Silent Benevolent Warriors
The C&MA North Central District Chaplains

Many people in the C&MA are not aware that the Alliance has a specialized ministry of chaplains to Federal agencies like military and federal prisons as well as institutional ministries such as hospitals and law enforcement. Many chaplains are paid and a larger number are volunteer. The Executive Director for Alliance Chaplains Ministries is Rev. Robert W. Collins II Chaplain (LTC) U.S. Army (Retired). We are extremely fortunate in that Chaplain Collins will be attending a portion of our District Conference in Grand Rapids this April. Bob was invited to write an article for our District newsletter. The following is his submission….

The role of the Executive Director for Alliance Chaplain Ministries is varied and busy. There is never a day that is the same and it is exciting to see God working through the many chaplains we have serving through The C&MA. My main task is to work with our Alliance Federal Chaplains. These are men and women serving in a Federal Government Chaplaincy role. They are called to serve in all branches of the military, to working as chaplains in a Veterans Administration Hospital or as a chaplain in a Federal Penitentiary. We have over forty chaplains serving now in this capacity. Most are full-time. Our military chaplains serve anywhere in the world and sometimes have opportunity to visit with Alliance International Workers in far-away lands.

Those serving in a part-time Federal Chaplaincy may be pastors of Alliance Churches, International Workers and/or working other civilian jobs to support their families. Another part-time/voluntary and little-known Federal Chaplain, is the CAP Chaplaincy. This is a chaplain that serves with the Civil Air Patrol. We have four men serving in this capacity now. The requirements for a CAP Chaplain position are the same as for an Air Force Chaplain, but there is no age limit. All Federal Chaplains are fully licensed and Ordained Ministers of the Gospel. They have gone through the same district licensing process as other Alliance Official Workers.

My wife and I visit these chaplains and their families wherever they are stationed. Denise travels with me about 50% of the time. Our last major visit was to South Korea in November 2014. Our next overseas trip will be to central and southern Europe this coming November. Other travels include participation in most major Alliance events such as Council, LIFE, New Workers and the District Senior Leadership Conferences. Denise is also my office assistant. A very important role, especially when I travel by myself. She also assists Chaplain Rich Gorman, our Alliance Institutional Chaplain Director and Endorser, with important administrative activities.

We also have Military Chaplain Candidates. These are men and women who are in seminary and seeking to eventually become a military chaplain in one of the branches, Army, Navy or Air Force. We have 15 Candidates now and many more contacts. Military Chaplain Candidates are only designated this when they are commissioned as
such by their chosen branch. When selected, they are commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Reserve Force and assigned to a unit. They do not yet serve as chaplains. We have several now waiting to be selected for a Chaplain Candidate Program. Pray for these as they wait. My role in their lives is to interview them, do their paperwork for the Department of Defense, contact their Chaplain Branch Managers in Washington, follow them through the licensing and ordination process and be a mentor for them in all of these areas as needed. I visit them whenever possible.

Many of our Alliance Chaplains serve in the civilian arena. These are Hospital, Hospice, State and Local Prison Chaplains. There are many other areas of service such as those in various specialized ministries to include Clinical Pastoral Education as students, supervisors or trainers. These individuals are now licensed in the districts in which they live. They are endorsed for their chaplaincy position by Chaplain Rich Gorman. There are well over 200 Institutional Chaplains serving in full-time, part-time and voluntary chaplaincy positons. Rich, in his role as Director and Endorser, is a volunteer. He is dedicated to serving our Institutional Chaplains, yet his ability to serve them is limited by his voluntary status. Our men and woman serving these important institutions understand and appreciate Rich’s work on their behalf. Rich visits these chaplains whenever possible. He is still working in his chaplaincy role in Idaho. Rich uses personal and vacation time to visit and support his chaplains. Thank you Rich!!

Both Rich and I provide our chaplains professional development training annually. This year it is connected to Council in Long Beach, CA. Our offices are not funded by The Great Commission Fund. Both Military and Institutional Chaplains have a fund to which they contribute. These funds are used for our office expenses, travel, training and costs associated with being involved as we represent The Alliance at Annual Endorser meetings in several locations in the US. This fund also allows us to help our chaplains attend the training we provide. Without the support of the chaplains themselves in this work, it would be impossible for us to accomplish what we are required to do. We thank our Alliance Chaplain Family and friends for their faithful prayers and support. May our Lord continue to bless them as they remain faithful in His service, beyond the walls of the local church.

Rev. Robert Collins
Executive Director for Alliance Chaplains Ministries
Rev. (Chaplain) Bob Collins is the Executive Director, Alliance Chaplain Ministries and the Federal Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent for the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. The C&MA National Office is in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Bob and his wife live in Waco, TX. They have three children and eight grandchildren. They attend Alliance Bible Church in Waco, TX.

Responsibilities of this office include, licensing of all full-time Federal Chaplains and military related specialized ministry personnel, chaplain recruitment, approval and supervision of Alliance Chaplain Candidates and visitation to Alliance Chaplains and families around the world. Prior to his retirement from active duty on March 1, 2003, Chaplain Collins was selected and appointed to this current leadership position. Although he lives off-site, he is a National Office staff member, serving in the area of Church Ministries. The Alliance has 40 Federal Chaplains, 150+ Institutional Chaplains and 15 Chaplain Candidates.

Bob was licensed in 1973 and ordained by the Central District of the C&MA in 1976. He entered the military chaplaincy with the Kentucky National Guard in March 1977, while serving in Juvenile Corrections. He was selected for Active Duty and entered the US Army Chaplaincy in March 1979 at Ft Riley, KS.

Bob is married to the former Denise G. Weiblinger of Pittsburgh, PA. They were married on August 13, 1969. Their daughter, Amanda, is married to SFC Kevin Cook. Amanda and Kevin live in Victoria, TX and have eight children. Bob and Denise have two sons, Josh and his wife Brenda were recently married and live near Ft Hood, TX. Zack is single and lives in Austin, TX.

**ORGANIZATIONS:**
Endorsing Agency Organizations: Military – NCMAF; VA – ECVAC; Bureau of Prisons - BOP National Association of Evangelical Chaplains Commission (NAECC)
International Association of Evangelical Chaplains (IAEC)
Chaplain Alliance for Religious Freedom (CALL)
Executive Secretary, Reserve Officer Association, Heart of Texas Chapter #148 (Waco/Ft Food)

**CIVILIAN AND MILITARY EDUCATION:**
BA - Asbury University, Wilmore, KY, graduated in 1969.
MDiv - Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY, graduated in 1973
CPE - Lexington Theological Seminary (Community Based) Completed in 1976
DMin - Lexington Theological Seminary – Placed on Active Duty before completing this degree.
US Army Chaplain Officer Basic Course at Fort Wadsworth, NY,
US Army Chaplain Officer Advanced Course at Fort Monmouth, NJ,
Combined Arms Staff Service School at Fort Leavenworth, KS
US Army Resource Management Course at Fort Monmouth, NJ
US Army Comptrollers Course – Basic & Advanced, at Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN
US Army Installation Chaplain Course at Fort Monmouth, NJ.
Additional Leadership and Professional Training through The Alliance and the military.

AWARDS, DECORATIONS AND HONORS:
Legion of Merit
Meritorious Service Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters)
Joint Services Commendation Medal
Army Commendation Medal (3 OLCs)
Army Achievement Medal (2 OLCs)
National Defense Service Medal
South West Asia Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Overseas Service Ribbon (w"3")
The Kuwait Liberation Metal and Award
US Army FORCES COMMAND Staff Annual Excellence in Ministry Award (1996)
Kentucky Colonel (1979) Awarded by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

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