

THE FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION

The First Amendment of the Constitution guarantees the “free exercise of religion”. Chaplain programs are the responsibility of the commander. The commander ensures requests for religious accommodation. The Community Center Chapel staff is responsible to the commander for Preparatory School students’ religious needs. Air Force chaplains provide worship, religious formation, counseling, social opportunities and charitable outreach to the needy. Please refer to the Community Center Chapel Worship and Religious Formation Schedule, “Attachment 5”.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND PASTORAL COUNSELING

Chaplains offer individual counseling which may involve homesickness, coping with the challenges of Preparatory School life, learning more about spirituality, and much more. Personal information shared in the counseling environment is “privileged communication”. *All individual and private counseling with a chaplain is confidential and is never shared without permission of the individual. The right for confidentiality in the counseling environment rests with the individual and not the chaplain.* Preppies may visit a chaplain during personal time or by making an appointment through their Academy Military Training NCO (AMT) or faculty. If a Preppie wants to speak with a chaplain after normal duty hours, there is an “on-call duty chaplain” available.

“SPIRE” (Special Programs In Religious Education)

“SPIRE” is a unique voluntary peer-to-peer ministry specifically designed for the Preparatory School students. “SPIRE” includes dinner and meets on Mondays from 6:00 – 7:15 PM at the Community Center Chapel. Other aspects of this ministry include religious formation classes, scripture studies, fellowships and retreats throughout the year.

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