



A CAREER AS AN OFFICER IN THE NAVAL RESERVE

CHAPLAIN (00349)

WHAT THEY DO

A Naval Reserve Chaplain is a Canadian Forces (CF) Chaplain functioning in a Naval Reserve Division (NRD). The primary function of a CF Chaplain is to provide religious and spiritual ministrations to all members of his or her unit regardless of religious affiliation. Duties include officiating at special functions, providing pastoral care to members and their families and advising the Commanding Officer regarding the morale and spiritual wellbeing of the unit.

A Chaplain may be called upon to liaise with civilian faith groups and ecclesiastical bodies. He or she may also be called upon to refer a member to specialized care providers and provide directed care after critical incidents. A Chaplain is required to gain and apply knowledge in general military administration and have a full understanding of Chaplain Branch policies.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the CF standards for enrolment including the medical and physical fitness standards set forth in the CF recruiting process.

The minimum educational and professional requirements to become a CF Chaplain are: a Masters of Divinity (or equivalency); being ordained or mandated by a nationally registered faith group/denomination; at least two years of civilian ministry experience working for that faith group/denomination; a letter of support from his or her ecclesiastical authority; an endorsement from the Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy (ICCMC); and a mandate from the Chaplain General.

The Naval Reserve Formation Chaplain assists the candidate with the application process. (obtaining the endorsement and mandate). Questions concerning qualifications for faiths other than Christian should be directed to the ICCMC through the Formation Chaplain.

PLAN FOR ENTRY

Direct Entry Officer (DEO) – This is the only plan of entry for a Chaplain in the Naval Reserve

Reserve Entry Scheme Officer (RESO) – A RESO Chaplain may be employed in a NRD as a Chaplain-in-Training if the NRD has a Chaplain who is willing to be a supervisor and the Commanding Officer is in agreement and willing to fund the position. If the NRD

Chaplain leaves the NRD and is not replaced, the appointment of the Chaplain-in-Training ceases at the NRD.

A RESO Chaplain may apply to become a CF Chaplain once he or she has completed the qualifications to be a chaplain; see above Qualifications Requirements. Then an application to be endorsed and mandated would be made. Once the Chaplain is mandated, the Basic Occupational Qualification course will have to be completed.

TRAINING

Phase 1 – Basic Training

Upon enrolment into the Canadian Forces, the Chaplain will be commissioned to the rank of Lieutenant (Navy). Within 30 months of the commencement of the Basic Military Officer Qualification (BMOQ), the Chaplain must complete the BMOQ and Basic Occupational Qualification (BOQ) courses at the Canadian Forces Chaplain School and Centre (CFChSC), located at CFB Borden, Ontario:

- **BMOQ Mod A** – 4 weeks in residency
- **BMOQ Mod B** – Distance Learning in Unit requiring 3 days
- **BOQ Mod C** – 8 days in residency
- **BOQ Mod D & E** - Distance Learning in Unit requiring 5 days and 1 day.
- **BOQ Mod F** – 8 days in residency

During the Basic Military Officer Qualification, the Chaplain will be introduced to life in the Canadian Forces. Basic leadership skills, military regulations and customs as well as fundamental military skills such as dress, deportment, drill and first aid will be learned.

In the Basic Occupational Qualification, Chaplain will receive training on military aspects of Chaplain services and in particular, crisis counselling and psychological



Reserve Chaplain Lt (N) Greg McMullin of HMCS
BRUNSWICK

assistance to victims of critical incidents.

A Reserve Chaplain may also opt to take the Regular Force BMOQ and BOQ which is three months and offered annually in the fall at CFChSC.

Naval Environmental Training Program Officer (NETPO) Mod 1 is 10 days and this course is taken at the Naval Officer Training Centre at CFB Esquimalt. This course familiarizes the Chaplain with naval customs and gives an introduction to shipboard life.

Phase 2 – Professional Development

The second phase of training further equips the Chaplain to function in a military role and prepares the Chaplain for assuming a greater leadership role as well as supervisory responsibilities. Chaplain courses are normally conducted at CFChSC:

- Intermediate Ethics
- Intermediate Pastoral Counselling
- Chaplains in a Pluralistic Environment
- Intermediate Chaplains Course
- Chaplains in Deployed Operations

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

A unit Chaplain is in a privileged position. Because a Chaplain does not have command authority, a Chaplain has unlimited access to every member of the unit regardless of rank or position. A Chaplain is expected to develop a ministry of presence, training and working with sailors, and seek opportunities to be operational. A unit Chaplain is not only responsible for the pastoral care and oversight of members, but their families as well, and as such a Chaplain is called upon to respond to a variety of needs, difficulties and challenges facing members and families of reservists. A Chaplain is called upon to provide guidance in spiritual, moral and ethical matters respecting various faith traditions or religious beliefs including non-belief. The Chaplain is often the sounding board for reservists dealing with personal, professional or military issues. A Chaplain will work with other CF care providers including Social Workers and the Military Family Resource Centre.

As with all Reservists, the Chaplain's position is part-time. It is expected that the Chaplain will be at a unit whenever it parades and on administration nights, normally two nights a week and some Saturdays during the training year.

Depending upon the Chaplain's availability, opportunities are available to commit to short term full-time employment during the summer months in a naval environment at Halifax, Esquimalt, and Quebec City. This employment gives the Chaplain experience working aboard ship, in schools, at a CF Chapel and in a team environment with other chaplains.

As well further opportunities for full time work for specified periods of time including a deployment become available from time to time.

Chaplains in the Naval Reserve are frequently called upon to preside or speak at special services and occasions: Remembrance Day and Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Sunday are the two most prominent of these services. A Chaplain is also called upon frequently to offer prayers for unit parades, change of command ceremonies and award presentations and may also be called upon by Sea Cadet and Navy League Divisions to offer prayers at special functions.

A NRD Chaplain is supervised by the Regional Chaplain and NRD Commanding Officer and the Regional Chaplain mentors the newly enrolled chaplain. The Naval Reserve Chaplaincy is overseen by the Formation Chaplain.

The Chaplain is an important resource in the Naval Reserve and especially vital to the command team at the Naval Reserve Division, monitoring and updating the command team on issues of unit morale. The relationship between the Chaplain and members of a Naval Reserve Division are profound, intense and privileged.

RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS

Many institutions that employ professional religious workers view Chaplains trained in the Canadian Forces with respect. The quality of training, the depth of work experience under high pressure circumstances and the ability to work with young, highly functioning and motivated individuals, gives Chaplains a unique and highly sought after skill set.

Occupations where the training received as a CF Chaplain would be welcome include:

- Minister or Church Leader within a parish or congregation;
- Ministry with Youth;
- Specialized social ministries including street and counselling ministries;
- Pastoral counselling education;
- Hospital, school or University chaplaincies;
- Correctional Services chaplaincy.

