

Pastoral Care Residency

Trauma-proofing Chaplains for Crisis Ministry

“There is no better training for operational ministry and crisis response than the Pastoral Care Residency. Dealing with death and dying and acute emotional and physical crisis is about the best approximation I can think of to what you would see in a battlefield environment.”

RADM Bonnie B. Potter, MC, USN, Fleet Surgeon, CINCLANTFLT

The ***Pastoral Care Residency*** (PCR) is the Navy Chaplain Corp’s Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program, fully accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE).

This 12-month residency, sponsored jointly by the Navy Chaplain Corps and Navy Medicine, provides intensive pastoral training in a peacetime environment that most closely approximates the trauma, crises and stress found in combat and traumatic critical events.

The program takes place every year from July through June at two locations: Portsmouth, Virginia and San Diego, California. The Portsmouth training is a joint venture between Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Virginia and the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Hampton Roads, Virginia. The San Diego program is a joint venture between Naval Medical Center, San Diego and the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center in nearby La Jolla, California. Currently five students are trained at Portsmouth and three at San Diego each year. A sixth student, a Canadian chaplain funded by the Canadian Military Forces, usually joins the five students at Portsmouth.

In a wartime environment, and during traumatic non-combat events, chaplains face the reality of providing support to wounded, dying and dead personnel, as well as to the medical, rescue and recovery personnel who care for them.

The intensive one-year PCR is an accredited CPE residency which prepares chaplains for ministry dealing with trauma, critical incident stress management, death and dying, operational stress management, disaster response, caring for caregivers, battlefield ethics, and a number of issues related to operational ministry and Homeland Security.

The residency includes individualized and group supervision. The **clinical rotations** involve the chaplain resident serving as an active member of a multi-disciplinary team providing patient care. Rotations include patient visits and group work in such areas as trauma care, intensive care, coronary care, oncology, psychiatry and alcohol rehabilitation. **Didactic sessions** on numerous subjects deal with issues such as the dynamics of pastoral crisis intervention, pastoral care and counseling, theology of grief and suffering, stress and trauma, death and dying, family dynamics, personality disorders, and substance abuse. Upon completion of the residency year **graduates are eligible to apply for board certification in the Association of Professional Chaplains**, a professional organization which certifies chaplains for ministries in institutional settings.

Other basic facts about this outstanding training opportunity are:

Who: Chaplains with no prior CPE training or chaplains who have had no more than one CPE unit may request to be considered for this program. Eight LCDR's (or those selected for) are chosen annually for PCR.

How to apply: Check the post-graduate block on your Officer Preference Card ("dream sheet"). Specify "Pastoral Care Residency" and indicate your preferred training site (Portsmouth or Bethesda). In addition, you may send an e-mail to the detailer briefly amplifying your interest in the program.

What: Receive four accredited quarters of CPE which will greatly strengthen your counseling and pastoral care skills that will be used throughout your chaplaincy ministry. This training will also be a positive transferable asset once you complete your Navy chaplaincy and return to civilian ministry.

Why: Meet the need for the Navy Chaplain Corps' 1440-N sub-specialty billets which require chaplains who have completed a minimum of four units of ACPE accredited CPE.

Pay back: Each U.S. Navy chaplain graduate must serve a minimum of two years in a Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) hospital or medical school 1440-N billet following completion of the residency.

Funding & Billets: Training dollars come from the Chief of Chaplain's N977 budget. FOR billets are provided by BUMED.

For more information, contact the Office of the Chaplain, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery at 202-762-0498 or DSN: 762-0498.