

## ***The Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel***

*In a time when many specialized fields of service are being considered by seminarians it is well to give serious thought to a ministry to the young men and women of the military forces of our country as a possible area of full-time or part-time service.*

As long as military forces are maintained by the nation, there will be a sizeable segment of society involved. These young men and women wearing the uniform need a spiritual ministry which is provided from clergy of the church, who are endorsed by, and given support and ecclesiastical supervision by, The Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel.

To qualify for full-time endorsement, clergy should have two years of ordained pastoral experience (Experience requirement can be waived by interview committee.), the approval of presbytery for this action, and be recommended by an interview committee of The Presbyterian Council for Chaplains. In addition to meeting these requirements of the church, clergy must also meet the qualifications of the military service which they desire to enter. The initial tour of duty is for three years in the Army, Navy, or Air Force. Twenty years of service as a chaplain qualifies one for retirement with benefits.

The Presbyterian Council for Chaplains also endorses (by the same process) civilian clergy to serve as chaplains to National Guard or Reserve forces located in or near their civilian communities. Such chaplains perform a very important ministry to those who assure an effective defense in case of national emergency, during which times they may be called to Active Duty. The two year ordained pastoral experience requirement does not apply to the National Guard or Reserve chaplaincies. Requirements at age 60 with 20 years service qualifies one for retirement benefits.

Each of the three military services provides a Seminarian Program to which

students may be appointed during their theological training, after which they may become commissioned officers in the Reserve Components. This gives them an opportunity to attend Chaplain School for basic courses during the summer. Such involvement affords valuable training and experience, and counts toward later computation of years of service. Seminarians will be given full pay and allowances for their active duty tours at Chaplain School.

Military pay and benefits are generous. Check with the PCCMP for today's rates. Signing bonuses and payment of tuition loans are often available.

In addition to endorsing for the military services, The Presbyterian Council for Chaplains also endorses those who wish to serve as chaplains in Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and the Civil Air Patrol.

Persons desiring further information regarding the ministry to the military or veterans should contact The Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel. Pamphlets introducing the various service chaplaincies and our denomination process are available.

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