

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Air Force Chaplaincy**  
**Prepared by Chaplain Lonnie Barker**  
**April 2009**

1. Who Are We?

*A: The Air Force Chaplain Corps has served for decades under the banner of "A Visible Reminder of the Holy." These historic words introduce our CHAPLAIN CORPS MISSION STATEMENT: "While serving as a visible reminder of the Holy, the Air Force Chaplain Corps provides spiritual care and the opportunity for Air Force members and their families to exercise their constitutional right to freedom of religion."*

*Our new CHAPLAIN CORPS VISION STATEMENT consists of three energizing phrases that call us toward an even greater outward ministry focus and a posture of servant leadership: "Glorifying God, Serving Airmen, Pursuing Excellence." These words provide a "job description" for chaplains and chaplain assistants serving around the globe and they point the way ahead for our strategic planning.*

CHAPLAIN CORPS CORE COMPETENCIES

*Spiritual Care - for the spiritual needs of Air Force members and their families by providing for the diverse religious requirements.*

*Religious, Spiritual and Moral Advice to Leadership - about the religious requirements, spiritual needs, and moral issues that impact mission, quality of life, and religious freedom.*

CHAPLAIN CORPS CORE VALUES

*Spiritual Health, Integrity, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do.*

CHAPLAIN CORPS CORE PROCESSES

*Conducting Religious Observances - by providing opportunities for religious worship to Air Force members, their families and retirees.*

*Providing Pastoral Care - through pastoral counseling and religious programs that serve the diverse educational, humanitarian, and personal needs of the Air Force community.*

*Modeling Ethical Leadership - providing a positive influence upon the Air Force moral climate by modeling and facilitating ethical leadership to promote decision-making based not only on what is legal, but what is right.*

*Advising Leadership - about the spiritual needs, religious requirements, and ethical issues that impact mission, quality of life, and religious freedoms.*

2. What Do We Do?

*A: Air Force personnel serve our country around the world. United States Air Force Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants serve side-by-side. The United States Air Force Chaplain Corps serves as a visible reminder of the Holy by providing spiritual care and the opportunity for Air Force*

*members and their families to exercise their constitutional right to freedom of religion.*

#### *The United States Air Force Chaplain*

*United States Air Force Chaplains are ordained clergy from diverse faith backgrounds as well as commissioned military officers. As clergy, chaplains provide ministry that provides for the free exercise of religion for military members and their families. Chaplains conduct worship services, religious rites and pastoral counseling. As military officers, chaplains uphold the standards of the Air Force Core Values, "Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do." Additionally, chaplains are members of their unit commanders' staff and serve as advisors to commanders regarding religion, religious accommodation for diverse faith groups represented in the Air Force, ethics, and morale.*

*United States Air Force Chaplains are trained and equipped to serve God and country world-wide. Chaplains are assigned to bases throughout the United States but also serve in both overseas locations and the deployed environment. Chaplains go where the troops go. It is an exciting, sometimes dangerous and demanding ministry. But it is always rewarding.*

*The Air Force accepts endorsed and qualified applicants from many faith groups, to include: Roman Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox Christian, Jewish and Muslim clergy. To qualify, applicants must obtain an ecclesiastical endorsement.*

*Most chaplains enter active duty with the rank of First Lieutenant. Based on experience or prior military service, chaplains may enter at a higher rank. Some career chaplains continue through the ranks and achieve the senior rank of Colonel. The Chief of Chaplains and Deputy Chief of Chaplains are General Officers.*

#### *The United States Air Force Chaplain Assistant*

*The Air Force Chaplain Corps incorporates a team approach to providing ministry support to our Air Force members and their families worldwide.*

*The primary role of Chaplain Assistants is to provide support for ministry. This is done not only through administrative means, but also as the "eyes and ears" of chaplains on deployments, visitations, and a wide variety of other exciting opportunities. Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants deploy all over the world, taking care of our troops and ensuring their first amendment rights to worship. You may be aware that chaplains are noncombatants. On the other hand, Chaplain Assistants are combatants and must be qualified to carry and use firearms.*

*Career opportunities in the Air Force Chaplain Corps are available for Active Duty, Reserves, and Air National Guard ( <http://www.usafhc.af.mil>).*

**For more information about Foursquare Chaplaincy, contact us at [chaplains@foursquare.org](mailto:chaplains@foursquare.org). Comments about this document are also welcome.**