

Unit Ministry Team

What is a Chaplain in the WV National Guard?

He or she is a Minister, Priest, Rabbi, Pastor...

All are part of our Army National Guard Chaplain Team. If your religion is Judaism, Islam or Christianity, our citizen-soldiers need the direction you can provide.

An Army National Guard chaplain is a preacher, a teacher, a counselor and a citizen-soldier.

Men and women who minister to their neighbors... the same neighbors who dedicate one weekend a month to their country.

The Army National Guard Chaplain accepts the challenge to go beyond their traditional ministry to better their community.

	AGE	MILITARY STATUS	ENDORSEMENTS	EDUCATION/ WORK EXPERIENCE
Chaplains	21-40 Years	Commissioned Officer Normally as a First Lieutenant	Must be Ordained and receive an Ecclesiastical Endorsement from your Denomination's Endorsing Agency	Practicing as a full time religious leader and Ecclesiastical Endorsed by your Denomination
Chaplain Candidates	21-34 Years	Commissioned Officer Normally as a Second Lieutenant	Must receive an Approval Letter from your Endorsing Agency	Must be a full time student in an approved Masters of Divinity program
Chaplain Assistants	17-34 Years	Enlisted	None	None

The Benefits. . .

WHILE SERVING

- May be eligible for Tuition Assistance
- May be eligible for the Montgomery G.I. Bill
- Life Insurance – up to \$250,000
- Space Available Travel in U.S.
- Post Exchange and Commissary privileges
- Use of Post and Base facilities and services at all military installations

RETIREMENT

- After 20 years of service at 39 days / year
- Receive a (Non-Contributory) annuity at age 60
- Worldwide Space Available Travel
- Permanent use of
 - Post Exchange

- Commissary
- Medical Care

PAY

- Based on rank and years in service
- Weekend Drill
 - 2 days, but receive 4 days pay
 - received on the 1st or the 15th
- Annual Training (15 days)
 - full pay and benefits
 - paid at end of 15 days
- Automatic longevity pay increases

Questions Religion Professionals are asking about membership in the WV Army National Guard...

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GUARD?

A. The National Guard performs a dual mission. The state mission involves providing community support and disaster relief in the event of a local emergency.

Q. WHAT ABOUT MY CHURCH SERVICES ON SUNDAY MORNINGS?

A. Commanders understand your need and requirement to be in your church on Sundays. Commanders allow Chaplains to balance their time to ensure they meet their military obligations at the same time meeting their church requirements.

Q. WHAT ARE MY DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS A CHAPLAIN IN THE GUARD?

A. Your function is a Special Staff Officer for the Commander. Your duties may vary depending on the unit and the Commander, but could include; Working with the Family Support Group, provide guidance and support to soldiers and establishing programs to help the unit.

Q. HOW DO I KNOW WHAT MY ASSIGNED UNIT WILL BE?

A. Your unit will be identified before you come into the Guard. Unit assignments are based on a combination of your interview with our Chief Chaplain and the unit Commander during your application process. This allows you to get all your specific questions and meet the members of the unit you will work with.

Q. I AM GOING BACK TO SEMINARY SCHOOL TO GET MY M. DIV. WHAT PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ME?

A. Students in Seminary are eligible for appointment as a Chaplain Candidates, normally as Second Lieutenants. This program allows you to work closely with military Chaplains during the week. You may be eligible to receive the Montgomery G.I. Bill.