



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS  
2700 ARMY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20310-2700

DACH-ZA

25 August 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Chapel Auxiliaries

1. Chapel auxiliaries such as Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW) and Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) are an integral element of the religious support mission of Commanders and chaplains. As part of the command religious program, they have official standing and provide service members, authorized civilians, retirees and Family members opportunity for "the free exercise of religion." They must be included in the Command Master Religious Plan/Program and resourced. Chapel auxiliaries have no official standing apart from the chaplaincy and without chaplain sponsorship and oversight they cannot organize, meet or function. Though volunteer organizations, chapel auxiliaries are not private organizations.

2. The Chief of Chaplains (CCH) is the Armed Forces Chaplains Board's executive agent for all chapel auxiliary programs, and directly supervises their international/worldwide boards through his designated representative. The Director of Information, Resource Management and Logistics (IRML) in the Office of the Chief of Chaplains is appointed to provide administrative and fiscal oversight of chapel auxiliaries. The CCH also appoints chaplains to each Regional/Area chapel auxiliary board to provide systems advice, regulatory guidance, and pastoral support. Similarly, the garrison chaplain will appoint a chaplain to the installation auxiliary boards.

3. Chapel auxiliary organizations play important roles within the military chaplaincy at the installation, regional/area and international/worldwide levels. These auxiliaries directly assist commanders and chaplains by caring for Soldiers and their Families during the current Global War on Terrorism and also beyond. Chapel auxiliary programs and services enhance personal spiritual growth, spiritually enrich their military community and provide additional support and care during times of deployment and increased stress. Their activities and programs directly contribute to improved family readiness. Their caring contributions cost minimal dollars yet provide an immeasurable positive impact on the chapel, the military community and the military services.

4. While the Army has the majority of chapel auxiliary chapters meeting on its installations; membership and support from the Air Force and Navy are ever increasing.

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5. Chapel auxiliary boards at the International/Worldwide/Regional level are funded from designated offerings and grants from the CCH Non-appropriated Fund. To assist in providing funding for their planned activities, training, and conferences, all Army chapel congregations will hold an annual Army-wide designated offering. I will set the date(s) for this designated offering. Installations will remain responsible for funding their local chapters.

6. POC for further information is the Director of IRML, Chaplain (COL) James J. Puchy, CML (703) 601-1120 or DSN 329-1120. Email address: james.puchy@us.army.mil.

DOUGLAS L. CARVER  
Chaplain (Major General) USA  
Chief of Chaplains

DISTRIBUTION:  
IMCOM Chaplain  
Installation Chaplains  
President, MCCW Executive Board  
President, PWOC Executive Board

CF:  
Air Force Chief of Chaplains  
Navy Chief of Chaplains