MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Using Appropriated Funds for Chaplain-led Activities

1. The Command Master Religious Program (CMRP, cf. AR 165-1, Chapter 1, Section II, Para 1-9 Commanders) is the unit commander’s plan for religious support (RS). It is the RS training plan for the unit that the Chaplain administers on behalf of and by the authority of the Unit Commander (Lieutenant Colonel and above). It is the responsibility of the Commander to fund and resource (cf. See e. of the previous AR 165-1 reference) the CMRP to accomplish this essential and mandatory training objective.

2. By order of Title 10 - Armed Forces, Subtitle A - General Military Law, Part II - Personnel, Chapter 88 - Military Family Programs and Military Child Care, Subchapter 1 - Military Family Programs, Section 1789 - Chaplain-led Programs: Authorized Support, The Commander may use mission/appropriate funds to support chaplain-led programs that assist members of the armed forces on active duty and their immediate family members, and members of reserve components in an active status and their immediate family members, in building and maintaining a strong family structure. These support services include costs of transportation, food, lodging, child care, supplies, fees, and training materials for members of the armed forces and their family members while participating in chaplain-led programs including participation at retreats and conferences.

3. AR 165-1, 16-6e states, “The Secretary of the Army hereby delegates their authority, as prescribed in 10 USC 1789, to provide support services to build and maintain a strong Family structure among active duty Soldiers and reserve Soldiers in an active status, and their Families, to commanders in the grade of colonel and above. This authority may be delegated to a commander in the grade of lieutenant colonel by the first general officer in the chain of command in situations where there is not an intermediate commander between the commanding general and the commanding lieutenant colonel.” Additionally, 16-6f states, “Commanders may use [Appropriated Funds] at installation level and mission funds at unit level to provide the support services prescribed in 10 USC 1789 for the commander’s program to build and maintain strong and ready Family structures.”

4. On 25 March 2013, Secretary of the Army, Honorable John McHugh, published the Army Directive 2013-07, Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Program. In this memo, he dictates the five demissions of strength held by Soldiers and their dependents: Physical,
Emotional, Social, Spiritual, and Family. Chaplains have an indispensable role in training these various dimensions of strength. The program's mission is to improve the physical and psychological health and resilience of Soldiers and their Families. At the unit level, the Commander’s CMRP is the vehicle used to accomplish this directive.

6. In the end, a chaplain cannot accomplish the given mission to perform or provide RS without being properly resourced by the commander under which he or she serves. A chaplain does have access to Chapel Tithes and Offerings (CTOF) on a case-by-case basis depending on the amount of funds collected from the various installation chapel services. A commander cannot depend or count on using any of these funds because their primary use is to support the Garrison Commander’s CMRP administered by the Garrison Chaplain. Unit level chaplains are fully dependent upon their commanders to support, fund and resource all facets of the RS program.

7. The Point of Contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at 520-533-0133, andrew.e.calvert.mil@mail.mil.

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