



## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS CIVIL AIR PATROL

### CAP REGULATION 265-2

5 FEBRUARY 2013

#### Chaplain Corps Activities

### THE COVENANT AND CODE OF ETHICS FOR CHAPLAINS OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

This regulation defines the Covenant and Code of Ethics established by the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) as essential for all Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Chaplain Service members. It establishes professional standards of conduct to which they will be held accountable by the CAP command structure and by their respective endorsers.

#### SUMMARY OF CHANGES.

Made general administrative and formatting changes to conform with current regulatory format.

**Note: Shaded areas identify new or revised material.**

#### SECTION A - GENERAL PROVISIONS

**1. Authority for the Code of Ethics.** Clergy serve as members of the CAP Chaplain Service only as long as they hold a valid endorsement from a national religious body recognized by the Department of Defense (DoD) Armed Forces Chaplains' Board (AFCB). The parent organization for this group of endorsers is known as NCMAF. NCMAF approved this Covenant and Code of Ethics at its January 2011 meeting in Washington, DC.

**2. Ministry to the Armed Forces.** CAP provides the USAF with trained civilian resources for executing non-combatant USAF missions. CAP chaplains remain civilian resources to the Chief of Chaplains, USAF. They may be called upon to supplement the resources of the USAF Chaplain Corps. For these reasons The Covenant appropriately refers to ministry to people who serve in the Armed Forces of our Country. CAP chaplain adherence to the Code of Ethics is in addition to chaplain adherence to CAP rules and policies as outlined in CAP regulations and other policy guidance.

#### SECTION B – THE COVENANT

Having accepted God's Call to minister to people who serve in the Armed Forces of our country, I covenant to serve God and these people with God's help: to deepen my obedience to the Commandments, to love the Lord our God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. In affirmation of this commitment, I will abide by the Code of Ethics for Chaplains of the Armed Forces and I will faithfully support its purposes and ideals. As further affirmation of my commitment, I covenant with my colleagues in ministry that we will hold one another accountable for fulfillment of all public actions set forth in our Code of Ethics.

---

Supersedes: CAPR 265-2, 25 February 1995.

Distribution: National CAP website.

OPR: HC

Pages: 3

Notice: CAP publications and forms are available digitally on the National CAP website at: [http://www.capmembers.com/forms\\_publications\\_regulations/](http://www.capmembers.com/forms_publications_regulations/)

**SECTION C – THE CODE OF ETHICS**

I will hold in trust the traditions and practices of my religious body.

I will carefully adhere to whatever direction may be conveyed to me by my endorsing body for maintenance of my endorsement.

I understand as a chaplain in the Armed Forces that I must function in a pluralistic environment with chaplains of other religious bodies to provide for ministry to all military personnel and their families entrusted to my care.

I will seek to provide pastoral care and ministry to persons of religious bodies other than my own within my area of responsibility with the same investment of myself as I give to members of my own religious body. I will work collegially with chaplains of religious bodies other than my own as together we seek to provide as full a ministry as possible to our people. I will respect the beliefs and traditions of my colleagues and those to whom I minister. When conducting services of worship that include persons of other than my religious body I will draw upon those beliefs, principles, and practices that we have in common.

I will, if in a supervisory position, respect the practices and beliefs of each chaplain I supervise, and exercise care not to require of them any service or practice that would be in violation of the faith practices of their particular religious body.

I will seek to support all colleagues in ministry by building constructive relationships wherever I serve, both with the staff where I work and with colleagues throughout the military environment.

I will maintain a disciplined ministry in such ways as keeping hours of prayer and devotion, endeavoring to maintain wholesome family relationships, and regularly engaging in educational and recreational activities for professional and personal development. I will seek to maintain good health habits.

I will recognize that my obligation is to provide ministry to all members of the Military Services, their families and other authorize personnel. When on Active Duty, I will only accept added responsibility in civilian work or ministry if it does not interfere with the overall effectiveness of my primary military ministry.

I will defend my colleagues against unfair discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion or national origin.

I will hold in confidence all privileged and confidential communication.

I will respect all persons of other religious faiths. I will respond to any expressed need for spiritual guidance and pastoral care to those who seek my counsel.

I will show personal love for God in my life and ministry, as I maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of the profession to which I have been called.

I recognize the special power afforded me by my ministerial office. I will never use that power in ways that violate the personhood of another human being, religiously, emotionally or sexually. I will use my pastoral office only for that which is best for the persons under my ministry.

**SECTION D – VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF ETHICS**

**3. CAP Channels.** Alleged violations of the Code of Ethics will be administered by CAP Chaplain Corps channels in the next higher echelon from the one in which the violation occurred. The supervisory chaplain will investigate and counsel, as appropriate in accordance with the principles outlined in CAPP 221B, *Chaplains Helping Chaplains*. Repeated, serious violations of the Code of Ethics may result in the involuntary termination of the clergy person's status as a chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol after a hearing and due process as described in CAPP 221B. Termination of CAP membership or chaplain status may only be on grounds provided for and through procedures specified in CAP Regulation 35-3, *Membership Termination*.

**4. Religious Endorser Channels.** Endorsers have the sole power to decide whether a violation of the Code of Ethics is cause for withdrawing endorsement. Should an endorsement be withdrawn for any reason, that clergy person immediately ceases to function as a CAP chaplain, loses the right to wear the badge of office and loses all the privileges specified in CAP Regulation 265-1, *The Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps*.

CHARLES L. CARR, JR.  
Major General, CAP  
Commander