

## Congratulations on Your Appointment to the United States Naval Academy!

Our Religious Ministry Team, made up of Navy Chaplains, Petty Officers, and civilian employees stand ready to support you as you begin this new adventure. It is an honor for us to assist and enrich the lives of interested Midshipmen during Plebe Summer and beyond.

Each battalion has an assigned chaplain supporting the spiritual fitness and moral development of Midshipmen under his or her care, and as an encouraging presence throughout your training.

Chaplains care for all people, of every faith or creed, as well as those who do not espouse any. We provide supportive counseling, crisis intervention, and moral guidance. Chaplains provide religious services in keeping with their faith background. If a chaplain of your faith group is not available, we will make every effort to facilitate religious observances and practices in keeping with your faith tradition.

During the typical Academic Year, you can expect to have weekly access to a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth— to include Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Christian services on Sundays, Muslim Jumah and Jewish Kabbalat Shabbat services on Fridays, various Religious Extracurricular Activities throughout the week, and other special events. We look forward to supporting you throughout your time at the Naval Academy.

In order to facilitate some sincerely held religious beliefs and observances, you might need to have a religious accommodation interview with a chaplain. The Department of the Navy policy is to accommodate religious practices whenever possible unless doing so would have some adverse impact. Commanders may sometimes need to recommend an alternative accommodation of a religious practice.

If you have any questions about a request, do not hesitate to get in touch with us before Induction Day for information or assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice A. Buford  
CAPT, CHC, USN  
Command Chaplain

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Request for Religious Accommodation:

*Per BUPERSINST 1730.11: "Department of the Navy policy is to accommodate religious practices whenever possible, unless doing so would have an adverse impact on mission accomplishment, including military readiness, unit cohesion, good order, discipline or health and safety. I understand accommodation of my religious practices cannot be guaranteed at all times. I understand that determination of military necessity rests entirely with my Navy chain of command, and that I will be expected to comply with the Navy's policy, practice or duty from which I am requesting accommodation unless and until approved by the designated authority."*

During Induction Day, the Chaplain Center will record Religious Preferences and Religious Accommodation Requests. Examples of religious accommodation requests include, but are not limited to:

- Special Dietary Observances
- Vaccination Exemptions
- Off-Site religious service attendance
- Religious head covering

As stated, most religious accommodation requests will be recorded during I-Day. However, in order to ensure your dietary needs are addressed from your first meal at USNA, we ask that you fill out the form attached and return it to the USNA Chaplain Center.

# USNA DIETARY NEEDS & RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION QUESTIONNAIRE

**Instructions: This portion is optional. If you circle “yes” on any options,  
please scan and email to: religious-exemption-group@usna.edu.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1) Do you have any dietary restrictions or needs? (circle one) YES NO

a) If YES, please explain:

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2) Are these needs related to religious or faith-based observances? YES NO

a) If YES, please explain:

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3) Do you intend to submit a Religious Accommodation Request (other than dietary)?

YES NO

a) A few examples might include: beard exception due to religion or belief, head coverings or other clothing

b) If YES, please explain:

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4) Thank you for your response. We look forward to seeing you in June!