

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Ocean City, Maryland

SUBJECT: POLICE CHAPLIN PROGRAM		NO: 1100 C-1
APPROVED/EFFECTIVE DATE APRIL 1, 1991	AMENDS	RESCINDS
DISTRIBUTION/DATE A 4/12/91	REFERENCES	

- .10 Police Chaplains can provide valuable assistance to the Police Department and to its members in a variety of ways, utilizing their ministerial, spiritual, counseling and human skills.
- .20 The creation of a Chaplain Program within the Ocean City Police Department recognizes that society in general often acts in accord with spiritual beliefs and previous religious training. When a member of the clergy is present, he or she can provide reassurances of faith. Therefore, a Chaplain should be used whenever there is a perceived need for a member of the clergy to be present at a police related function or event.
- .30 Members of the Ocean City Police Department Chaplain Program will be carefully screened, must be ordained ministers, should have considerable experience in professional ministry, and demonstrate emotional stability and personal flexibility.
- .40 The Police Department will solicit the services of local clergy members, from various faiths, who are in a position to volunteer their time to the Department in forming and maintaining a police chaplaincy. All participants will meet criteria established by this General Order.
- .50 Based on identified need, the Chief of Police shall modify the size and scope of the program and select additional or replacement clergy. Selected clergy shall be designated as Ocean City Police Department Chaplains.
- .60 The Department will make available those credentials and that equipment which are specifically required by the Chaplains to carry out their services.
- .70 A roster listing active Police Chaplains will be kept in the Communications Section.
- .80 Police Chaplains may be called to assist the Ocean City Police Department in any of the following kinds of situations:
 - A. To accompany a police officer and assist in any death or serious injury notifications.
 - B. To work with police officers and assist in any kind of crisis situation where the presence of an ordained minister might help.

- C. To advise police officers of, and work with them, any possible religious frauds being perpetrated on members of the community.
 - D. On request of officers involved, to assist them in dealing with stress, family or crisis problems.
 - E. To advise the Chief of Police in all matters of a religious nature involving the Police Department and performance of law enforcement duties in the community, act as liaison with local ministerial associations, and on matters pertaining to the moral, spiritual, and religious welfare of police personnel.
 - F. To assist the Police Department in the performance of appropriate ceremonial functions.
 - G. To assist in the provision of planned, scheduled training to police personnel. Training may include academy training, roll call training, spouse orientation, etc.
 - H. Police shootings.
- .90 Members desiring off-duty personal or family counseling are encouraged to make appointments with the Chaplains. The names, addresses and further identification on all Chaplains will be posted by the Chief of Police. Contact between Departmental members and the Police Chaplain shall remain confidential, as would any meeting between a citizen and a member of the clergy.
- .100 Police Chaplains shall not release any information to the news media or insurance agencies or attorneys regarding cases in which they are involved. All information secured should be held in confidence and used only for the benefit of the person or officer involved.
- .110 At the scene of any conflict or emergency, the Chaplain will comply with instructions of police officers present as they relate to police procedures and safety.
- .120 Police Chaplains shall not publicly criticize the actions of any law enforcement officer, department official, fellow chaplain or department policy or action. Any Chaplain having a complaint or grievance shall take up the matter with the Chief of Police as soon as possible.
- .130 Police Chaplains will be encouraged to attend briefings and to ride along on patrol as an on-going activity, at least monthly, in order to keep in touch with pressures and problems which confront the officers on the street. Chaplains wishing to ride may call the police department for a ride and, upon arrival at the Department, should contact the duty lieutenant to receive assignment car/officer.