

Services, their dependents, and other authorized persons. Persons appointed to the chaplaincy shall be able to perform a ministry for their own specific faith groups, and provide for ministries appropriate to the rights and needs of persons of other faith groups. Persons appointed to the chaplaincy shall be capable of providing professional staff support to the Military Department concerned.

§65.4 Responsibilities.

(a) The *Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel)* (ASD(FM&P)) may issue additions implementing guidance consistent with DOD 5025.1-M, as appropriate.

(b) The *Secretaries of the Military Departments* shall follow the policy and procedures in this part to ensure that persons appointed to the chaplaincy shall meet the minimum professional and educational qualifications prescribed herein and any additional requirements established by law and regulation for appointment as an officer and a chaplain.

§65.5 Procedures.

(a) *Ecclesiastical Certification of Clergy*

(1) To be considered for appointment and to serve as a chaplain, clergy shall be certified by a DOD-recognized ecclesiastical endorsing agent. The ecclesiastical certification shall attest that the applicant:

(i) Is a fully qualified member of the clergy of a religious faith group represented by the certifying Agency.

(ii) Is qualified to provide directly or indirectly for the free exercise of religion by all members of the Military Services, their dependents, and other authorized persons.

(2) The required ecclesiastical certification shall be made on DD Form 2088, "Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent Certification." If the applicant has completed a number of years of active professional experience after the completion of educational requirements for the chaplaincy, the certifying agent shall so state on DD Form 2088.

(3) Chaplains who fail to maintain their ecclesiastical certification shall

be processed in accordance with DOD Directive 1332.31.¹

(b) *Criteria for Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agencies.* (1) Religious faith groups that seek to become ecclesiastical endorsing agents for the purpose of certifying the professional qualifications of clergy for appointment as chaplains in the Military Services shall obtain DOD recognition through the action of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board (AFCB). To be considered for DOD recognition, each religious faith group shall:

(i) Be organized exclusively or substantially to provide religious services to a lay constituency.

(ii) Be able to exercise ecclesiastical authority to grant or withdraw ecclesiastical certification.

(iii) Be able to provide continuing validation of ecclesiastical certification.

(iv) Be able to certify clergy who are qualified to provide directly or indirectly for the free exercise of religion by all members of the Military Services, their dependents, and other authorized persons.

(v) Abide by the applicable DOD regulations and policies.

(2) Through the action of the AFCB, the Department of Defense may revoke its recognition of an ecclesiastical endorsing agent that fails to continue to meet the criteria of paragraphs (b)(1)(i) through (v) of this section. The AFCB, before revoking the recognition of an ecclesiastical endorsing agent, shall provide written notice to the Agency concerned stating the reasons for the proposed revocation and providing a reasonable opportunity for the Agency to reply in writing to the AFCB.

(3) Religious faith groups recognized by the Department of Defense as ecclesiastical endorsing agents may authorize third parties to act on their behalf for accomplishing the administrative procedures in accession of chaplains for the Military Services, and of maintaining liaison with chaplains of the recognized faith group. Each such authorization shall be made in writing by an official authorized by the faith group to

¹Copies may be obtained if needed, from the U.S. Naval Publication and Forms Center, 5801 Tabor Avenue, Attn: Code 301, Philadelphia, PA 19120.