



## **RESERVE ENTRY SCHEME OFFICER (RESO) STUDENT CHAPLAIN PROGRAM**

### **What is the Reserve Entry Scheme Officer (RESO) Chaplain Program?**

The RESO Chaplain program is designed to introduce Faith Tradition (FT) leaders in training to what life and ministry is like for a chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Over the period of two summers, selected RESO chaplains will have the opportunity to see multiple military environments, train on a Basic Military Officer Qualification Course (BMOQ) and work under the supervision of trained military chaplains on at least two different military bases. RESO Chaplains will participate in chaplain activities on bases/wings/formations (physical fitness training, meetings, spiritual time, chaplain lead sessions) job shadow, participate in and lead appropriate FT ceremonies/services and immerse themselves in the life and culture of the bases on which they are living (sports, seminars, meetings, celebrations).

Members of the RESO Student Chaplain program are members of the Military Personnel Command Primary Reserve List based out of Ottawa – they are not members of a local primary reserve unit. Successfully completing an MDiv/equivalent academic studies and Faith Tradition formation is a priority for the RESO program and therefore candidates are not typically allowed to parade with a reserve force unit during the school year. In certain circumstances, however, RESO chaplains may be able to work on special projects for the local base/wing/formation and/or the Office of the Chaplain General. Please ask the RESO chap OPI if you are interested in such opportunities.

RESO Chaplains will be expected to adhere to the dress and conduct regulations of the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCChS, to be open to the guidance and direction given to them by their chaplain mentor/ other chaplains with whom they are working and to have a wonderful experience learning about the tremendous and challenging life of a military chaplain!

Please remember that the RCChS expects to receive updates wrt the RESO Chaplains academic progress and faith formation. These will be outlined by chaplain mentors once a RESO Chap is placed on the base where they will be working. Failure to remain in good standing with an academic institution or the supporting Faith Tradition will result in a Personnel Review Board (PRB) and possible removal from the program.

After graduation and ordination and upon completion of two years of paid accountable work within their faith tradition, a candidate can apply to become a chaplain in the CAF.

### **Qualification Requirements:**

RESO Chaplain (RESO Chap) minimum standards for application:

- a. Canadian citizenship;

- b. Must be between 18 and 50 years old and prepared to commit to a two year period of service;
- c. Baccalaureate degree in any discipline;
- d. Be enrolled in a graduate level degree (Master of Divinity or its equivalent) from an institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools or equivalent (Candidates from Quebec may be enrolled in Bachelor of Theology program), providing professional training and formation for Faith Tradition leaders;
- e. Be a candidate for leadership within a Canadian-based National Faith Tradition Governing Authority as recognized by the ICCMC (Ordination, Pastoral mandate or your FT equivalent) and have their written consent to participate in the RESO program.
- f. Must meet all CAF military enrollment requirements.

Those who have questions or wanting to apply are asked to contact their nearest Chaplain Recruiting Staff Officers- Chap RSOs (see Chap RSO list at the bottom of this outline). They will answer any questions that are raised, send/receive RESO Chap Application forms and guide applicants through the recruiting process. All RESO applicants meeting the baseline criteria will be invited to contact their local Canadian Forces Recruitment Centre (CFRC) and start the recruitment process. Concurrently the Chap RSOs will send applicant forms to the RESO Chap Office of Primary Interest (OPI) LCol Shawn Samson, who will convene a paper selection board. The applicant's files will be scored and those receiving a passing score will be ranked based upon the strength of the information contained in their application form. The number of RESO chaps selected will be determined by the amount of funding provided in combination with the availability of Chap RESO training sites. Selected applicants will be informed about the details of the program (where, when) to confirm if they want to proceed. If they decline, an offer will be made to the next highest scored file. All applicants who passed the board but not selected or who decline offers, will be invited to reapply in subsequent years and will cease their enrollment into the CAF.

While RESO candidates can contact RSO chaps to determine eligibility at any time of the year and can submit their applications whenever they are ready, only complete applications received prior to 30 Nov (normally) will be considered for RESO positions commencing in May/June the following year ie applications for May 2022 **should be received NLT 30 NOV 21.**

\*Covid-19- Due to the corona-virus pandemic and the various ways it is impacting the Canadian Armed Forces, it may not be possible to run the RESO Chaplain program in the late Spring and summer of 2022. Should training not be possible, bases closed/chaplain teams not functioning at full capacity, recruitment freezes or any other as yet unforeseen obstacle created by Covid-19 pandemic prevent RESO Chap training objectives to be met, offers to selected RESO applicants will be rescinded. If such a decision is necessary, it will be made NLT 1 March IOT give RESO chaplain applicants the opportunity to be gainfully employed elsewhere. If the program doesn't run, applicants will be able to apply the following year and their files will be scored against all other applicants as if they were applying for the first time.

**\*Process & timelines (approx.)**

- 1) Applicant contacts RSO
- 2) Applicant submits RESO Chap Application form.

- 3) RSO verifies that the application form is complete and minimum application standards are met.
- 4) RSO informs applicant that they need to contact CFRG and begin recruitment process \* Concurrently the RSO forwards application form to RESO Chap OPI
- 5) 30 Nov Deadline for receiving completed RESO applications for following summer (deadline may be extended if there are more positions than suitable applicant files).
- 6) End Jan-Paper Board for RESO Chap Application files-Files are scored and those receiving passing marks are ranked.
- 7) Early Feb-RESO chap positions offered to those applicants with highest scored files. Offers are conditional based upon successfully completing the recruitment process by the start of the Summer RESO program.
- 8) Feb-May- RESO Chap OPI works with RSOs and successful RESO Chap applicants to ensure administrative details are completed (travel bookings, rations and quarters etc)
- 9) May/June-RESO applicants arrive on assigned base and begin RESO training program
- 10) May/June-August- RESO Chap training
- 11) Sept-May-RESO chap attends academic and Faith Tradition formation/education. RESO Chaps sends verification of good standing with FT and copy of transcript to RESO Chap OPI
- 12) Feb (Year 2) RESO Chap OPI and RESO Chaps work together to complete all necessary administration (travel bookings, rations and quarters)
- 13) May/June-Aug RESO Chap Training program year 2

- While it is certainly encouraged for those interested in applying for the RESO Chap Program to first contact the Chap RSOs for information and to fill out the RESO Chap application, anyone can immediately contact the CFRC and apply to become a member of the CAF. Those wanting to be considered for the RESO program need to make that known to the recruiting staff who will in turn contact the chap RSOs. RESO chap applicants will be directed to contact the RSOs to fill out the required RESO Chap application form with accompanying information. Please remember that while someone needs to complete the CFRG process to be enrolled in the CAF, it is the RCChS and not CFRG who decides who will be selected for the RESO Chap program.

Chaplain Recruiting Staff Officers:

Name	Region	Phone	E-mail
Lt(N) Haupi Tombing	Maritimes	902-427-7849	haupi.tombing@forces.gc.ca
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Capt Audrey Brown	Ontario	416-633-6200 x5112	audrey.brown@forces.gc.ca
Lt(N) David Godkin	Manitoba/Saskatchewan	204-833-2500 x 2267	david.godkin@forces.gc.ca

Lt(N) David Jackson	Alberta/NWT/Inuvik	780-973-4011 x8141	David.jackson2@forces.gc.ca
Capt Sarah Priebe	British Columbia/Yukon	250-363-1900 x 39080	Sarah.Priebe@forces.gc.ca
LCol Shawn Samson	Office of the Chaplain General (OPI)	613-769-8325	<a href="mailto:CMPChapGenPresOps-CPMAumGenResPOps@forces.gc.ca">CMPChapGenPresOps-CPMAumGenResPOps@forces.gc.ca</a>