

**PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD**  
**February 5-7, 2014**  
**Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry Area**

**ITEM C.110**  
**FOR ACTION**

<b>FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY</b>			
	A. Finance	E. Corporate Property, Legal, Finance	J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
	B. Justice	F. PC(USA), A Corporation	P. Plenary
X	C. Leadership	G. Audit	
	D. Worshiping Communities	H. Executive Committee	

**Subject:**      **Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel (PCCMP)**  
**Annual Report 2012-2014**

**Recommendation: That the Leadership Committee receives and forward onto the 221st General Assembly (2014) the annual report of the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel.**

The PCCMP has been extraordinarily active in its support of chaplains since the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Our chaplains have been deployed to warzones up to six times. At least two have been wounded. Several have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) diagnoses including two who received medical retirements. Chaplains, their families, and their congregations have served well and are strained and tired from this long war. Since 9-11, reserves and National Guard have been mobilized in large numbers. That has slowed substantially with the Iraq War over and the Afghan one drawing down; from 2012-2014, at least 22 reserve and National Guard chaplains mobilized from. We have been in near constant contact with most of them -- assisting in their entry in the active military, speaking with their families, churches, and presbyteries, helping explain pension and United States Employment and Reemployment Rights, providing support when they returned from the military. Disasters like the Japanese earthquake and Tsunami, Philippine flood, and Pakistani flood have only added to the call for military assistance. We've enjoyed assisting individuals, churches, presbyteries, and GA offices in supporting deployed military members and chaplains. We've been gratified to see prayers offered, care packages sent and chaplains "adopted" by churches.

Approximately 30 of our active duty chaplains were deployed into Southwest Asia for actions regarding Iraq and Afghanistan from 2012 to 2014. Several are in Afghanistan at this writing. Our military chaplains suffer the same hardships as other military; their ministry is often in harm's way. Some of them are quite exhausted after a war tour; some have symptoms of post-traumatic stress. We seek to be with them and find appropriate support. We hold annual retreats for chaplains attended by 60-110 chaplains and family members; they've been at Montreat the past two years. We were at funerals for several retired chaplains. We look forward to contacts after chaplains redeploy and are reunited with their families.

All military branches have again stated recently their gratitude for the service provided by Presbyterian chaplains. They also are in need of female chaplains and minority chaplains. We believe the PCUSA can be a wonderful source for some of these chaplains. This is a great opportunity for our female and minority teaching elders in a time when there are many more teaching elders than churches needing support.

The Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad (KPCA) joined our Council several years ago and now has eight active duty chaplains.

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The PCCMP has two core functions:

- The ecclesial duty of endorsement of clergy for service in the military and Veterans Administration chaplaincies
- The pastoral function of supporting those same clergy during their time of service

Over the past two years, we approved nine for military chaplain candidate (seminarian) programs. We endorsed 102 for the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and VA; some are in the reserves while others went immediately to active duty chaplaincy. Each approval or endorsement requires a collection of application, transcripts, presbytery approval, and letters of reference. After the documents are gathered, we interview the candidates.

Our current data on chaplains by denomination is below. We provide endorsement and support to 14 seminarians and 234 clergy. Twenty-three of the military chaplains are female as are seven of our VA chaplains. Most of our presbyteries have participants in one or more of the chaplaincy programs.

	<b>Chaplain Candidate</b>	<b>Reserve/Guard*</b>	<b>Active Military</b>	<b>Full Time VA</b>	<b>Part Time VA</b>	<b>Civil Air Patrol</b>
PCUSA	12	72	75	18	11	34
Cumberland	2	4	5	3	1	0
Cumberland in America	0	0	1	0	0	0
Korean Presbyterian	0	0	8	0	0	0
Church Abroad						
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>34</b>

\*Of these Reserve/Guard, 14 are currently mobilized

We attended General Assemblies or General Synod for all of our denominations. The chaplain ministry is well received and supported by each denomination. We also participate in the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) of the PCUSA without vote because of our covenant relationship.

The ongoing pastoral care for chaplains is an extension of what presbyteries do through Committees on Ministry. We expect our chaplains to maintain a sound relationship with the PCCMP and their presbytery. We seek to keep a semi-annual written contact with each active duty chaplain. We augment that contact with email and telephone. We also make personal contact with each chaplain at least every other year with a visit to their duty station or a meeting at a gathering of chaplains. We also respond very quickly when chaplains and families are in crisis. We work hard to serve chaplains who are changing commands, moving from the USA overseas or the reverse. Quite a few stop by the office in the District of Columbia while in a move or when in Washington for military duty. The PCCMP also hosts an annual retreat for chaplains and families; this facilitates networking and mutual support for our Presbyterian clergy who are often isolated from other Presbyterian contact.

The PCCMP works to interpret its mission and needs to the church. We had good support from the Cumberland, Presbyterians Today, Horizons, and the Presbyterian News Service to explain what chaplains do. We have also been published in several seminary publications, the Outlook, and the Layman. We made visits to seven seminaries these past two years and to many presbyteries to interpret the chaplain story and PCCMP mission.

The PCCMP also maintains sound working relations with the Chiefs of Chaplains offices for each branch of the military and the Veterans Administration. It offers leadership in the Military Chaplain Association, the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and the Endorsers Council for

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Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC). NCMAF is the advisory body to the Secretary of Defense on religion.

Keeping the ministry vital with adequate funding has been difficult. We have redoubled our development efforts, using several regional volunteer assistants. We recently hired an Associate Director, Chaplain Don Wilson, who has responsibilities for development and endorsing. We participate in the Combined Federal Campaign. However, the bedrock of our financial health remains with the PCUSA. We are most appreciative of our Covenant Relationship and the inherent financial support of this ministry and function of the church. We greatly appreciate the PCUSA telling the story of chaplains and the PCCMP on their webpage and in mailings.

The PCCMP Board is elected from our four denominations. The executive leadership is about to change. Chaplain Brogan retired on May 31, 2014 after 13 years as our director. On June 1, 2014 he was succeeded by Captain Lawrence P. Greenslit, United States Navy (Retired). Chaplain Greenslit will share leadership with Lieutenant Colonel Donald R. Wilson, United States Air Force (Retired), our Associate Director.

Anyone wishing more information can check at our website: [www.pccmp.org](http://www.pccmp.org) or call our office in Washington DC 202-244-4177. We will also gladly mail a DVD showing our chaplains and agency at work with the military. It is very helpful to those contemplating Military Chaplaincy as a call and for churches including the PCCMP in their mission budgets.

Yours in Christ's Service,

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