

S12: STATIONING PROFILE 2023 [CIRCUIT APPOINTMENT – PRESBYTERAL]

Please complete this form in Arial minimum font size 10, and do not exceed two pages

Circuit name		Circuit number		This appointment is:	<i>Full-time or Part-time*</i>
Is this or will this become a superintendency?					

**If part-time, what is the expected number of sessions per week?*

The circuit

1. You will be responsible for the spiritual and pastoral care of a diverse and inclusive community of Serving Personnel (SP) and their families. Depending on what area you are appointed to, your community can vary on occasion from as little as 150 personnel (deployed on operations or exercise) up to 6,000 personnel as part of an ecumenical and multi-faith chaplaincy team caring for a Base, Garrison or Station and its wider community.

The three Service Chaplaincies (Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force) are established ecumenical, increasingly multi-faith, organizations where your pastoral and leadership skills, honed by circuit experience, will be expected to complement your role as Minister of Word and Sacrament to a predominantly young and vibrant community.

2. Forces chaplaincy is an incarnational ministry; occasionally living with, at all times walking alongside, sharing both the hardships and joys of life in the armed forces. There is a strong tradition and emphasis in chaplaincy of missional witness to the love and grace of God in Christ through our service and attentive care for others. You will be expected to contribute your compassion and pastoral ability along with the wisdom of your faith and spirituality.

There is a widespread regard for the role of chaplain and the place of faith in the forces, which presents great opportunities for investing in many others in the military. Whilst every posting is different, a chaplain's role will comprise elements of:

- Pastoral care & spiritual support
- Supporting cohesion & whole force engagement
- Guidance on moral and ethical matters

Chaplains are encouraged to remain connected to the Methodist Church through involvement in Presbyteral Synod of whichever District they are serving in at the time, and by joining the preaching plan wherever possible. Chaplains come under the Southampton District for stationing matters. Chaplains meet annually with the Forces Board and senior office holders of the church.

The appointment

3. All three services offer 'acquaint visits' to help in your initial discernment process. The Methodist Forces Board, acting on behalf of the Conference, will help you discern your calling to Service Chaplaincy. On receiving permission from the MFB to apply, the military's selection process begins with a medical and selection board. Each service has a dedicated Chaplain Recruiter who will guide you through that process, which may be completed within 12 months but could take longer. You will need to demonstrate that you can meet the military's medical and fitness requirements. If successful, you will be offered a short commission of 6 years; thereafter longer forms of commission are possible.

4. During your initial training within the military, conversations will be had about your first assignment. Ultimately, as a trained member of His Majesty's Forces you are required to work where sent, but the allocation process, though based on the needs of the service, seeks to be sympathetic to your and your family's circumstances. Service Housing is available for all assignments.
5. Excellent training is available throughout your time in the military; ongoing development is encouraged and expected in the personal and professional spheres. A reasonable level of physical fitness is expected of chaplains in the Armed Forces and this can be developed over a period of time. You will need to be committed to maintaining the required level of fitness throughout your time in chaplaincy.

The presbyter

6. The Chaplain is a vital member of any military unit, with a unique congregation within a unique community. Your people come from all walks of life. They do extraordinary jobs in extraordinary circumstances, all over the world, 365 days a year. It means those you serve need a unique type of support. You can expect to be with them where they are, all year round. Chaplains care for people who practise all faiths or none, so you'll need to relate well, be an adviser and spiritual guide to them all in a multi-faith environment. You will need to be able to work independently, without the structure and direct support of your church or colleagues. You will need to work as part of a theologically diverse, ecumenical and multi-faith team and be willing to be away from your family and friends at times. A commitment to maintain spiritual disciplines, and moral/ethical behaviours in sometimes challenging environments is essential.

Accommodation

The military provides accommodation for chaplains. Military chaplaincy is a salaried, not stipendiary, position.