# Military Chaplaincy:
# Army, Navy, or Air Force
## (Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard)
# Endorsement Process

The military services depend upon all faith groups to provide theologically trained, spiritually motivated, qualified ministers to serve as chaplains to all military branches. These chaplains care for the spiritual well-being of Service members and their Families regardless of their religious backgrounds, ministering to their needs wherever and whenever needed.

**Presbyterian ministers seeking to serve as a Military Chaplain must:**

- Possess an M.Div. degree
- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament. For active-duty applications, have at least two years of post-ordination pastoral experience. Clinical Pastoral Education may satisfy up to one year of pastoral/spiritual experience
- Be in good standing with their Presbyteries
- Be able to receive a favorable background check
- Must meet medical, legal, financial, and moral standards
- Be physically fit and be able to pass the physical training requirements for that particular service. This may include, at a minimum, running 1.5 to 4 miles, sit-ups and push-ups, and maintaining weight standards for that particular service
- Age: (Talk with a recruiter about changes and waivers)
    - Navy: Must be commissioned before age 42 (Active and Reserve)
    - Army: Must be commissioned before age 42 (Active); 47 (Guard/Reserve)
    - Air Force: Must be commissioned before age 40
- Complete an application and gain endorsement with the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies

**NOTE**: Military Service applicants must work with a service-specific chaplain recruiter and complete a military service application

To begin the endorsement process, the candidate must connect with their Presbytery EP/GP and the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies staff at info@presfedchap.org. The process will include the following:

- **Application (to include):**
    - Brief Life Sketch
    - Motivation Statement
    - College and Seminary Transcripts
    - Denominational Resume
    - Spouse Concurrence (Military)
    - Photograph (jpeg)
    - Sermon (Digital)
    - Presbytery contact for presbytery approval (name, email, and phone number)
- **Reference Check**
    - The PFC will send out the required reference forms to those listed in your application.

- **Presbytery Approval Form**
  - The PFC will send the required form to your presbytery
  - Candidates will need to dialogue with their EP/GP or Stated Clerk and the required committee (i.e., COM or CPM)
- **Background Check** (Source: Protect My Ministry)
- **Interview** (Normally by Zoom)
- **Endorsement Form** (Completed by the PFC)
  - DD 2088 (Military)
  - BP-A1119 (FBOP)
  - VA Form 10-253 (VA)

The Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies application packet can be found on our website presfedchap.org.

The Navy Chaplain Information can be found under the education tab at navy.com/careers/navy-chaplain
The Army Chaplain Information can be found at goarmy.com/chaplain.html
The Army National Guard Chaplain Information can be found at nationalguard.com/chaplain
The Air Force Chaplain Information can be found at airforce.com/chaplain