



AMERICA'S
NAVY
FORGED BY THE SEA



As a priest, pastor, rabbi, or imam, there are several paths available to care for the souls of those in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and their families:

- Active-duty Chaplains are initially commissioned as Naval Officers for 3-years of active service.
- Reserve duty Chaplains are commissioned as Navy Reserve Officers while they continue their civilian ministry. They attend two drill days each month, plus a two-week annual training period.
- Chaplain Candidate Program Officers prepare for professional ministry while enrolled in a qualifying graduate degree program. They are commissioned in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and receive pay and benefits while training. Upon graduation and completion of both religious and U.S. Navy requirements, they will be considered for an initial appointment as an active or reserve-duty Chaplain. No service obligation is incurred until acceptance of this appointment.

All candidates must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Meet the Navy's standards for physical fitness
- Be a graduate of an accredited college or university and graduate level theological school or seminary
- Have an ecclesiastical endorsement by a religious organization registered with the Department of Defense:
<http://www.people.mil/inside-M-RA/Military-Personnel-Policy/How-we-support/AFCEB/Endorsements/>
- Be less than 58 years old (Waivers may be considered on a case by case basis)
- Have committed 2 years of full time professional religious ministry experience (after completion of theological school or seminary preferred).

Still working on your seminary training? Consider the Navy Chaplain Candidate Program.

Chaplain Candidates are commissioned as a Naval Officer in the Individual Ready Reserve while continuing theological studies and preparing for professional religious ministry. Once all requirements are met, Chaplain Candidates can then apply for chaplaincy in the Active or Reserve component. Upon selection, candidates attend the Direct Commission Officer Indoctrination Course in Newport, R.I. the first year. In year two, they attend the Chaplain Candidate Orientation Course at the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center. In subsequent years, chaplain candidates will receive on-the-job training for no less than 14-days with an active-duty chaplain to gain field experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.NAVY.COM/CAREERS/NAVY-CHAPLAIN](https://www.navy.com/careers/navy-chaplain)