



Spotlight on: CFAS Religious Ministries

"There are no atheists in a foxhole," as the saying goes. That foxhole can be anywhere for a Sailor, and wherever that Sailor is a Navy Chaplain is. The Religious Ministries department here in Sasebo is no different.

The second article of the Navy regulations of 1775 reads: "The Commanders of the ships of the thirteen United Colonies, are to take care that divine service be performed twice a day on board, and a sermon preached on Sundays, unless bad weather or other extraordinary accidents prevent." On November 28, 1775, Congress established regulations to govern the new Continental Navy. This date is regarded as the birth date of the Navy Chaplain Corps.

For more than 200 years, the US Navy Chaplain Corps has been facilitating the free exercise of religion for Sailors at home and abroad. The Religious Ministries department here in Sasebo continues the tradition, by providing opportunities for worship, religious education and spiritual development. Chaplains and Religious Program Specialists (RP) also provide counseling, spearhead community relations projects (COMREL), retirements, single Sailor dinners, and a myriad of



church services, including every day mass.

Many responsibilities fall on the shoulders of the RPs, the backbone of Religious Ministries. The high paced job of an RP entails full support of Navy Chaplains and managing the Religious Offering

Fund. The Community Education center (CEC) at Main Base must also be manned and maintained seven days a week. The RPs set up and coordinate every event at the CEC and Hario Chapel. They also support and conduct all COMRELs, including ported and visiting ships. The mission of the

Religious Ministries department changes when ships call to port. Chaplains counsel Sailors from the ships and conduct services on many ships that do not have a chaplain.

Religious Ministries; there for Sailors in body, spirit and soul.



In Their Own Words

“I love being an RP. I get to be involved in religious ministries, I get to be involved with command activities; everybody comes to the chapel. We get to serve everybody in all different kinds of ways. From religious instruction and ministry to command functions. Everything comes to the chapel,,, so it puts me right in the center of the base.”

James Decker
Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class

—Fast Facts—

- Manages two chapels: Hario Housing and Main Base.
- Operates seven days a week. Holds services daily.
- Receives numerous thank you letters from military members and dependants.
- Three chaplains (one IA to Afghanistan), four RPs, and one MLC.