



Summer 2016 - Issue 5

PURSUING a nation where all chaplains, and those whom they serve, freely exercise their God-given and constitutionally protected religious liberties without fear of reprisal.

On CALL

Challenges To Freedom Of Religion

The following excerpt is from an article by Chaplain Alliance For Religious Liberty Executive Director CH (COL) Ron Crews, USA (Ret.) featured in *The Military Chaplain*, the magazine of the Military Chaplains' Association.

You can read the article in its entirety at mca-usa.org.

The military is a unique institution of the State that may, by law and by necessity, make uniquely comprehensive demands of individual service members that it cannot make of any other free member of society. Despite the unique constraints of the military, however, our nation has a history

of working hard to protect and accommodate military religious liberty. For this reason, the military chaplaincy was established even before the founding of our Nation precisely to ensure the free exercise of faith for all service members and their families. Thus, in keeping with the best of our national traditions, our military has long been a place where citizens could, as the Army Chaplain Corps' motto states, serve Pro Deo et Patria-for God and Country.

[...]

Over the past few years, however, our government has been retreating from that history of accommodation, enacting new policies without considering the

dangerous effect on religious liberty and occasionally even taking overtly hostile actions towards people of faith.

[...]

Many of these concerns over religious expression have come in the context of matters of sexual ethics, specifically homosexuality. Recent military policy changes and court rulings have created conflicts with service members and chaplains who hold traditional religious views on marriage and sexuality: that sex is meant for marriage, and that marriage means a union between a man and a woman.

Did you know?

Chaplain Alliance (CALL) speaks on behalf of over half of the nation's uniformed chaplains. CALL exists to ensure that chaplains can defend and provide for the freedom of religion and conscience that the Constitution guarantees all chaplains and those whom they serve.



In The News:

- August 2016: CALL expressed gratitude to the eight members of Congress who sent a letter to House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry concerning the Department Of Defense policy permitting people who identify as transgendered to serve in the military.

- August 2016: In a stunning ruling that is being appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, a military court has decided it can determine whether or not a certain religious practice is important enough to be protected.

CALL voiced disappointment in the opinion released by the U.S. Court Of Appeals for the Armed Forces concerning the court martial of Marine Lance Corporal Monifa Sterling.

- July 2016: CALL honored Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA,) Senior Member of the House Armed Services Committee and Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, with the Torchbearer Award for his work in protecting the religious liberties of all military personnel.

The secular Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) demanded that the Department Of Defense investigate and punish three senior chaplains (including the two star Air Force Chief Of Chaplains) saying they violated federal rules by praying publically while in uniform at the event, though religious freedom advocates say the charges have no legal basis.

- July 2016: CALL Executive Director CH (COL) Ron Crews, USA (Ret.) had the privilege of meeting with Speaker Paul Ryan concerning the moral issues we are facing today.

- July 2016: CALL expressed strong concern about potential religious liberty issues relative to the Department Of Defense's policy to allow persons who openly identify as transgendered to service in the military.



Cadet Summer Training: A Chaplain Perspective

FORT KNOX, Ky. — Large numbers of Army Reserve Soldiers rotate to Fort Knox to support CST as well as the Professors of Military Science from all ROTC programs, along with other support Solider from across the active duty forces. To care for the Religious Support of these 15,000 Cadets and Soldiers there are only three Active Duty Chaplains and their assistants stationed here at FT Knox with Cadet Command! This year, 11 US Army Reserve Chaplains were here as supervisors and trainers to the 13 Chaplain Candidates that came to Ft. Knox to support CST. These special teams of Chaplains are called Chaplain Trainers (CTs) and most of them are captains. These trainers come for the whole summer so they have longevity and maximum impact upon the Candidates they are supervising. This also benefits their professional development as they get to experience ministry as a Brigade Chaplain, a role they will fulfill someday. Their mission is to coach, mentor, and train the Chaplain Candidates they are assigned to in the various regiments of Cadets.

A Chaplain Candidate (CC) is a seminary student who is working towards becoming an Army Chaplain. They are not Chaplains yet and so do not wear their faith group identifier (like the Christian cross); instead they wear rank on their patrol caps and a different identifier above their names which identify them as CCs. CST becomes one of their required practicums they must complete as CC's in order to someday apply to be accessed as a Chaplain. What is unique about this practicum is the CCs are imbedded directly into a regiment, comprised of 400-600 Cadets, where they get to function just like a Battalion Chaplain would. A regiment's training time is 30-31 days so these CCs typically come just for one cycle, although some stay longer to do a second regiment. CCs are in their middle 20's to early 40's and are 2LT's or 1LT's. Their rank and age allow them to enjoy the same rank and age difference they will someday have as a Battalion Chaplain.

During CST there were a range of religious faiths represented by both the CCs and CTs. Aside from Protestant and Catholic Chaplains, this year they had a Jewish Rabbi Chaplain along with an Islamic Chaplain Candidate. For other faiths like Buddhism and Latter Day Saints, they had faith group leaders from the community come in to lead services for Cadets. In doing so, the Chaplain Corps is ensuring the free exercise of religion for all the Cadets.

The tremendous end results are that each CC along with their CT is the one doing the bulk of the ministry in each regiment. Religious Support like: ministry of presence, field services, counseling, and the typical Wednesday night and Sunday night services in garrison. The role of the Army Reserve Chaplain Supervisors along with the Active Duty UMTs becomes one to equip, enable, and prayerfully support these CTs and their CCs. It is a mission done with excellence for God and Country: "Pro Deo et Patria!"

*Contact the On CALL Editor for fact checking all stories in this newsletter:
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