

RFI Category and Number:

FEMALE CHAPLAINS RFI #5

RFI Question:

The Committee requests a written response from Air Force, Army and Navy on the recommendations regarding female Chaplains from the 2006 and 2016 DACOWITS reports. To include:

- a. Provide current statistics on the number and percentage of female Chaplains by grade.
- b. What is being done to increase the recruitment and retention of female Chaplains in the military.

U.S. Navy RFI Response:

This statement is in response to a Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) request in preparation for its March 2019 meeting. Below is the current U.S. Navy FY19 statics of female chaplains by number and percentage.

	O2	O3	O4	O5	O6	O7	O8	Grand Total
Female	2 (7.7%)	27 (7.0%)	14 (6.5%)	6 (4.2%)	3 (4.4%)	0	0	52 (6.2%)
Male	24 (92.3%)	359 (93.0%)	200 (93.5%)	136 (95.8%)	65 (95.6%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)	786 (93.8%)
Total	26	386	214	142	68	1	1	100%

In regards to recruitment and retention initiatives of female Chaplains for naval chaplaincy, the U. S. Navy Chaplain Corps recruits, trains, and retains the best of the fully qualified clergy from over 260 religious organizations to serve in dynamic environments. The Religious Organizations which ordain women often have very flexible theological education systems. Precisely in order to reach out to these women, and other qualified candidates, the CHC has temporarily lifted a self-imposed restriction requiring candidates for the chaplaincy to have received two thirds of their theological education in-residence at an accredited seminary. Once a chaplain completes the accession pipeline, every effort is made to retain the best of the best in a meritorious promotion system that is blind to race, color, creed, religion or gender.

POC or office responsible:

Office of the Chief of Navy Chaplains