

***Possibilities for Parish Outreach to
Military Bases and Armed Forces Families
A Living Document****

For details on any of the following, please contact The Rev. Dr. Michael T. McEwen, Lt. Col., Chaplain Corps, US Army (Ret.), at michael.mcewen@us.army.mil or (580) 919-9205.

General Outreach

- Buy an ad in the base newspaper and include WWW and email addresses (also, consider a special VBS invitation ad)
- Provide parish info packets to welcome center
- Send parish newsletter to Chaplains/Chaplain Assistants (CH/A's)
- Give subscription of Episcopal Life to the main Chaplain activities office (also send the diocesan newspaper if there is one)
- Distribute basic Episcopal info brochures to Chaplains and assistants (see sample brochure from the Diocese of Oklahoma)
- Provide Forward pubs for chapels (which are usually loaded with evangelical/fundamentalist literature)
- Offer VBS scholarships to base/installation children

Chaplaincy Recognition/Support

- Send birthday cards to CH/A's (perhaps with meal gift certificates?)
- Distribute Prayer Books for the AF and Service Crosses to all CH/A's
- Include base CH/A's on the parish prayer list and distribute copies to CH/A's
- Send special cards (again, meal gift certificates?) to all CH/A's when they are promoted
- Offer child care at the Church to all CH/A's and their spouses/companions to have a night out

Special Day Recognition Events (perhaps on a Sunday nearest Veteran's Day-Nov 11, Armed Forces Day-3rd Saturday in May, or 4th of July week Sunday)

- Send flowers/plant/candy to CH/A's wives
- Invite a Chaplain to preach and then take him/her and family to nice lunch
- Hold an appreciation Reception/Brunch/Lunch (with child care) for CH/A's wives
- Hold parish event at Officers/NCO Club and invite CH/A's
- Send pastries/fruit/cheese plates to chapel coffee hour events

Major On-going Projects

- Offer to sponsor a returning combat veterans group
- Communion visits to military hospital bound Episcopalians (ELCA's?)
- Establish a parish prayer team who will pray by name for deployed servicemembers and send them and their families prayer cards
- Assure that every deploying Episcopalian has an Episcopal Service Cross and Prayerbook for the Armed Forces (obtainable from

* This is a "living" document in that additional suggestions are always welcome. Please email them to michael.mcewen@us.army.mil

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