

# Chaplain (RAF Reserve)

## Chaplaincy

*Serving the Royal Air Force through Prayer, Presence and Proclamation.*

Chaplains have been an integral part of the RAF since its formation, serving our personnel regardless of their rank or religious background. Your personal sacrifice may be considerable as you will serve alongside our people, providing vital spiritual, pastoral and ethical support wherever they go, including deployed Operations. Your home based duties will be equally important in support of personnel and their families on RAF stations. While exploring innovative ways of engaging with your community, enhancing their spiritual resilience, you can also expect to fulfil the more traditional roles of leading regular worship and life event ceremonies. The Chaplains' Branch recruits clergy from the following denominations: Church of England (including all Anglicans), Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland, Baptist, United Reformed, Methodist, Elim Pentecostal, Assemblies of God, Salvation Army, Presbyterian and Churches in Community International. We are seeking to be increasingly diverse in our representation and religious leaders from the Islamic, Jewish, and Sikh communities may currently apply, with an expectation that other major world faiths will follow.

### Profession (Chaplaincy)

Chaplaincy is a Profession within the RAF. Professions in the RAF are distinct areas of defence expertise where common skills and attributes are required to deliver on demand. Service Personnel may be employed within any of the disciplines in their Profession depending on their aptitude, qualifications, career aspirations and the Service need.

### Initial Officer Training

Your training will start with a Basic Recruit Training Course (BRTC) consisting of 4 weekends at your chosen RAF Reserves Squadron (or a 6 day residential course at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire if this better suits your personal circumstances) followed by a 15 day residential training course at RAF Halton. This training course will prepare you for service life in one of the most respected military forces in the world; it is also designed to help you tune into the military environment and way of life. As well as military training, you will learn about the core values, code of conduct and history of the RAF, as well as its unique lifestyle. Following the BRTC you will attend the Reserve Officer Initial Training (ROIT) Course at the RAF College Cranwell in Lincolnshire. The course lasts for 24 days spread over 4 weekends and a 2 week Residential Phase. It is designed to develop your leadership and management skills, and includes fitness development, military training and academic study, as well as practical outdoor leadership challenges.

## RESERVE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### Chaplain (RAF Reserve)

**Age:** 26 – 54  
(Must attest before 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday)

**Qualifications:** The academic qualifications required are those set by the Sending Churches for ministerial training. You must be ordained and have 3 years' pastoral experience.

**Residency:** Whether or not you were born in the United Kingdom, you should have resided there for the 5 years immediately preceding your application but candidates with a minimum of 3 years will be considered.

**Nationality:** Personnel who wish to be considered for entry into the RAF Reserves must be British at the time of their application (including candidates who have naturalised, as well as those British by birth). Applications will also be considered from candidates who are Commonwealth, Irish, British Protected or dual national (British/other) from birth.

### Specialist Training

During your first 2 years in service you will complete a chaplain-specific induction course at the Armed Forces' Chaplaincy Centre (AFCC) Beckett House, Wiltshire, the home of chaplaincy for all 3 Services. This course explores the history and theology of military chaplaincy and considers its application to practical life in the Armed Forces. Some elements of this training will be conducted alongside chaplains from the Royal Navy and Army.

### Initial Service

RAF Reserves chaplains fulfil a wide range of roles within the Chaplains' Branch, including providing chaplaincy to RAF Reserves Squadrons, Main Operating Bases and Training Units. They also provide niche chaplaincy capabilities and can deploy overseas, serving alongside Air Force personnel. Commitments can be both enduring and/or ad hoc, but will always be discussed and agreed with the individual chaplain.

### Your Career Prospects

You will join the RAF Reserves on a 12-year initial engagement, which is renewable thereafter. Commissioned with the relative rank of the Reverend (Flight Lieutenant), promotion to Reverend (Squadron Leader) comes after 3 years' satisfactory service. There may be limited opportunities to transfer between reservist and regular service (and back), as well as opportunities for deployments overseas and in the UK.

### Ongoing Development

As a RAF Reserves chaplain, you will be invited to participate in continuing ministerial education and other education, denominational conferences and training courses which take place at the Armed Forces' Chaplaincy Centre (AFCC). There may also be opportunities for further education and training in chaplaincy development and other areas.

### Transferable Skills

RAF Reserves chaplains find that their military chaplaincy experience significantly enhances and enriches their civilian ministerial work; this has benefits for their own personal development and for the wider Church.

**Pay:** For current information visit:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/lifestyle-benefits/life-as-a-reserve/>

**Selection:** Following initial selection by the Chaplains' Branch you will then be invited to the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) at RAF College Cranwell for the one-day selection process where we will assess your potential for training.

**Equal Opportunities:** The RAF values every individual's unique contribution, irrespective of race, ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or social background.

**Register your interest in this role:**

**Online:**

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>

**or**

**Telephone: 0345 606 9069**

This information was last updated in 01 Oct 21 but may have changed since. If you have any queries, please check with RAF Staff at any Armed Forces Careers Office or RAF Reserves Squadron.

**Search online for other specialisations**

**both Regular and Reserve**

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO  
ORDINARY  
JOB**