



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND
1333 ISAAC HULL AVE SE
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20378-0001

IN REPLY TO

NAVSEAINST 1730.1A
Ser 09M
31 Jul 01

NAVSEA INSTRUCTION 1730.1A

From: Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command

Subj: RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES WITHIN THE NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND

Ref: (a) U.S. Navy Regulations, (NAVREGS) 1990
(b) SECNAVINST 1730.8A
(c) SECNAVINST 1730.7A
(d) SECNAVINST 7010.6

Encl: (1) Responsibilities of the Naval Sea Systems Command Staff
Chaplain

1. Purpose. To issue policy and assign responsibilities for religious ministries within the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA).

2. Cancellation. NAVSEAINST 1730.1

3. Applicability. This instruction applies to all persons in NAVSEA who are responsible for the provision, facilitation and support of religious ministries.

4. Background. Throughout its history, the naval service has recognized its responsibility to provide for the rights and needs of its personnel. Article 817 of reference (a) provides for divine services and enjoins, "the religious preferences and the varying religious needs of individuals shall be recognized, respected, encouraged, and ministered to as practicable." Department of the Navy policy under reference (b) is "to accommodate the doctrinal or traditional observances of the religious faith practiced by individual members when they will not have an adverse impact on military readiness, individual or unit readiness, unit cohesion, health, safety, or discipline."

5. Action

a. NAVSEA Shore Activities

(1) In keeping with Department of the Navy policy and as specified in reference (c), Commanders and Commanding Officers of shore activities will provide for the free exercise of religion for all members of the naval service, eligible family members and other authorized personnel.

(2) When appropriate, shore activities will provide programs of

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ministry as specified in reference (c) in support of the free exercise of religion. The Command Religious Program (CRP), when established, will be an essential part of the command's total administration. The CRP will be supported and managed as an integral element of command planning, programming, and budgeting activities.

(3) Commanders and Commanding Officers of shore activities having CRPs are authorized to establish a Religious Offering Fund under the provisions of reference (d) for use by those faith groups who wish to emphasize voluntary contributions and benevolence as integral to worship and religious life.

b. NAVSEA Headquarters

(1) To accommodate the free exercise of religion of members of the naval service assigned to Headquarters, family members and authorized personnel, the Vice Commander, through the Naval Sea Systems Command Staff Chaplain, will provide for:

(a) Spiritual and personal counseling.

(b) Memorial services for Headquarters military personnel when requested.

(c) Provide, upon request, referrals and information about religious services in the area.

(d) Invocations and benedictions for ceremonial occasions when requested by the principals involved.

(e) Hospital visits in the case of seriously ill military members of the command and visits to the families of deceased members of the command.

(5) Other religious ministries, which may be appropriate.

(2) The Vice Commander will supervise the NAVSEA Staff Chaplain in the duties set forth in enclosure (1).

(3) Consistent with Chaplain Corps practice, the Vice Commander will make the NAVSEA Staff Chaplain available to serve as Staff Chaplain of other designated Systems Commands in accordance with Commander, Naval Bureau of Personnel directives.


C. D. NANCOS, JR.

Distribution:
NAVSEA Special List Y3

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND STAFF CHAPLAIN

1. The Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Staff Chaplain is a Major Claimant Staff Chaplain as defined by SECNAVINST 1730.7 series.

2. Position in the Command

The Staff Chaplain is responsible directly to the Commander for supervision and implementation of religious ministries for the military within NAVSEA. The Staff Chaplain will have direct access to the Commander, as required, as provided in article 1151 of Naval Regulations.

3. Functions

a. Advises the Commander, NAVSEA, on all matters relating to religious, moral, and ethical concerns, and to religious ministries within the claimancy.

b. Advises the Chief of Chaplains (OP-097) on matters concerning religious ministries within NAVSEA, which require the attention of the Chief of Chaplains.

c. Monitors billets and billet requirements for chaplains and for Religious Program Specialists (RPs) in all commands in the claimancy and advises the appropriate authority on the initiation of manpower authorization change requests.

d. Monitors the acquisition, operation, and maintenance of religious ministry facilities and collateral equipment within the claimancy.

e. Evaluates the effectiveness of Command Religious Programs (CRPs) as part of NAVSEA Inspection Program.

f. Provides assistance and guidance to command chaplains in the planning, programming, budgeting, and execution of local CRPs.

g. Facilitates the ministry of chaplains in the claimancy via command channels.

h. Develops ministry models to meet the unique needs of commands in the claimancy.

enclosure (1)

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i. Conducts or provides through naval sources, workshops, orientation and continued training for all chaplains, RPs, and other military personnel assigned to CRPs in the claimancy, as required.

j. Identifies training needs of chaplains and RPs to the Chief of Chaplains.

k. Reports periodically a summary of chaplain activities in the claimancy to the Chief of Chaplains.

l. Provides information and coordination of ministry for NAVSEA Headquarters military personnel consistent with their needs and command resources.

m. Performs other duties as directed by the Vice Commander, NAVSEA.

n. Advises the Director, Congressional and Public Affairs Division, of newsworthy religious activities within the claimancy.

o. Serves as Staff Chaplain for other designated Systems Commands (NAVAIRSYSCOM, SPAWARSYSCOM, NAVFACSYSCOM, NAVSPECWARCOM, NAVSUPSYSCOM, SSPO, MSC) as directed by Commander, Bureau of Naval Personnel.