



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR CLAIMANT STAFF CHAPLAINS

Subj: FOCUS 02/00 (Chaplain Participation at Basic Airborne Course)

Ref: (a) MILPERSMAN 1220-030  
(b) FOCUS 15/99 (Chaplain Corps Participation in Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase II Training)  
(c) FOCUS 16/99 (Receipt of Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) AQD and JPME Phase I Training)

1. In accordance with reference (a), a chaplain who is qualified and eligible to wear the Basic Parachutist Insignia or Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia is responsible to ensure his/her service record reflects receipt of either AQD BT1 (Static-line Qualified) or AQD BT2 (Freefall Qualified).

2. Any chaplain completing U.S. Army Basic Airborne Course (BAC), U.S. Army Basic Military Freefall Parachutist Course, or other training certified by Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) or approved by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) (e.g., USAFA AM-490, Basic Free Fall Training Course) is to submit a letter to DCNO (N131H), Building 2, Navy Annex, Washington DC 20370, via N977D (Chaplain Corps Head of Professional Development). The purpose of this letter is to request designation of AQD BT1 (Static-line Qualified) or AQD BT2 (Freefall Qualified). Ensure the letter is accompanied by the following enclosures: 1) Certificate of Graduation; 2) Jump Roster 3) Chaplain's current mailing address/e-mail/voice/fax.

3. The Navy Chaplain Corps has an emerging need for additional chaplains who can provide ministry in the quickly evolving world of joint operations. References (b) and (c) address the importance of completing Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) for consideration of assignment to "joint billets" in interservice settings.

4. Additionally, there is a newly identified need for Navy Chaplains equipped to provide ministry in joint military organizations that regularly practice airborne operations. Currently, the Navy's inventory of jump qualified chaplains is extremely small. Although airborne qualification would not assure a chaplain's future joint assignment, it would enhance the chaplain's breadth of assignability and professional skills.

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5. The U.S. Army Airborne School, Fort Benning, GA offers the Basic Airborne Course (BAC) to qualify volunteers in the use of the parachute as a means of combat deployment and to develop leadership, self-confidence, and an aggressive spirit through mental and physical conditioning. The Airborne School has U.S. Army Blackhat cadre as well as USMC instructors to train students in the use of the static line deployed parachute. Those who volunteer for this training follow a long and distinguished tradition of participating with an elite body of fighting men and women. Attendees accept the challenge of continuing this tradition and the high standards they must attain in order to graduate.

6. Provided the chaplain meets the following prerequisite criteria, N977D will obtain a BAC student quota. Once prerequisites are met, the chaplain can contact N977D and provide three available dates for attendance. N977D will contact quota control and provide the chaplain with a convening date closely matching one of the three available dates. In order to attend BAC, the following requirements must be met:

a. The chaplain must be a volunteer.

b. The chaplain's present command must agree to let him/her attend BAC in a funded TAD status (BAC volunteers may not attend this course in a leave, permissive TAD, or permissive jump status).

c. The chaplain's present command will be required to fund TAD and travel.

d. The chaplain must secure a physical examination to certify readiness for Airborne training IAW Army Regulation 40-501 and fax a copy of the Report of Medical Examination (SF 88) to N977D at (703)614-4725 (DSN 224) prior to obtaining a quota. The physical cannot be more than 12 months old from projected date of graduation. The medical officer must indicate you are qualified for Airborne Training on the Report of Medical Examination (SF 88). Ensure SF 88 *Purpose of Exam* (block 5) is labeled "Airborne Training" and *the Is Qualified For* (block 77) is checked and "Airborne" entered.

e. The chaplain must secure the age waiver required for attendees age 35 and over. Additionally, volunteers age 35 and over must have an EKG accompanying the physical exam. When the examining medical officer determines the volunteer is physically

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capable of completing BAC, the chaplain's Commanding Officer (O-5 or above) must submit an endorsement stating the volunteer is physically fit for airborne training and an age waiver is granted.

f. Prior to reporting, but no more than 6 months earlier, demonstrate physical fitness to undertake Airborne training by passing the Army Physical Fitness Test with the following minimal standards: 42 push ups, 53 sit-ups, and 2 mile run in 15:54. A memorandum from the chaplain's Commanding Officer will certify accomplishment of these standards.

7. For more information on BAC entrance requirements and inprocessing activities contact the U.S. Army Infantry School web site at <<http://www-benning.army.mil/airborne/>>. If you have questions regarding this FOCUS please contact CDR Alan Baker, CHC, USN, Head of Professional Development, at (703)695-8522 (DSN 225) or via e-mail at <[baker.alan@hq.navy.mil](mailto:baker.alan@hq.navy.mil)>.



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