

RELIGIOUS PROGRAM SPECIALIST (RP)



NAVY

Religious Program Specialists (RPs) manage and execute the Command Religious Program (CRP) which accommodates the diverse religious ministry requirements of Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families. RPs support chaplains as part of a Religious Ministry Team (RMT) and provide physical security for chaplains in expeditionary/combat environments.

What they do

RPs functional areas include ministry support and accommodation, pastoral care support, religious advisement, finance and accounting, library, administration, expeditionary ministry support.

Specific duties performed by RPs include:

- supporting chaplains of all faiths and religious activities of the command;
- providing religious, administrative and logistical support for command religious programs;
- ensuring physical security for chaplains in expeditionary or combat environments;
- operating tactical vehicles, performing land navigation, and qualifying on appropriate weapons;
- liaising with religious and community agencies to help servicemembers and families;
- operating/maintaining libraries aboard ships and some isolated duty stations;
- performing bookkeeping/accounting functions for office and chapel funds;
- publicizing the command's religious activities and managing websites;
- maintaining records, documents, and references of various faith groups;
- assisting in preparation of educational materials and audiovisual displays;
- training and supervising volunteers;
- supervising office personnel;
- planning and developing programs, agendas, budgets, and services;
- determining requirements for meetings, conferences, and conventions.

Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate or lower-division bachelor's/associate's degree categories.

Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical and operational training is required in this rating during later stages of career development.

| School | Present Location | Approximate Training Time | Subjects | Training Methods |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------|
| Class "A" School | Fort Jackson, SC | 7 Weeks | Basic skills required in rating | Group paced |
| Class "F" School | Fort Jackson, SC | 3 Weeks | Intermediate skills required in rating | Group paced |
| Class "C" School | Camp Lejune, NC | 7 Weeks | Basic Marine Combat Skills | Group paced |

After "A" school, Religious Program Specialists are assigned to support Navy Chaplains at Navy and Marine Corps fleet units and shore stations throughout the world. During a 20-year period in the Navy, RPs spend about 50 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 50 percent to shore stations.

Qualifications and Interests

Applicants should have a high school diploma or equivalent, possess the highest standards of personal integrity and moral character, have no criminal offenses or history of alcohol/drug abuse, and have no speech impediments (as defined by Chapter 15, Manual of the Medical Department).

Applicants must be U.S. citizens and be eligible for access to classified information. Priests, Rabbis, Imams, licensed ministers, and ordained clergy are not eligible for this rating.

Other requirements include a valid U.S. driver's license and a favorable interview by a chaplain/RP screening committee.

Working Environment

RPs work with Navy and Marine Corps personnel and civilians in a variety of environments such as: on a deck of a ship, in the field with Marines or Seabees, in a hospital, or in an office/chapel.

Personnel in this rating will work directly with people in vulnerable situations. Empathy, strong customer service skills, and personal integrity are vital!

Schedules will require duties to be performed in the evenings, on weekends and during national or religious holidays.

Opportunities

About 1,000 men and women work in the RP rating. Qualified and self-motivated people have a good opportunity for entry into this rating.

Related Civilian Jobs-O Net SOC Code O Net SOC Title

- 11-2031.00 Public Relations Managers
- 11-3011.00 Administrative Services Managers
- 11-3040.00 Human Resources Managers
- 11-9032.00 Education Administrators
- 11-9151.00 Social and Community Service Managers
- 13-1073.00 Training and Development Specialists
- 13-1121.00 Meeting and Convention Planners
- 13-2031.00 Budget Analysts
- 21-1093.00 Social and Human Service Assistants
- 21-1099.00 Community and Social Services
- 21-2021.00 Directors, Religious Activities and Education
- 25-4031.00 Library Technicians
- 29-1125.00 Recreational Therapists
- 39-4021.00 Funeral Attendants
- 43-4171.00 Receptionists and Information Clerks
- 43-9061.00 Office Clerks, General
- 43-6011.00 Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants

Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this rating card is subject to change.

Note: All applicants must read and understand the Religious Program Specialist Volunteer Statement of understanding.

Revised (07/10)

Religious Program Specialist (RP) Volunteer

Statement of Under- Standing

Volunteers for the Religious Program Specialist (RP) rating do so with the understanding they will be required to be supportive of clergy and people of all faiths.

RPs are considered combatants and will receive training to ensure the chaplain's safety, particularly in expeditionary and combat areas.

They also understand their eligibility for the program will be reviewed at recruit training during screening interviews. If, during the interviews, they are found ineligible for the RP rating, they will have the following options:

- assignment in alternate training for which they are fully qualified;
- general duty assignment.

Applicants understand that in addition to assignment with Navy units, they will be eligible for assignments to Marine Corps units, and possible assignments as individual augmentees with other services. Assignment with Marine Corps units requires basic Marine combat skills training prior to reporting for duty.