

Welcome to “Get to Know Your Chaplain Corps,” a new and ongoing section of the *Journal* that highlights a particular organizational element within the Chaplain Corps. For the May 2023 issue of the *Journal*, we are pleased to focus on the FORSCOM Chaplain Section.



A Discussion with

The FORSCOM Chaplain Section

Tell us about the mission and purpose of your element:

FORSCOM is an Army Command (ACOM), a U.S. Army 4-star headquarters. The FORSCOM mission is to train conventional forces to provide military options for the National Command Authority and to meet Combatant Commander requirements. The Commander's vision is to produce combat ready Total Army forces (Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve) that can deploy and win now in Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) against near peer threats.

The FORSCOM Religious Support Endstate is: Combat-ready, trained, and fit FORSCOM Unit Ministry Teams that provide world-class religious support for the Total Army to accomplish the Commander's mission to deploy and win in LSCO and multidomain operations. UMTs build the spiritual core of the Total Force by investing in people, connecting them in spirit, and cultivating community.

What's one thing you'd like the rest of the Chaplain Corps to know about your element?

The FORSCOM Chaplain Section (CS) plans, trains, and produces combat-ready and globally responsive Religious Support Professionals that are well led, disciplined, trained, and expeditionary. These professionals are ready now to deploy and provide religious support in LSCO against near-peer threats by assisting the combatant commanders in providing for the free exercise of religion and providing religious, moral, and ethical leadership. We align the U.S. Army's religious support training with the Chief of Chaplain's training priorities and operationalize them across COMPOS 1 (Active duty), 2 (ARNG), and 3 (USAR), to reach a total of 750,000 personnel.

Tell us about a typical week or month in your element:

Our environment requires continuous analysis and assessment for the purpose of shifting fully trained and combat-ready

military assets at a moment's notice as global demands and Combatant Commander's require. Our office is involved in every aspect of the analysis and assessment process with respect to religious support requirements.

Each week consists of communication with the various DACH Directorates to coordinate resources and planning efforts. The FORSCOM Chaplain and SGM regularly interact with the CCH, RSM, and OCCH to inform them of training, trends, and recommendations from as Corps and Divisions deploy and train in support of the nation's military objectives. FORSCOM CS also daily interacts with the Army Corps and subordinate RS UMTs.

Tell us about a project your element has been working on:

The FORSCOM CS has identified a gap in pre-assignment training of DIV CSs and has instituted a DIV CS training program. The training includes all incoming DIV CSs, current DIV CSs, Corps CS, and CMD CHs and covers everything from expectation management and Technical Chain interactions to implementation of Spiritual Readiness Training and Building Strong and Ready Teams.

1. Dec 4-7 FORSCOM will have its Annual Training Conference aligning Battle Focused Training with MCTP/1st Army/JRTC/NTC/JMRC trainers, USAREUR-AF, UASRPAC, ARCENT, and all Army Components.
2. Chaplain Leadership Assessment Tool (C-LAT): The FC Chaplain Directorate is piloting a talent-management and leadership counseling tool, the Chaplain

Leadership Assessment Tool (C-LAT), for the Chaplain Corps. C-LAT captures subjective talent assessment of 11 performance categories from supervisory chaplains two levels up to assist in recommendations for talent management and developmental follow-on assignments. The C-LAT provides a metric to assist supervisory Chaplains with leadership counseling and feedback for subordinate chaplains.

3. Improved communication and synchronization between FORSCOM and TRADOC. To better pass along operational religious support TTPs (tactics, techniques, and procedures) and deployed religious support lessons learned, FORSCOM has established a quarterly leader sync with the U.S. Army Religious Leader Academy. This will ensure that operational force is regularly providing feedback to the RLA to improve training and readiness of Chaplains and Religious Affairs Specialists.

Why is your element so crucial to the mission of the Chaplain Corps?

We are a critical asset to the Army Chaplain Corps mission because we not only provide thoroughly trained and combat-ready deployable Soldiers for religious support but also have direct contact with operational and tactical formations. Having the ability to convey innovations, challenges, and recommendations brings the strategic to the field and the field to the strategic. In the transition from COIN to LSCO

getting new information from CPXs and WFXs to the strategic level helps to shape doctrine that will save lives and win the next war.

The FORSCOM Chaplain Section also advises the Commanding General and his command team on the impact of religion, ethics, and morale of the FC formation. Specifically, we are part of FORSCOM-wide commander dialogues and provide a unique perspective that otherwise would not be considered. It is a great honor to develop relationships with our leaders to serve them in this way.

Take us inside your team and its dynamics:

There are seven team members assigned to the FORSCOM Chaplain Section.

FORSCOM Command Chaplain – CH (COL) David Bowlus

FORSCOM Command Chief Religious Affairs NCO – SGM Keisha Archer

Chief of Operations and Sustainment Chaplain (Deputy Command Chaplain) – CH (LTC-P) Steve Bryant

Force Structure and Management Chaplain – CH (LTC) Mike Smith

Operations and Training Chaplain – CH (LTC) Bill Robinson

Administrative Officer / Executive Officer – Mr. Alex Vergara

Program Analyst – Ms. Deb Yuhas

The team is a close-knit family that prioritizes service to FORSCOM so that UMTs and CSs can accomplish their commanders' missions as combat-ready, trained, and fit religious support leaders. As we serve, we enjoy providing pastoral

care, prayer, and counseling to the FORSCOM HQ in Marshall Hall and building the spiritual readiness of all.

Serving at FORSCOM is a significant responsibility and tremendous blessing. We seek to honor the

U.S. Army Chaplain Corps' legacy as we proudly serve God and Country at FORSCOM.



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FORSCOM Religious Support Strategic Plan (RSSP)

Religious Support LOEs

