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ARMY REGULATION
No. 600-30

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 1 July 1970

PERSONNEL—GENERAL CHARACTER GUIDANCE PROGRAM

Effective 15 August 1970

This revision updates and reorients material in terms of the new "Our Moral Heritage" series of Character Guidance topics. Local supplementation of this regulation is prohibited except upon approval of the Chief of Chaplains.

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Section I. CHARACTER GUIDANCE PROGRAM

1. Purpose. The Character Guidance Program is designed to assist the commander in promoting healthy mental, moral, and social attitudes in the personnel under his command. By this program the Army endeavors to maintain the wholesome influence of family, home, and community from which stem our esprit and strength as a free nation.

2. Objectives and basis. *a.* Generally, the Character Guidance Program is designed to encourage high standards of personal and social conduct among members of the Army. It aims to strengthen in the individual the basic moral, spiritual, and historic truths that undergird our nation's heritage. Our heritage is a clearly expressed body of ideals about human relations and principles of social ethics developed in our nation's history by people of differing interest and background. It is that ongoing consensus of values that preserves and nurtures the complex of institutions and human relations which make up our national life. It is defined in terms of such democratic ideals as the essential dignity of the individual, the basic

equality of all men, and certain rights to freedom, justice and fair opportunity as expressed in the nation's early struggle for independence. These principles are written into The Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. In reality these ideals have become the highest law of the land.

b. Specifically, the Character Guidance Program—

- (1) Emphasizes those aspects of our American heritage that constitute and sustain the moral foundations of dedicated citizenship and character development.
- (2) Helps the soldier understand the nature of our pluralistic culture of many races, national groups, and religious persuasions which constitute the "social cement" of our society.
- (3) Establishes a process of relevant and empathetic communication with the soldier and the problem areas that face him.
- (4) Provides a constructive forum which offers the soldier an opportunity to deal realistically

*This regulation supersedes AR 600-30, 1 March 1965.

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with and freely discuss the moral questions of this decade.

(5) Stresses that the moral leadership executed and demonstrated by the officers and non-commissioned officers is a vital part of the character development of the young soldiers they lead.

3. Responsibility and implementation. *a.* The Character Guidance Program is a *command responsibility*.

b. Commanders will—

(1) Instill in the command an understanding of the objectives of the Character Guidance Program.

(2) Insure that all members of the command receive the required monthly character guidance training (para 5). Classes may be designed for joint officer, NCO and enlisted participation or classes may be designed and designated for various grade level groupings to meet their specific needs. The commander will determine what class composition will derive maximum benefit from the instruction in his particular command.

(3) Encourage that Character Guidance be presented in smaller groups where dialogue and discussion are conducive in a meaningful forum.

(4) Maintain and report attendance statistics.

(5) Take a personal interest in the off-duty activities of military personnel by cooperating with civilian agencies which contribute to the moral and social well-being of military personnel.

4. Technical advisers. The Character Guidance Program is and must remain the responsibility of the commander. However, certain staff officers, by virtue of their professional specialties, are particularly well qualified as advisers to the command and are expected to contribute materially to the success of the program. Among these staff officers are the personnel officer, the training officer, the chaplain, the special services officer, the surgeon, the information officer, the education officer, the inspector general, and the provost marshal.

5. Training. *a.* *Minimum requirements for BCT and AIT.* All personnel will receive 4 hours of Character Guidance instruction during basic training and 2 hours during advanced individual training as set forth below:

(1) *BCT.* Male personnel will receive instruction based on chapters 1 through 4, DA Pam 165-5. Female personnel will receive instruction based

on DA Pam 16-13 (to be revised as DA Pam 165-10).

(2) *AIT (schools and training centers).* Both male and female personnel will receive instruction based on chapters 5 and 6, DA Pam 165-5.

(3) *Other.* Personnel assigned to units direct from BCT will receive the regular Character Guidance instruction scheduled for that unit (*b* below).

b. Minimum requirements for all other personnel.

(1) Personnel in grades E-6 and below will receive 1 hour of Character Guidance training each month based on the materials in DA Pams 165-6, 165-7, 165-8, and 165-9. Monthly topics will be scheduled annually by the Chief of Chaplains as set forth in paragraph 12*b*. Instructional packets described in *d*(3) below will be used in this training.

(2) All officers and all enlisted personnel in grades E-7 and above will receive training as prescribed by commanders. Such training will be precisely prescribed in the form of formal memoranda, Staff Operations/Training Manuals or similar documents. As an absolute minimum, such personnel will receive a briefing on the content of the monthly Character Guidance topic.

(3) Commanders of small isolated detachments of five or less, such as ROTC, recruiting, security, MAAG's, missions, and miscellaneous activities and services, who cannot feasibly use the training facilities of larger units, may abbreviate the training materials to accommodate their particular training limitations.

(4) In cases where closed-circuit TV is used in Character Guidance training, a chaplain or another designated instructor will be present to answer questions and hear the discussion.

c. Instructors.

(1) Normally, the chaplain will be the instructor for Character Guidance instruction. However, the instruction and the program will remain nontheological and nonsectarian. Character Guidance is mandatory command training. It is separate and distinct from the voluntary religious program of the command which is the proper sphere of voluntary denominational religious activity (see AR 165-20).

(2) The commander is encouraged to present a limited number of instructional topics, either



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personally or through a qualified representative, to emphasize that this is a command program.

(3) In instances where a chaplain is temporarily unavailable, the commander will designate a representative to instruct in the monthly training material.

d. Materials.

(1) Training materials related to the objectives (para 2), and especially the moral aspects of the Character Guidance Program, will be prepared by the Chief of Chaplains.

(2) The training text is not intended to be used verbatim but as the instructor's resource material to be locally tailored to the particular need of the command. However, the prescribed monthly topic, which is sufficiently broad in scope, will be followed to insure continuity and uniformity in training in the midst of personnel turbulence. When appropriate, the commander may substitute one of the special topics from DA Pam 165-11 for the monthly topic or may present both the regular and a special topic in 1 month.

(3) The instructional packet will consist of texts, lesson plans (DA Pams 165-5, 165-6, 165-7, 165-8, 165-9, 165-10, and 165-11); of throw charts (GTA 16 series); and of impact discussion-starter films. Topical posters (DA Poster 16 series) will be issued down to company/battery level to announce and emphasize the monthly instructional topic. The DA Pamphlets in the Moral Heritage Series are

(a) DA Pam 165-5 for male personnel in BCT and AIT trainees.

(b) DA Pam 165-6 through 165-9 for general field use covering the regular 2-year cycle (24 topics) in the order prescribed by an annual official Character Guidance guidelines letter.

(c) DA Pam 16-13 (to be revised as DA Pam 165-10) for female personnel in basic training.

(d) DA Pam 165-11 for instruction in "Special Topics" used in addition to or as a substitute for the regular scheduled topic where deemed appropriate by the commander.

Section II. CHARACTER GUIDANCE COUNCILS

6. Purpose. Character Guidance Councils should concern themselves with the objectives of the Character Guidance Program.

7. Establishment. Commanders will establish Character Guidance Councils down to battalion/brigade level and at battery/company level where feasible.

8. Composition. The composition of Character Guidance Councils is discretionary. Utilization of

squad and section leaders will prove highly effective in the lower levels of command.

9. Frequency. Character Guidance Councils will meet with such frequency and regularity as to insure command control and supervision of this program.

10. Character Guidance Council findings. Commanders will report such findings of their Character Guidance Councils to higher headquarters as require coordination or assistance in effecting solutions.

Section III. RESPONSIBILITIES AT HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

11. Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel will be responsible to the Chief of Staff for the effective implementation of the Character Guidance Program, and will coordinate those staff actions required for a continuous and integrated program.

12. Chief of Chaplains. The Chief of Chaplains will be responsible to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel for—

a. The development of Army-wide policy and

guidance to assure the effectiveness of the entire Character Guidance Program.

b. The preparation of instructional materials to support the Character Guidance Program and the scheduling of discussion topics on a monthly basis.

c. The dissemination of technical and professional guidelines to chaplains concerning the nature and implementation of the Character Guidance Program.

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13. Other Department of Army Staff agencies.

Other Department of Army Staff agencies will coordinate and integrate efforts that relate to the development of morality, morale, and self-discipline through the Deputy Chief of Staff for Per-

sonnel and Office, Chief of Chaplains. Each Department of the Army Staff agency will evaluate its responsibilities in this vital area and will render staff support to the Character Guidance Program.

The proponent agency of this regulation is the Office of the Chief of Chaplains. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications) to Chief of Chaplains, ATTN: CHPL, Department of the Army, Washington, DC 20314.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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