ARNG chaplains on duty. Assisting these 2,436 chaplains were 2,550 chaplain assistants in the active and reserve components.
- 3. Almost fourteen per cent of all Army chaplains since the Civil War have received battlefield decorations. More than 25,000 chaplains have served since 1775 in 36 wars and 242 major combat engagements. From 1861 though 1975, six were awarded the Medal of Honor. More than 3,400 other chaplains received combat decorations including 27 Distinguished Service Crosses, 44 Silver Stars, 67 Legions of Merit, 719 Bronze Stars, and 109 Purple Hearts.
- 4. World War II marked the greatest transformation of the Chaplain Corps in two centuries. From 140 Regular Army chaplains on active duty in December 1941, the Corps expanded to include 8,141 chaplains on active duty in August of 1945. At the direction of General George C. Marshall, the Army constructed 1,532 cantonment chapels during the war, created the rank of Major General for the Chief of Chaplains and Brigadier General for the Deputy Chief of Chaplains, relieved chaplains of duties not directly related to their profession as clergy, and included chaplains in Airborne units. Chaplain (MG) William Arnold, Chief of Chaplains for eight years, initiated strict control over chaplain assignments and training, reissued the 1926 Chaplain's Manual, reconstituted the Chaplain School at Fort Ben Harrison, communicated directives and policies with every chaplain through

- regular training circulars, and established the prototypes for a Contingency Force Pool of chaplains who could be immediately deployed and a Plans and Training Division for the Office of the Chief of Chaplains.
- 5. <u>More than 2,000 books or monographs by or about Army chaplains have been published</u>. After the Civil War, for example, 63 former Union Army chaplains wrote their regimental histories or published their memoirs. There are currently nine volumes of Chaplain Corps history written by ten chaplains that cover the period from 1775 through 1995.
- 6. Chaplains have traditionally provided noteworthy leadership for the government and for their religious denominations after their military service. One chaplain, Andrew Hunter, who served in both the American Revolution and the War of 1812, became one of the founders of the U.S. Naval Academy; another, Abraham Baldwin, was a signer of the Constitution of the United States. Chaplain Edward Neill was a private secretary to Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson and later U.S. Consul to Dublin. Chaplain William Pile became Governor of New Mexico, a U.S. Congressman, and later minister to Venezuela. Dr. Isaac Tichenor was a college president in Alabama and later Secretary of the Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. He was credited with helping to organize 10,000 churches in his lifetime. Some 24 former Army chaplains have been consecrated bishops in their denominations since 1865. One of these became the first Roman Catholic Archbishop of Saint Paul, Minnesota. Hundreds have served as denominational officials or as college presidents after their military service. Among the colleges and universities headed at sometime by former Army chaplains are: Yale, Randolph-Macon, Auburn, Emory, Notre Dame, the University of Georgia, Illinois State University, Gettysburg Seminary, and Fisk University.

Key Web Sites

So that you may continue your investigation at your own convenience, we are listing several web sites. Take time to gather as much information as you can. Then you'll be certain whether the Army Reserve chaplaincy is for you or not. Good luck!

Chaplaincy Information

Army Chief of Chaplains: www.chapnet.army.mil U.S. Army Chaplain School: www.usachcs.army.mil Reserve Chaplain Info:

http://134.11.73.3/reserves/index.htm
USARC Chaplain (intranet): https://usarcintra/chaplain/
(intranet can only be accessed from a military computer)

Army Reserve Information

USAR Personnel Command: www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil

U.S. Army Reserve: www.army.mil/usar

GoArmyReserve: www.goarmyreserve.com/

Regular Army Home Page

United States Army www.army.mil

96th Regional Support Command

General Info & History

www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/army/96rsc.htm Official Home Page: www.usarc.army.mil.96rsc



Contact Information

If you would like more information, if you'd like to talk on the phone or by email with someone, if you'd like to see a video, or perhaps get some more literature on being an Army chaplain, here are some names, phone numbers, email addresses, and the 96th RSC mailing address. We are all ready to answer your questions and spend some time with you.

CH (MAJ) Paul Linzey, full-time chaplain at the 96th RSC Office phone: 801-656-3617 Cell Phone: 801-414-5114 Fax: 801-656-3683 Email: paul.linzey@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Mailing Address: Chaplain's Office The 96th Regional Support Command Fort Douglas AFRC, Building 105 Salt Lake City, UT 84113-5007

CH (MAJ) Lane Stockeland, Chaplain Recruiter Office phone: 702-639-2061 Pager: 877-710-6324

Email: lane.stockeland@usarec.army.mil

CH (COL) Lynn Humphreys, 96th RSC Command Chaplain

Cell phone: 801-668-0330

Email: lynn.humphreys@us.army.mil

CH (COL) Berris Samples, 96th RSC Deputy Command Chaplain

Office phone: 435-649-8131

Email: berris.samples@us.army.mil



The Double Diamond Shoulder patch of the 96th Regional Support Command

Negative Aspects of Being in the USAR

As wonderful as we are trying to make it sound to be an Army Reserve chaplain, we do admit that there are some potentially negative dynamics that you should take into account as you are thinking, praying, and counting the cost.

For example, it can be tough being gone one weekend each month when your spouse and kids want to do something together as a family. Or, when you have a long list of things to do at home or at the church, but you're going to be gone a few days for the annual CREST conference. Or, when your unit is doing its Annual Training and it's 114 degrees and dusty. Or like the time one of our chaplains arrived at the training site with his unit around midnight, and ended up putting his sleeping bag right on top of an ant hill. Yes, they were fire ants! That was not fun!

Occasionally there's someone in your unit who's not very friendly. Every once in a while you may come across someone who might have an attitude against organized religion and the clergy. You never know what you're going to face until the time comes, and you have to respond right then and there. But for the most part, you'll interact with good people who are supportive and respectful of the chaplain.

What to Do Now

Now that you have read this far, what should you do about it? There are at least five things you should do.

- 1. Pray. That's right. Try to discern if the chaplaincy is for you.
- 2. Talk with family & friends. Talking about it can help clarify whether or not it's really what you want to do.
- 3. Contact your denomination's or endorsing agency's national office. What do they have to say? What input do they offer?
- 4. Call or email one of the chaplains listed on the next page.
- 5. Count the cost; weigh the pros and cons.

Conclusion

You now have enough information at least to get started. But there's still so much more to find out. That's why we have said over and over again that you should consider calling one of us.

One question that sometimes comes to mind is this: to be a chaplain do you have to be a "gung ho Rambo" Type A person? The answer is, "no." Chaplains are in the military in order to minister to the needs of the people here. It is helpful to understand and to get along with the "gung ho Rambos" who are in the Army, but to be a chaplain you don't have to fit into any stereotype. You don't even have to be the "Army type." You just might be surprised at how many "normal" people there are in the Army and Army Reserve.

A love for God and for people is essential. An ability to get along with a wide variety of personalities is helpful. And, being patient with the now-legendary Army culture of "hurry up and wait," without getting too frustrated, would come in handy.

Other than that, you can really be you. And you can have an effective, powerful ministry among a segment of our society who otherwise might not be a part of any congregation, who might not have a pastor, a counselor, or even a friend to talk to about what's going on in their lives.



An Army Reserve chaplain:
A special calling for special people!