

Additional Resources

- RAN Duty Chaplain (HMAS Stirling):
+61 407 212 967
- U.S. Navy Duty Chaplain (Yokosuka, Japan):
81 90 1468 2779 (via TEAMS or VOIP)
 - U.S. Navy311 ChaplainCare:
1-855-NAVY-311 or +1-855-628-9311
 - Fleet and Family Support Center:
(TBD; Local FFSC Contact info)
 - Lifeline Australia: 13 11 14
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (U.S.):
988; +1-800-273-TALK (8255);
<https://988lifeline.org/>
 - Veteran's Crisis Line:
1-844-702-5493; 838255 (Text);
VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat (Chat)
 - Military OneSource:
+1-800-342-9647;
+1-703-253-7599 (International Collect)



NSA Stirling Chaplain Confidentiality Protections and Differences

United States and
Australia



WE'RE BY
YOUR SIDE
through thick & thin





U.S. Navy (USN) Chaplains and Australian Defence Force (ADF) Chaplains and Maritime Spiritual Wellbeing Officers (MSWOs) are committed to maintain confidentiality of servicemembers and dependents while they are providing religious, spiritual, and pastoral care. The emphasis and practice of confidentiality ensures that Chaplaincy remains a safe place for people to seek out help and support and thus provides an essential capability for commanders in ensuring the welfare of their people.¹

USN Chaplains and ADF Chaplains/MSWOs abide by different confidentiality policies.

U.S. Navy Chaplains

- Confidential communication is any communication made to a chaplain as a formal act of religion, a matter of conscience, or made to a chaplain in the chaplain's official capacity as a spiritual advisor.²

- Chaplains, Religious Program Specialists (RPs), and Chaplain Assistants (CAs) will not disclose confidential communications revealed in the course of their duties without the informed consent of the person who made the communication.³

- There are no exceptions to this confidentiality and no mandated reports for USN Chaplains.

ADF Chaplains/MSWOs

- Chaplaincy confidentiality is limited to situations where a Chaplain or MSWO is engaged to provide religious, spiritual, or pastoral support to a member.

- Chaplains and MSWOs are mandated to report disclosures made regarding:

- Imminent threat of self-harm or harm to others
- Known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect, past or present
- Any other act or allegation that is required, by Australian law, to be disclosed to relevant authorities

- Chaplains and MSWOs are required to disclose information if compelled by courts or by law.⁴

- An absolute religious confessions privilege is only available to a confession made by a person to a member of the clergy in the member's professional capacity according to the ritual of the church or religious denomination concerned.⁵

- If you have concerns about how any information you disclose to an ADF Chaplain or MSWO might be used, you can discuss this with them at the outset and then decide if you would like to proceed.



I, _____, have been advised that, in accordance with the information above, statements made during the course of this counseling session regarding imminent threat of harm to self/others, known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect, past or present, or other topics where disclosure is required by ADF policy or military regulation are not confidential and may be disclosed by ADF Chaplain/MSWO _____ to the appropriate authorities. If needed, a consent to disclose confidential information (AE731) will be completed by the chaplain and counselee and attached to this form.

Date Counselee

Date Chaplain/MSWO

¹Australian Defence Force Chaplaincy Confidentiality Enabling Support Product Level 1 (ESP L1), para 3.5

²SECNAVIST 1730.11 para 5

³SECNAVIST 1730.11 para 5.a

⁴E.g. Court subpoena or summons, as per Annex A to ESP L1

⁵Annex A to ESP L1, para 2