

MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIPS AND THE MILITARY CHAPLAIN

Force Multiplication



Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to help military chaplains understand what military Christian fellowships are and how these fellowships can help them in their ministry to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen. It has been prepared by the participating organizations of the Fellowship of Christian Military Ministries.

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What is a Military Christian Fellowship?

CHARACTERISTICS

- Christian organization
- Usually 501(c)(3) (religious)
- Advance the kingdom of God among military members and families
- Support Christians of all denominations— Protestant and Catholic
- Various ministry styles and focus:
 - » Evangelism
 - » Discipleship
 - » Marriage enrichment
 - » Hospitality
 - » Spiritual growth
 - » Bible studies
 - » Youth ministry
- Often one or more on an installation
- Part of the Command Religious Program

WHY MCFS ARE IMPORTANT TO CHAPLAINS

- Force multiplier
- Common mission with Chaplains
- Can help sustain ministry when unit chaplains deploy
- Specialize in critical areas of ministry
- Provide continuity in the midst of military transitions and turnover



Fellowship of Christian Military Ministries

FCMM is a voluntary association of military Christian fellowships whose leaders have covenanted to love, pray for, encourage, support, meet with, communicate with, coordinate with, and cooperate with one another to the end that Jesus Christ might be exalted within military communities.

NATIONWIDE ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Alpha for the Military

Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching and Service

Association of Military Christian Fellowships

Cadence International

Campus Crusade for Christ Military Ministry

Christian Military Fellowship

Military Community Youth Ministries/ Club Beyond

Military Missions Network

The Navigators—Military Ministry

Officers' Christian Fellowship

Operation Reveille

The ministries listed above have a broad presence throughout all service branches, and each is described in the following pages. In addition, there are many local and regional ministries to the military, some of which are part of FCMM.

Alpha for the Military (A4M)

VISION

- Help Christian growth in the Armed Forces by encouraging every person on Active Duty, in the Reserves or National Guard, their families and civilians working with the military
- Explore the meaning of life by completing an Alpha course or derivative.

MINISTRY

- Alpha courses equip, train and empower Chaplains, their assistants and key military lay leaders to run Alpha courses in their units, ships, bases, installations etc.
- Courses are usually offered through Chaplains as part of a commander's religious education program, but they are best led by lay leaders.
- Courses are non-denominational and are usually carried out in Catholic and Protestant chapels, the military workplace and military housing. Courses may be held off base.
- As appropriate and if requested, courses are offered with the help and assistance of local civilian churches and/or para-church military ministries.
- Alpha courses build authentic relationships and fellowship through small group ministry and discussion based on orthodox Christian themes.
- A4M offers prayer ministry to those volunteering to be part of their network. The ministry imparts encouragement, comfort and healing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Alpha courses and their derivatives are proven spiritual growth tools which help build a strong, resilient Military Family.
- Single and married Servicemen and women go to war stronger and reintegrate better on return. Hope and healing is offered to those suffering from combat trauma of all diagnoses; and to those who may be suicidal or considering divorce.
- Typically 500 Military Family members attend courses every year. About 50% make a first time or re-commitment to the Christian faith.

CONTACT

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Alpha

ALPHA<for the>MILITARY

Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching and Service

MISSION

ACCTS assists in the development of Christian leaders in the armed forces of the world and in the establishment and growth of military Christian fellowships.

MINISTRY

ACCTS supports military Christians and their military Christian fellowships in over 100 nations through:

- Visits by regional staff to leaders and potential leaders of MCFs in Eastern Europe, Ukraine, Central Asia, South Asia, China, Japan, Australia and the Pacific Islands, Africa, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America, providing encouragement, mentoring, and practical support to assist MCFs achieve their goals.
- Interaction visits and training for military leaders, potential leaders, chaplains and spouses to meet and share experiences with U.S. military Christians (including chaplains), outdoor adventure leadership training, and other practical support for their national MCFs. Regional Interactions are also available at some of the conferences worldwide that are sponsored by AMCF.
- Military leadership and ethics conferences cosponsored with MCFs and/or government agencies in the USA and overseas, intended for both Christian and non-Christian audiences. Conferences have been held in Norway, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine, Mongolia, and Colorado.
- English Language Camps for military personnel and their family members, cosponsored with MCFs abroad.
- Ministry education and support to international military chaplains and their spouses, including a special International Chaplains Interaction.
- Reconciliation ministry for national or regional groups that request it.
- Support as requested for the International President of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships, including publication and distribution of the quarterly AMCF Newsletter in English, Spanish, French, and Russian.

CONTACT

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Association of Military Christian Fellowships

ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS

MISSION

The motto of the AMCF is “All one in Christ Jesus” and that is what we pray and seek to be. The AMCF is an agreement by autonomous national military Christian fellowships to associate.

VISION

To encourage the formation and growth of military Christian fellowships (MCFs) within and among national security forces.

GOAL

To see a mature and effective national MCF in the security forces of every nation.

MINISTRY

- A voluntary, interdenominational, worldwide association of military Christian fellowships.
- An international president and 14 regional vice presidents.
- A network of MCFs rather than an organization—no central office, budget, or staff.
- AMCF hosts an international conference of MCFs from around the world every ten years. At the last conference, in South Korea in 2004, more than 1,500 delegates from over 100 nations met for a week of worship and prayer together.

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Cadence International

SHARING THE GOSPEL AND OUR LIVES WITH THE MILITARY COMMUNITY

Cadence International is an evangelical mission agency founded in 1954 dedicated to reaching the military communities of the United States and of the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Cadence staff includes over 250 missionaries in over 50 locations worldwide.

Cadence ministers to military personnel through hospitality, Bible studies, counseling, and discipleship. Ministries of Cadence focus on serving every person in the military community: singles, spouses, and dependents.

MISSION

The vision of Cadence International is to exalt Christ in the nations through the lives of transformed military people. Cadence International counts it as a privilege to serve and minister in conjunction with the Chaplaincy.

MINISTRIES

- Hospitality House and Retreat Ministries
- Women's & Singles Ministry
- Malachi Military Youth Ministry
- Military Children's Ministry
- Cadence Foreign Militaries Ministry (Southeast Asia)
- Lands of Russia

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Campus Crusade for Christ Military Ministry

Evangelize and Disciple All Enlisted Members of the U.S. Military through ministry at each basic training center and beyond. Transform our culture through the U.S. military.

Develop Christian Military Leaders for the 21st Century. Spiritual development of future military officers and enlisted leaders at service academies, hundreds of ROTC universities, and operational locations around the world.

Stop the Unraveling of the Military Family. Forge healthy families for the next generation of military children through seminars, resources, and support groups at installations around the world.

Arm Troops in Harm's Way with Spiritual Resources. A Bible in every foxhole. Resources to empower chaplains in every service of the armed forces. Networks to keep service members connected during their entire careers.

Global Online Evangelism, Discipleship, and Leader Training for Military Personnel around the world. Touch hundreds of thousands with the Gospel and link them to resources and counseling.

Change Continents for Christ. Transform nations of the world through the militaries of the world. Train, equip, and partner with indigenous leaders to establish strategic sending platforms in each region of the world.

CONTACT

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Christian Military Fellowship

AN INDIGENOUS MINISTRY

MISSION

Give each and every member of the United States Armed Forces and their families the opportunity to say “Yes” to Jesus Christ.

MINISTRY

CMF is an association of believers who are committed to evangelizing the U.S. Armed Forces and discipling Christians who are in the military. CMF involves all elements of that society including all ranks, family members, and civilian employees.

We are a PEER ministry TO military people BY military people WITH-IN the military society.

Specific CMF Ministries

- Staff facilitating an indigenous ministry – BY military TO military
- Prayer Partnering – daily/monthly/as-needed prayer requests distributed electronically and via hard copy.
- Literature and Resources – offered to encourage and facilitate ministry
- Link Up – connecting believers within the military society to all Christ-honoring military ministries
- On-Line Training in Ministry – web-based discipleship training
- Conference scholarships and Assistance – provided as needed and available

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Military Community Youth Ministries/ Club Beyond

*REACHING OUT TO EVERY MILITARY TEEN
BUILDING RESILIENCY INTO THE MILITARY FAMILY*

MISSION

Celebrate life with military teens,
Introduce them to the Life Giver, Jesus Christ,
And help them become more like Him.

VISION

Let Every Military Brat Believe!

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Healthy subject matter experts
Providing effective military youth ministry


MINISTRY OVERVIEW

- Relationally focused, chapel based outreach (called Club Beyond) to teenage dependents of U.S. service members since 1980.
- Weekly “Club Beyond” meetings, special activities, summer camps, work service projects and Bible studies.
- More than 90 full-time staff and hundreds of volunteers in many countries worldwide, including Belgium, England, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Turkey, the Republic of Korea, Japan, and the United States.
- Provides full array of youth ministry through contracts with installation chaplain’s offices.
- Ecumenical ministry (partners with Youth for Christ, Young Life and Life Teen).

CONTACT

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 MILITARY COMMUNITY YOUTH MINISTRIES



YOUTHFORCHRIST
Military - Club Beyond.



Military Missions Network

MISSION

Ignite a shared vision for the cause of global military missions – The MMN seeks to foster among chaplains, churches, and para-church ministries a vision for touching the world through collaborative efforts in military ministry.

Equip kingdom leaders for the advancement of global military missions – The MMN sponsors and conducts conferences and seminars to equip individuals, churches and ministries regarding military missions and ministry.

Link Christians who have a passion to reach, equip, and minister to military members and families worldwide – The MMN encourages dialogue and working relationships between chaplains, churches, and para-church ministries.

Provide internet resources to facilitate connections among Christians within the domain of the military culture – Through websites, social networking, and volunteer efforts, the MMN facilitates connections between military and those who minister to military.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

The emergence and development of:

- **Focused Churches** – Churches that are strategic and intentional in reaching out, discipling, training and ministering to military members and families
- **Creative Partnerships** – Innovative working relationships between chaplains, churches, and para-church ministries
- **Functioning Networks** – Communication and collaboration between chaplains, churches, and para-church ministries especially in connection with the identifiable common pathways associated with the military

CONTACT

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Look for Military Missions network on Facebook



The Navigators Military Ministry

*HELPING MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES
NAVIGATE SPIRITUALLY*

MISSION

To reach, disciple, and equip military men and women as lifetime laborers to know Christ and to make Him known through successive generations in our nation and the nations of the world.

MINISTRY

Navigator staff and their contacts work with and serve chaplains to advance the Kingdom of God through Bible studies, individual discipling, outreach and various group activities:

One by one, both our U.S. and overseas staff members teach military men and women to follow Christ passionately and help them:

- Apply the Bible to their daily lives
- Pass on what they learn to others
- Train these new believers, in turn, to reach others (i.e., a focus on spiritual multiplication)

Approximately 360 staff members (including spouses) working on 110 bases in the U.S. and overseas.

CONTACT

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Officers' Christian Fellowship

*BUILDING CHRISTIAN LEADERS...FAMILIES...
FELLOWSHIPS*

PURPOSE

To glorify God by uniting Christian officers for biblical fellowship and outreach, equipping and encouraging them to minister effectively in the military society.

MINISTRY

Encourage and equip Christian military leaders and their families for spiritual leadership in the military society.

- Small-group Bible study is the primary tool for encouraging and equipping for ministry.
- Local fellowships are led by active duty, reserve, or retired members.
- Conference centers in Colorado and Pennsylvania with summer programs, winter holiday retreats, youth, and outdoor programs. Available off-season for retreats.
- Chaplains are welcome as members.
- Spiritually Smart Family Conferences provide military families the tools and encouragement to cope with frequent deployment issues
- COMMAND magazine to inform, instruct, and inspire military believers to live biblically in the Armed Forces, and to educate people on the purpose, nature, and work of OCF.

CONTACT

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Operation Reveille

A MINISTRY OF MISSION TO UNREACHED PEOPLES

SITUATION

Militaries have always been at the leading edge of intercultural relations, and security is now America's most prominent export. If professional exposure to some of the most needy parts of the world creates ministry opportunities, then no segment of the American church is more strategically positioned for cross-cultural impact than Christians who are in the U.S. military.

MISSION

Train and equip service members for having a cross-cultural testimony that is consistent with their professional calling to defend national security.

MINISTRY Publishing, Teaching, Consulting

- **Publishing:** E-Journal sent online to subscribers, Area Profiles, Handbooks, Web Site, Multi-media Briefings
- **Teaching:** Seminars and Workshops
- **Consulting:** Career & Development Counseling

CONTACT

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“Welcome Home Daddy” by Sharon Dahlen
Commissioned for Military Community Youth Ministries.



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