

## **THE CIVIL AIR PATROL CHAPLAIN CORPS**

Want to be a part of a select group of patriotic, civic-minded religious leaders? The Civil Air Patrol just might have an answer for you. Individuals who meet the criteria can go on to become a Chaplain or a Character Development Instructor (CDI) in CAP. The CAP Chaplain Corps is an organization of clergy and spiritual leaders who are appointed and endorsed to serve as CAP Chaplains and CDIs. They represent their various faith groups in support of the pluralistic ministry of the CAP Chaplain Service.

The Chaplain Corps of CAP can be your entrance point into this arena of unique ministry and service, which is a wonderful way to serve God and country. To learn more about this challenging opportunity to serve, contact the Southeast Region Chaplain, Chaplain (Lt Col) Jim Howell at (404) 606-0048 or by email at [revdrjdh@bellsouth.net](mailto:revdrjdh@bellsouth.net), or you may contact the Deputy Region Chaplain, Chaplain (Lt Col) Marcus L Taylor at (321) 432-7967 or by email at [mtaylor@sercap.us](mailto:mtaylor@sercap.us).

- **Mission of the CAP Chaplain Corps**

- a. The free exercise of religion is a constitutional right of all US citizens. The Civil Air Patrol provides opportunities for CAP members to exercise this right through the Chaplain Corps and by allocating required resources to accomplish the Chaplain Corps mission.

- b. The Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps promotes moral leadership, spiritual care, and character development throughout CAP senior member and cadet programs.

c. Responding to contingencies is a critical aspect of the CAP Chaplain Corps mission. As professional clergy, CAP chaplains prepare to respond to Civil Air Patrol, USAF, ANG, AFRES and community contingencies, such as disasters, aircraft accidents, or acts of terrorism.

d. Chapter 909 of Title 10, United States Code, Section 9446, states that, “The Secretary of the Air Force may use the services of Civil Air Patrol chaplains in support of the Air Force active duty and reserve component forces to the extent and under conditions that the Secretary determines appropriate.” In light of this requirement, the CAP Chaplain Corps will appoint chaplains who meet the same educational and professional standards as Air Force chaplains and provide similar training to prepare them for domestic, non-combat ministry.

- **Chaplain Corps Standards**

Religious bodies listed by the Department of Defense (DoD) Armed Forces Chaplains Board (AFCB) endorse or approve all CAP chaplains. Individuals endorsed as chaplains in the US Armed Forces need not obtain another endorsement to serve with CAP. Some endorsers may require a separate endorsement for active duty or reserve chaplains serving as CAP chaplains. Chaplains use title and rank (Chaplain, Rank) in official correspondence. “Chaplain” is the proper term of address, regardless of rank. Chaplains wear the Air Force style or CAP distinctive uniform with insignia appropriate to their distinctive faith group. When leading worship services, chaplains may also wear apparel consistent with their faith group tradition.

However, distinctive clerical apparel (collars, crosses on chains, etc.) will not be worn with the Air Force style or CAP distinctive uniforms. Consult CAPM 39-1, *Civil Air Patrol Uniform Manual* for weight, grooming, and hair standards.

- **How do I become a CAP Chaplain? (See CAP Reg 265-1)**

- ✓ Have an Ecclesiastical Endorsement (DoD Form DD-2088) from a Department of Defense (DoD) Armed Forces Chaplain Board (AFCB) Endorser (DoD recognized official)
- ✓ Have a Bachelors Degree from an institution listed in the current edition of the American Council on Education (ACE)
- ✓ Have not less than 120 semester hours (180 quarter hours) from the qualifying educational institution.
- ✓ The qualified applicant shall also possess a post-baccalaureate graduate degree in the field of theological or related studies from a qualifying educational institution. A qualifying graduate degree program shall require no fewer than 72 semester hours (108 quarter hours) of graduate-level work. Related studies may include graduate courses in pastoral counseling, social work, religious administration, and similar disciplines when one-half of the earned graduate credits include topics in general religion, world religions, the practice of religion, theology, religious philosophy, religious ethics, and/or the foundational writings from the applicant's religious tradition.
- ✓ The Chief of the Chaplain Corps (CAP/HC) may grant a waiver to those who do not meet the graduate study requirement providing they meet all other requirements and present valid documentation of at least 5 years of full time ministry experience as a pastor within their denomination. Chaplains who receive a waiver are not eligible to provide assistance to the

military. Contact your wing chaplain for an application (CAP Form 35)

- **Appointment Procedure.**

Wing chaplains serve as the point of contact for all Chaplain Corps appointments within their wing. Clergy desiring to be appointed as a CAP chaplain must provide the wing chaplain with:

- ✓ (1) A completed **CAPF 35, *Chaplain Application***, signed by the unit commander where the applicant will be assigned, the Wing Chaplain and the Regional Chaplain.
- ✓ (2) An official transcript of each required degree showing the name and location of the institution that awarded the degree.
- ✓ (3) Ecclesiastical endorsement (***DoD Form 2088***) or letter of approval from an endorser recognized by the Department of Defense Armed Forces Chaplains Board (AFCB).
- ✓ (4) Verification of having met the CAP Senior Membership requirements, which are:
  - Fingerprint card and background check
  - Pay national and wing dues
  - Documentation that Cadet Protection Training and all portions of Level I have been completed.
- ✓ (5) The wing chaplain assembles all documentation required for appointment, except the ecclesiastical endorsement, which is sent directly from the endorser to NHQ Chaplain Corps Program Administrator (NHQ CAP/HCA). The wing chaplain will conduct an interview, sign the CAPF 35 if warranted, include all the supporting documentation and then forward the application package to the region chaplain for region approval

and subsequent transmission to NHQ CAP/HCA for final approval by the Chief of the Chaplain Corps (CAP/HC). Upon appointment NHQ CAP/HCA will issue a certificate of appointment.

✓ (6) After the appointment, the NHQ CAP/HCA notifies the region chaplain, wing chaplain, region commander, wing commander and ecclesiastical endorsing agent of the appointment.

- **Will I work with other faith groups in this program?**
  - Yes! CAP Reg 265-2, The Covenant and Code of Ethics for CAP Chaplains gives further details
  - Chaplains provide for the free exercise of religion for all CAP personnel regardless of faith or denominational creed
  
- **What roles will a CAP Chaplain fill within a Wing/Squadron?**
  - Chaplain advises the commander on ethical and moral issues
  - Chaplain provides for religious observances
  - Chaplain provides pastoral care
  - Certified chaplain provides emergency ministry
  - Chaplain/CDIs coordinate character development training for cadets
  
- **What are Character Development Instructors (CDIs).**

CDIs are a part of the CAP Chaplain Corps and are appointed to provide character development instruction only in the cadet program. Character Development Instructors (CDIs) are required to be active in and recommended by their local church or similar religious body.

**They will not use the title “Chaplain” nor wear chaplain insignia.** When duly appointed and upon completion of technician training, CDIs may wear the CDI service badge. Only appointed and endorsed chaplains are authorized to provide ministry as clergy within CAP. Clergy ministry includes: religious ministrations (worship services, baptisms, communion, and funerals); solemnizing of events; confidentiality and/or privileged communications. CAP members who are ordained ministers serving in the capacity of CDI are not granted confidentiality or privileged communication in CAP. The CDI works under the direction of a chaplain designated by the wing chaplain. When no chaplain is assigned to a unit, the CDI works directly for the commander while maintaining liaison with the wing chaplain.

- **How do I become a CAP Character Development Instructor (CDI)?** (*See CAP Reg 265-1*)

A CDI must first become a senior member (as described above). Once the individual has become a member and completed Level I, he/she may apply for the CDI position. CDI applications are acquired and processed through the Wing Chaplain.

- **Appointment Procedure**

- ✓ (1) Complete a **CAPF 35a, *Character Development Instructor Application***.
- ✓ (2) Have a minimum of 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of college study beyond the high school diploma. The minimum of 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) must be attained from a college or university listed in the current edition of the American Council on Education (ACE).

- ✓ (3) Acquire and submit a letter of recommendation from his or her local religious official (i.e., church pastor, rabbi, etc.) who is a member of a faith group listed by the Department of Defense (DoD) Armed Forces Chaplains Board (AFCB), verifying that the applicant is spiritually, morally, and emotionally qualified to serve as a character development instructor, and the applicant has held a leadership position in the church/or religious equivalent setting for at least 2 years.
- ✓ (4) The wing chaplain completes an interview, signs the CAPF 35a if warranted, and then forwards the application package including the supporting documentation to the region chaplain for region approval and subsequent transmission to NHQ CAP/HCA for final approval by CAP/HC.
- ✓ (5) After the appointment, the NHQ CAP/HCA notifies the region chaplain, wing chaplain, region commander, wing commander and unit commander of the appointment.
- ✓ (6) Unless currently serving in a higher grade, in which case the higher grade will be maintained, a CDI is initially appointed in the grade of second lieutenant and awarded the CAP 225 Specialty Track.