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**Chaplain**

**USE OF THE CADET CHAPEL**



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This instruction implements AFPD52-1, *Chaplain Service*, identifies those eligible to use the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) Cadet Chapel for weddings, funerals, memorial services, and other religious rites, and sets responsibilities and procedures for such use.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

Changes position of the approving authority from Senior Staff Chaplain to Wing Chaplain, Cadet Ministry. A bar (|) indicates revisions from the previous edition.

**1. General Information.** The USAFA Cadet Chapel exists primarily for the use of cadets, graduates, and Academy staff and their dependent family members. The building contains five established sanctuary areas:

- 1.1. The Protestant Chapel, on the upper floor.
- 1.2. The Catholic Chapel, in the south section of the ground floor.
- 1.3. The Jewish Chapel, in the middle section of the ground floor.
- 1.4. The All Faiths Room #1, in the north section of the basement floor.
- 1.5. The All Faiths Room #2, in the south section of the basement floor.

**2. Use of Worship Areas.** Generally, each sanctuary area is used for worship services and rites of the faith group for which it was created, with the following exceptions:

- 2.1. Ecumenical or Interfaith services may be held in any worship area.
- 2.2. Faith groups other than Jewish, Protestant, or Catholic may hold worship services for USAFA cadets in the All Faiths Room #1 or #2. Such a worship service must be led by a clergy person or lay

leader endorsed by the respective faith group's national endorsing body, after approval by and coordination with the Wing Chaplain, Cadet Ministry.

2.3. Veterans' Associations may request to schedule services of remembrance or memorial services for their groups in any faith group Cadet Chapel, provided that each service is led by a chaplain or clergyperson credentialed and endorsed by the national endorsing agency of the respective faith group, after approval by and coordination with the Wing Chaplain, Cadet Ministry.

2.4. Individuals eligible for marriage ceremonies, funerals, and memorial services (see paragraphs 4. and 5.) at the Cadet Chapel may arrange with the Wing Chaplain, Cadet Ministry to hold their services in a faith group chapel appropriate for the ceremony and subject to its availability. Availability is based upon a "first come, first served" reservation system for requests to use a faith group chapel and whether other services or activities have been previously scheduled or planned by the chapel staff.

2.4.1. The selected chapel will not be rendered neutral by removal or alteration of religious symbols and chapel fixtures, as the religious symbols and fixtures are integral to the architecture of the building. If changed in any other manner, the user must return the chapel to its original condition.

2.4.2. A service held at the Cadet Chapel must constitute a religious service and be conducted by a clergyperson or equivalent role credentialed by an authorized agent or agency of the respective faith group, after approval by and coordination with the Wing Chaplain, Cadet Ministry.

### **3. Attendance of the General Public at Worship Services.**

3.1. Members of the general public may attend any of the worship services posted on the Chapel Notice Board. All other services are for the exclusive benefit of those for whom the USAFA Chapel primarily exists. Ability to access the base will depend on Force Protection status and visitor cordon hours.

3.2. The chapel will be closed to the general public and to tours during the times of nonpublic worship services.

3.3. The chapel will be closed to the general public and to all others not directly involved during weddings, funerals, baptisms, christenings, memorial services, and other rites of a private nature.

### **4. Persons Eligible to be Married at the USAFA Cadet Chapel.** Those who may be married in the USAFA Cadet Chapel are the following:

4.1. Graduates of the USAFA, the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy, the United States Coast Guard Academy, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

4.2. Active duty personnel assigned to the HQ USAFA.

4.3. Dependents of active duty personnel assigned to the HQ USAFA who hold a valid military dependent ID card.

4.4. Persons listed in paragraph 4.1., 4.2., and 4.3. must arrange their wedding ceremony through the Cadet Chaplains' Office (HQ USAFA/HCX). Eligible persons may choose a military chaplain or a validly ordained civilian clergyperson approved by the Wing Chaplain, Cadet Ministry. At times, a military chaplain will not be available. A wedding coordinator identified by the Chapel is required for all weddings, unless specifically exempted by the Wing Chaplain, Cadet Ministry.

4.4.1. Expenses for the Coordinator and non-Chapel clergy are the responsibility of the wedding party.

**5. Funerals, Memorial Services.** Those who are authorized burial in the USAFA Cemetery (see USAFA Instruction 34-242, *Using the USAF Academy Cemetery*) are authorized funeral and memorial services in the USAFA Cadet Chapel, regardless of the actual place of burial.

**6. Other Religious Rites.** USAFA cadets and graduates may schedule baptisms, christenings, and other dedications for themselves or their dependents in the USAFA Cadet Chapel, subject to approval of the respective faith chaplain. This scheduling is arranged by HQ USAFA/HCX.

**7. Waivers.** Waiver authority for unusual situations rests with the Wing Chaplain, Cadet Ministry, unless otherwise directed by the Superintendent.

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