

Pete Hegseth's Bold Push: Make Chaplain Corps Great Again

In a recent message, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth discussed what the department is currently doing to improve the Chaplain Corps for military members.

"As I reported to you in December, in previous administrations, our Chaplain Corps was infected by political correctness and secular humanism," Hegseth stated. "The core functions of the Chaplain Corps were changed, watered down and reviewed by many as nothing more than therapists. Faith and virtue were traded for self-help and self-care."

According to Hegseth, what happened to the Chaplain Corps in previous administrations will not happen again.

Instead, he promised a refocus of attention on the centrality of faith back into the military.

"We started correcting that drift then, and today, we're going further. The crucible of combat tests more than the body. It tests conviction, character, and spirit... a war fighter needs more than a coping mechanism. They need Truth."



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Hegseth also pointed out that the spiritual health of service members is just as vital to their wellbeing as their physical or emotional health.

"This update is part of our efforts to return the Chaplain Corps to its core mission of serving the spiritual needs of

our war fighters,” he said. “82 percent of whom identify as being religious.”

We are (still) making the Chaplain Corps Great Again.

– Secretary of War Pete Hegseth (@SecWar) March 24, 2026

To carry out this mission, Hegseth shared that two critical things have been updated. One of those changes includes renaming the faith and belief coding system to the Religious Affiliation Code and reviewing those codes to utilize resources better so that service members receive the spiritual care that best suits them. Another dealt with the chaplain rank structure and how best to honor their faith.

“...directs chaplains, all of whom are officers, to replace the rank insignia on their uniforms with their religious insignia,” Hegseth said. “Their rank will not be shown.”

“Every chaplain is first and foremost a chaplain, an officer second. This change is a visual representation of that fact,” he continued.

In a time when culture continues to drift further from truth, this renewed emphasis on faith within the military signals something far deeper than policy—it points to a spiritual recalibration. What Secretary Hegseth is describing is not merely structural reform, but a return to the understanding that strength in battle is not sustained by strategy alone, but by conviction rooted in something eternal.

Lift up the men and women faithfully serving our nation in prayer, for their protection, boldness and righteousness to do the good work God has called them to do.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She

holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the upcoming book, The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.