

## **Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Services Prayer and Religious Observances Guidelines**

These guidelines are intended to be guidelines. These items will require common sense and sensitivity to the situation.

**Religious Accommodation:** Commanders at all levels should ensure that requests for religious accommodation are dealt with as fairly as practicable throughout the area of their command.

Commanders cannot anticipate every request for accommodation, however, where practical, avoid scheduling conflicts with major religious observance days. This may have the effect of building unit confidence in leadership and enhance unit effectiveness.

Commanders must ensure that they create a climate where individuals believe that requests for accommodation are welcomed and will be fairly considered.

**Public Prayer outside of voluntary worship settings.** Common sense and mutual respect should always be applied. Extraordinary circumstances may drive exceptions. There may be extraordinary circumstances where the potential benefits for the welfare of the unit outweigh the potential of causing discomfort. These circumstances might include mass casualties, preparation for dangerous missions, and natural disasters.

A moment of silence for personal reflection does not require the same considerations as public prayer and may be appropriate in official settings.

**Individual sharing of religious faith.** Nothing should limit voluntary, peer-to-peer discussions of religious faith. When asked a question involving religious faith an answer may be given stating, “the way I see this is”.

**Chaplain Service guidance.** Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Service personnel are to provide ministry to those of their own faiths, to facilitate ministry to those of other faiths, and to provide care for all members, including those who claim no religious faith. In these roles, Chaplain Service Personnel should respect the rights of others to their own religious beliefs, including the right to hold no beliefs.