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ARMY REGULATIONS
No. 60–5

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, *December 20, 1937.*

CHAPLAINS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

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1. **Authorization.**—There shall be one chaplain for every twelve hundred officers and enlisted men of the Regular Army, exclusive of the Philippine Scouts and the unassigned recruits, authorized from time to time in accordance with law and within the peace strength permitted by the act cited below. One chaplain, of rank not below that of major may be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to be chief of chaplains. He shall serve as such for four years, and shall have the rank, pay, and allowances of colonel while so serving. Chaplains shall hereafter have rank, pay, and allowances according to length of active commissioned service in the Army, or, since April 6, 1917, in the National Guard while in active service under a call by the President, and of the respective grades to and including that of colonel upon completion of the same respective periods of service prescribed by law in force on June 30, 1935, for officers of the Medical Corps, i. e. promotion to the grade of captain after three years' service, to the grade of major after twelve years' service, to the grade of lieutenant colonel after twenty years' service, and to the grade of colonel after twenty-six years' service. *See sec. 15, act June 3, 1916 (39 Stat. 176), as amended by sec. 15, act June 4, 1920 (41 Stat. 769), sec. 4, act July 31, 1935 (49 Stat. 506); U. S. C. 10: 236, 552b; sec. 280, M. L., 1929.*

The act of Congress approved June 30, 1922, provides in part as follows: * * * That on and after January 1, 1923, there shall be officers as now authorized by law except that there shall be * * * one hundred and twenty-five chaplains * * *. *42 Stat. 721; U. S. C. 10: 233, 481; sec. 92, M. L., 1929.*

2. **Chief of Chaplains.**—*a. Duties.*

(1) *General.*

(*a*) Investigating the qualifications of candidates for appointment, and general coordination and supervision of the work and duties of chaplains.

(*b*) Coordinating and supervising all religious work within the Army, and from time to time making recommendations for such action as he deems advisable to promote the moral and spiritual welfare and contentment of the Army.

*This pamphlet supersedes AR 60–5, February 15, 1924, including C 1, February 23, 1926.

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(c) Recommending to The Adjutant General the assignment of chaplains to organizations and stations and their relief therefrom.

(d) Recommending to The Adjutant General the necessary equipment and supplies for chaplains and their work.

(e) Supervising correspondence with individuals or agencies outside the Army with reference to the qualifications of candidates for appointment as chaplains. He may correspond directly with chaplains and they with him, under the conditions set forth in AR 340–15, upon matters which relate solely to their professional activities.

(f) Preparing circulars of information and instruction on matters relating to chaplains and their moral, religious, and other work, which, after approval by the Secretary of War, will be distributed to chaplains by The Adjutant General.

(g) Maintaining a record of chaplains which will contain only such pertinent extracts of chaplains' efficiency records as will enable him to make prompt and proper recommendations for assignments of chaplains.

(h) Promotion of cooperation between the chaplains of the Army and civil religious organizations for the mutual advantage of both military and civil communities.

(2) The Chief of Chaplains is under the supervision of the Chief of Staff in all matters relating to chaplains and will keep him informed on all matters concerning the appointment and duties of chaplains and all religious activities carried on throughout the Army.

b. Office.—The Office of the Chief of Chaplains is not an office of record except of correspondence authorized by *a* (1) (*e*) and (*g*) above.

c. Nothing herein contained will be construed as relieving corps area commanders or other commanding officers of responsibility for the efficiency of chaplains under their command.

3. Appointment.—See AR 605–30.

4. Duties.—*a. General.*—The duties of chaplains as prescribed by existing laws are closely analogous to those performed by clergymen in civilian life, modified only by the peculiar conditions attaching to military life and especially by the necessity that each chaplain will, so far as practicable, serve the moral and religious needs of the entire personnel of the command to which he is assigned, either through his own personal services or through the cooperative efforts of others. Within the limits of law, regulations, and orders, he should enlist so far as may be necessary the active aid and cooperation of such military and civilian assistants, both lay and clerical, as the needs of the command may require or the commanding officer may direct.

b. Religious.—Chaplains will hold appropriate religious services for the benefit of the command to which they are assigned at such times and places as may be designated by the commanding officer. The scope of the work of chaplains will include such activities as usually attach to formal or informal Sunday or weekday religious observances, Sunday schools, Bible classes, missions, confessions, and such other religious or patriotic exercises as may be appropriate to special occasions. Chaplains will serve as friends, counsellors, and guides, without discrimination, to all members of the command to which they are assigned, regardless of creed or sect, and will strive to promote morality, religion, and good order therein. They will make regular visits to

the men in confinement for advice and consultation and will hold religious services for them whenever conditions warrant. When vestments are required or permitted by the church to which a chaplain belongs, he is authorized to use such while conducting religious services.

c. Ceremonials.—Chaplains will conduct appropriate burial services at the interment of members of the military service, active and retired, and for members of the families of these when requested. They are authorized to perform the marriage rite, upon proper legal authorization in each case, and will administer Christian baptism and perform such other religious rites for members of the military personnel and civilians residing upon or employed in the military reservation as may be required, according to their respective creeds or conscientious practice in each case. On Memorial Day the chaplain who is on duty at a post on which a military cemetery is located will, under the direction of the commanding officer, supervise the decoration of the graves therein and will arrange for such public memorial exercises as the place and occasion may warrant.

d. Pastoral duties.—Chaplains will personally interview or advise by public address all recruits coming into the service in matters pertaining to morals and character, and commanding officers will provide such facilities as will insure an adequate performance of this duty. Chaplains will also advise with enlisted men under arrest or in confinement and before trial when deemed advisable by the commanding officer. Such men will be sent for this purpose by competent orders to the chaplain's office or to such other place as may be designated. Chaplains will make regular visits to the sick in the hospital for such spiritual and welfare ministrations as they may be able to give. In a case of grave illness or serious accident to a person in the military service from which death appears imminent the chaplain will be given prompt notice thereof by the senior officer or enlisted man present. Upon receipt of such information the chaplain will provide such religious or pastoral ministration as the case may warrant. Chaplains should encourage correspondence between soldiers and their relatives and friends, especially on the part of the sick in hospital. Inquiries concerning the welfare of enlisted men addressed to other officers of the command may be turned over to the chaplain to answer or cause to be answered by the person inquired of, as the case may be. Visits of a pastoral nature should be made by the chaplain to the families of married enlisted men which reside within or near the military reservation.

e. On transports.—See AR 30–1155.

f. Schools.—The duties of chaplains of regiments of colored troops will include the instruction of the enlisted men of such commands in the common English branches of education. Other chaplains are not available as instructors in post or troop schools except when there exists an exigency of the service resulting in a deficiency in the number of officers present for duty, and in the judgment of the commanding officer concerned the chaplain can perform such pedagogical duties without prejudice to his legitimate duties as a minister of religion.

g. Secular.—Chaplains will be employed on no duties other than those required of them by law, or pertaining to their profession as clergymen, except when there exists an exigency of the service, resulting in a deficiency in the number of officers present for duty at any station, which shall make it necessary. Under such circumstances chaplains will be assigned to no duty incompatible with their status as noncombatants under the terms of the Geneva

Convention. Chaplains are not available for detail as post exchange officers or as defense counsel in courts martial, but may be detailed as individual counsel when their services as such are specifically requested by the accused.

h. Reports.—On the last day of each month chaplains will render on the prescribed form (W. D., C. of Ch. Form No. 3) a report of all duties performed by them during the month. These reports will be typewritten and in duplicate. The original will be forwarded through military channels to the office of the Chief of Chaplains for his information and for file. The duplicate will be filed with the records of the station from which the report was rendered. Copies of programs, photographs, and other matter illustrating the chaplains' activities may be forwarded with these reports.

i. Supervision and coordination.—Chaplains located at corps area headquarters may, in addition to other duties, be called upon by commanders to assist—

(1) In general supervision over the chaplains within the corps area, to advise and assist them in their work and problems, to coordinate their several activities, and to examine and forward the monthly reports of the chaplain personnel.

(2) To arrange for such reciprocal interchange of chaplains within the corps area as will provide spiritual guidance and instruction for the largest possible number of the military personnel.

(3) To provide religious ministration, when practicable, and without expense to the Government other than local transportation, for posts, camps, and stations without chaplains, through the agency of chaplains of the Officers' Reserve Corps, volunteer clergymen, and others residing near the place where services are needed.

(4) To arrange, when practicable, for conferences among the chaplains within the corps area for the purpose of interchange of ideas and plans, in order that chaplains may more effectively perform their duties.

5. Status.—The chaplain as a member of the staff of the commanding officer is his logical consultant in all matters pertaining to pubic religious observances in the command, and in matters involving morale, morality, and character building. The chaplain will be inspected at such place as the commanding officer may designate, and when turned out with troops will take position as prescribed in Training Regulations. His uniform designation in official address is "Chaplain."

6. Chaplains' School.—See AR 350–1500.

7. Permission to attend conventions, etc.—See AR 210–70.

8. Funds.—*a. Chaplain's fund.*—See AR 210–50. These regulations also give all necessary information regarding other funds available and the loss or transfer of all funds.

b. Solicitation of.—Chaplains will not solicit funds for the erection of chapels on military posts except in cases specifically authorized by the War Department.

9. Responsibility of commanding officer in relation to chaplains.—In the performance of his duties the chaplain is accountable to the commanding officer. Ultimate responsibility for matters of religious and moral nature within a command devolves upon the commanding officer as completely as does that for strictly military matters. Thus it will be seen that a chaplain is directly responsible to his commanding officer and that, on the other hand, without trespassing upon the ecclesiastical field, commanding officers are obligated to exercise active supervision over chaplains and their activities. To facilitate compliance with

the regulations which direct chaplains to hold appropriate religious services for the benefit of the commands to which they are assigned, it will be the duty of commanding officers to afford chaplains serving under them such available facilities as may aid them in the performance of their duties, and to detail such needed assistants to chaplains as may be deemed desirable and practicable by commanding officers. When such facilities are available an appropriate and dignified place for public worship will be set apart and suitable office facilities and equipment will be furnished. Authorization will be given for such publicity for chaplain activities through official channels as the need may warrant.

At military posts, camps, and stations at which no chaplain is available, commanding officers will, pursuant to AR 210–70, make reasonable effort to provide religious guidance and services of worship for their commands through civilian agencies of the community. The necessary expense involved is payable from the chaplain's fund if available.

10. Sabbath observance.—See AR 210–70.

11. The chaplain's flag.—With troops in the field in time of peace the chaplain's flag, as described in AR 260–10, may be prominently displayed at or over the place of divine worship during the progress of services therein, and at other times in front of the tent or billet occupied by the chaplain as an officer when authorized by the commanding officer.

12. Graves registration.—*a. General.*—In time of war chaplains will often be charged with duties pertaining to graves registration personnel, particularly in the absence of such personnel with their respective commands. The functions of chaplains, when charged with burials, are so closely identified with those of the Graves Registration Service that they should familiarize themselves with such graves registration regulations as may be in force at the time in order to qualify themselves for these duties.

b. Location of cemeterics.—Chaplains should familiarize themselves with the location of all authorized military cemeteries within the area of their respective commands, and when in charge of burial parties should, as far as possible, see that none but authorized cemeteries are used.

c. Accuracy of records.—Chaplains in charge of burials will make careful comparison of their records with hospital, company, regimental, and divisional records whenever possible, in order that no discrepancies may occur as to the full name of the decedent, his organization, date of death, time and place of burial. Any error in an inscription or in the position of a grave marker which may come to the notice of chaplains at any time should be reported through channels to the commanding officer of the local graves registration unit or, in the absence of such commanding officer, to the nearest officer in charge of graves registration work. Chaplains will make no changes either in inscriptions or in the position of grave markers unless specifically ordered to do so.

[A. G. 211.21 (10–21–37).]

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

MALIN CRAIG,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:
E. T. CONLEY,
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

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