

AFSC 52R4, Staff
AFSC 52R3, Qualified
AFSC 52R1, Entry

CHAPLAIN
(Changed 30 Apr 19)

1. Specialty Summary. The Chaplains Corps provides spiritual care and ensures all Airmen, and their families have opportunities to exercise their constitutional entitlement to the free exercise of religion. In accordance with Title 10, United States Code, Section 8067 (h), chaplains provide religious services, religious accommodation, pastoral care, unit engagement, and counseling opportunities to meet the diverse needs of Airmen. As experts in the principles of religious diversity, religious accommodation, major faith group requisites, privileged communication and religious program management, chaplains advise leaders at all levels on spiritual, religious, ethical, moral, morale, and quality of life matters. Chaplains develop and administer Chaplain Corps guidance for managing chapel operations, religious programs, and resources. Chaplains must integrate religious support within the context of the organizational structure and doctrine of the Air Force. Chaplains will not perform duties incompatible with their endorsing organizations, professional role, or noncombatant status. Related DoD Occupational Group: 250700.

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

- 2.1. Supervise and manage chapel operations, religious programs, and resources in support of the Air Force mission. Chaplains develop and execute religious support plans and evaluate outcomes to ensure their effectiveness.
- 2.2. Conduct worship services, liturgies, and rites. Provide counseling, pastoral care, unit engagement, religious education, morale programs, spiritual renewal, lay leadership programs, and humanitarian outreach opportunities. Represent faith and military communities in religious, patriotic, and civic events. Maintain liaison with civilian clergy and organizations to remain current in their specialty and areas of interest to Chaplain Corps programs.
- 2.3. Advise leadership at all levels on spiritual, religious, ethical, moral, morale, and quality of life matters. Chaplains partner with religious affairs airmen to integrate into units and advise leaders on issues and the welfare of Airmen within their scope of responsibility. Chaplains also advise commanders of their responsibility to provide appropriate facilities or sites for worship, rites, and counseling.
- 2.4. Maintain regular communication with endorsing officials and submit professional reports and records as required. Attend endorser-sponsored training and conference events as required by endorsing officials.

3. Specialty Qualifications:

- 3.1. Knowledge. Knowledge of Air Force vision, values, organization, policy, and mission is mandatory, in addition to Chaplain Corps mission, vision, organization, guidance, programs, and readiness requirements.
- 3.2. Education. The following education is mandatory for entry into this specialty.
 - 3.2.1. A baccalaureate degree with not less than 120 semester hours (180 quarter hours) of undergraduate credit from a qualifying educational institution as defined in DoDI 1304.28.
 - 3.2.2. Master of Divinity or equivalent theological degree from an accredited educational institution requiring no fewer than 72 semester hours (108 quarter hours) of graduate level work as stipulated in DoDI 1304.28.
- 3.3. Training. For award of AFSC 52R3, successful completion of the Air Force Basic Chaplain Course is mandatory.
- 3.4. Experience. For award of AFSC 52R3, experience in planning, organizing, coordinating, and leading chaplain related, or equivalent program is mandatory after graduate level educational requirements are completed. For active-duty appointments two years of full-time religious leadership experience are needed.
- 3.5. Other. For entry, award, and retention of these AFSCs, the following are mandatory as indicated:
 - 3.5.1. An ecclesiastical endorsement from a faith group recognized by the DoD Armed Forces Chaplains Board.
 - 3.5.2. No violations of privileged communication and/or confidentiality.
 - 3.5.3. No violations or compromises of non-combatant status.
 - 3.5.4. No convictions by courts-martial or by civilian courts except for minor traffic violations and similar infractions listed in AFI 36-2002, *Regular Air Force and Special Category Accessions*.
 - 3.5.5. No record of disciplinary action (LOR or Article 15) for failure to exercise sound judgment with respect to morale or welfare of subordinates.
 - 3.5.6. No disciplinary action (Article 15 or court-martial) for engaging in an unprofessional or inappropriate relationship as defined in AFI 36-2909, *Professional and Unprofessional Relationships*.
 - 3.5.7. No record of disciplinary action (Article 15) for financial irresponsibility, domestic violence, or child abuse.