



RP-Religious Program Specialist

Religious Program Specialist provide support to Navy Chaplains in developing programs to meet the needs of Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel and their families. RPs perform functions that do not require ordination and they do not do pastoral counseling.

What They Do

- supporting chaplains of all faiths and religious activities of the command;
- maintaining records, ecclesiastical documents, and references of various faith groups;
- maintaining liaison with religious and community agencies;
- assisting in preparation of devotional and religious educational materials, and audiovisual displays;
- determining, developing, managing, and maintaining the administrative and logistical support requirements of religious programs aboard ships, shore stations, hospitals, Marine Corps units, and other sea service commands;
- providing physical security for chaplains during field exercises and in combat environments;
- operating and maintaining libraries aboard ships and isolated duty stations;
- performing bookkeeping and accounting functions related to Religious Offerings Fund transactions;
- as custodians, rigging, and unrigging for religious activities;
- publicizing the command's religious activities;
- training command religious program volunteers on logistics and instruction methods;
- supervising Chaplain's Office personnel;
- performing administrative, clerical, and secretarial duties;
- stocking and maintaining field mount-out boxes.

Working Environment

RPs work in a variety of environments wherever chaplains are stationed with Navy and Marine Corps personnel. While most of their work is performed indoors, it may also be performed on the deck of a ship, in the field with Marines, in a combat situation, or in a hospital. Navy Chaplains are non-combatants, but RPs are considered combatant and will receive combat training. RPs protect the chaplain and ensure his or her safety, particularly in combat areas.

Opportunities

About 400 men and women work in the RP rating. Qualified and self-motivated people have a good opportunity for entry into this rating.

Qualifications and Interests

People in this rating must possess a valid driver's license, be able to type 30 words a minute, and understand that their work schedule may require duties to be performed in the evenings and on weekends and holidays. Applicants should have no speech impediments, be able to express ideas clearly in speaking to others, do detailed work and repetitive tasks, and keep accurate records. Necessary qualities include an interest in people, writing skills, initiative, resourcefulness, and a knowledge of arithmetic. Religious Program Specialists will be supportive of clergy and people of all faiths, set high standards, and be of good moral character.

Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through on-the-job training or formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical and operational training is available in this rating during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Class "A" School	Fort Jackson, SC	8 weeks	Basic skills required in rating	Group paced
Marine Combat Training "C" School	Camp Lejeune, NC	5 weeks	Basic Marine Combat Skills	Group paced

After "A" school, Religious Program Specialists are assigned to serve under Navy Chaplains at Navy and Marine Corps fleet units and shore stations throughout the world. During a 20-year period in the Navy, RPs spend about 50 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 50 percent to shore stations.



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Earn College Credit



The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate and lower-division bachelor's/associate's degree categories for courses taken in this rating on office machines and general clerical procedures. To see the college credits available via a **Joint Service Transcript** for this rating:

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https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/rp_jst.pdf

Earn Department of Labor (DOL) Nationally Recognized Apprenticeships



USMAP

The United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) is a formal military training program that provides active duty and Full Time Support (FTS) Service members the opportunity to improve their job skills and to complete their civilian apprenticeship requirements while they are on active duty. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) provides the nationally recognized "Certificate of Completion" upon program completion. Visit United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) for LS apprenticeships.

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<https://usmap.netc.navy.mil/usmapss/static/navyRates.htm>

Earn Industry Recognized Credentials



Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (Navy COOL) Navy COOL catalogs and defines comprehensive information on occupational credentials - including certifications, licenses, and apprenticeships - correlating with every Navy rating and some collateral duties. It provides "how to" instructions for pursuing these credentials, links to credentialing organizations, and cross-references to programs that help Sailors pay for credentialing fees. Shortly following the initial rating technical training (Class "A" technical school), Sailors may be able to take advantage of earning civilian/industry certifications & licenses (credentials), funded through Navy COOL. Visit the Navy COOL website to view these opportunities. See the link below.

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<https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/rp.htm>

Manage a Navy Career with Navy LaDR (Learning and Development Roadmap)



To see the Navy LaDR (Learning and Development Roadmap) for this rating:

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https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/rp_e1_e9.pdf

Earn Skill Sets Towards Civilian Related Occupations



The skill sets for this rating crosswalk to civilian related occupations listed by the U.S. Department of Labor. To see Related Civilian, Federal, and Military Sealift Command Occupations for this rating, see the link below.

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<https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/rp.htm>

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