

# QUEEN'S REGULATION FOR THE ROYAL NAVY

## CHAPTER 75 RELIGION AND THE CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

### **J.7501. General**

1. The reverent observance of religion in the Armed forces is of the highest importance. It is the duty of all concerned to make adequate provision for the spiritual and moral needs of all personnel.
2. Commanding Officers: are to encourage religious observance by those under their command and are themselves to set a good example in this respect.
3. Sympathetic consideration is to be given to the need of officially recognized religious minorities who do not profess the Christian faith. No one is to be compelled to attend Divine Service against their wishes, except as provided in 7508. All personnel under the age of 17<sup>1/2</sup> years may be ordered to attend Divine Service of their own denomination.
4. On entry into the Services all members of the Armed Forces are to be asked to declare, with complete freedom, their religious denomination. If they so wish, they may declare themselves to be atheist or agnostic, or of no denomination. Appropriate abbreviations to be recorded on personal identity documents are given BR439, *Royal Naval Chaplains' Manual* (See also J-1601).

### **7502. Change of religions denomination**

1. In the event of any service person wishing to change to record of their religious denomination, the Commanding Officer may permit the change to be made when satisfied that the Chaplains concerned have been consulted, and that the individual is fully aware of the significance of their action. Any change proposed by an individual under the age of 17<sup>1/2</sup> years is to be supported by the written consent of their parents or guardian.

### **7503. Record of denomination**

1. A nominal list of members of the various denominations is to be maintained and kept available for the use of respective Chaplains and Officiating Chaplains.

### **7504. The Jewish faith**

1. Responsibility for the care of personal professing the Jewish faith is vested in the Senior Jewish Chaplain to HM Forces, The Reverend ..*omissis*

### **7505. Other Faiths**

The following act as advisors to other faith groups in HM Forces:

Mr..... - General Secretary  
The Buddhist Society  
*Omissis*

Mr.....- Convenor  
Network of Sikh Organisation (UK)  
*Omissis*

Mr.....– Joint Convenor  
UK Action Committes on Islamic affairs  
*Omissis*

**7506. Observance of Holy Days**

1. Sundays, good Friday and Christmas Day are, as far as possible, to be observed as day of rest when duties are reduced to a minimum. Corporate duties and organized sports events are not to be arranged, save exceptionally, at times which would interfere with normal Divine Service. At sea, every effort is to be made to give time for Divine Service in ships operational programmes.

**7507. The Conduct of Divine Service: Denominational**

1. Ships and establishments where Chaplains are borne, Divine Service is to be conducted on Sundays, Good Friday; Christmas Day and other holy days as circumstances allow, according to the liturgies of the appropriate denominations.
2. When non Chaplain is on board commanding Officers, or those directed by them, are to make the bet arrangements practicable to give effect to these instruction.
3. It is a custom of the service that weekday prayers or service are conducted in the chapel or in parts of ship according to the traditions of the various denominations, as circumstances of the Service, and the extent to which each denomination will take part.

**7508. The Conduct of Divine Service: Interdenominational**

1. Joint Services of an interdenominational nature to mark specific events of national or local significance, and in the interests ecumenical endeavour, may be arranged after consultation involving the Commanding Officer and the Chaplains concerned. The Chaplains are to ensure that their respective ecclesiastical authorities are in agreement with the form and place of the Service and the extent to which each denomination will take part.

**7509. The conduct of divine Service: Special Occasions**

1. A commander in Chief or Flag Officer may order a parade which includes a religious Service, on special occasions of national or local importance. No officer or service person on such a parade is to be compelled to take part in a religious Service of any denomination other than their own. In a special circumstances authority to order such a parade may be delegated to a local Commanding Officer.

**7510. Religious Instruction**

1. Commanding Officers are to ensure that the curricula of training and academic establishments provides for adequate religious instruction in accordance with an agreed syllabus.
2. Commanding Officers are to encourage all efforts on the part of Chaplains to promote the Christian faith and the moral aspects of community life, leadership and the welfare of others through the provision of courses authorized by the service, and by means of meetings held within ships and establishments for study, fellowship, and instruction for baptism, confirmation and marriage

**7511. The Provision of Churches**

1. Commanding officers are responsible for initiating administrative action through the Directorate of Quarters (Navy) for the provision of church rooms permitted under approved policy. When a church or church room is not available, Commanding Officers are to ensure that adequate and worthy accommodation is made available for the conduct of Divine Service.