

Chapel, Base. FAC: 7361

CATCODE: 730771

OPR: AF/HC

OCR: N/A

1.1. **Description.** These facilities provide spaces for community worship, individual meditation, religious education, pastoral counseling, spiritual support, interpersonal relationships, religious guidance, and related functions.

1.2. **Requirements Determination.** For additional guidance, refer to the *USAF Religious Facility Design Guide*.

1.2.1. The number of chapels at an installation, as well as the size of each chapel, is based upon the population of the installation. This population figure includes military strength assigned to or residing at the installation, as well as family members and civilian personnel dependent upon the installation for religious support. Attendance trends and projected changes in the installation population and mission are relevant in determining the number and size of the chapels at an installation.

1.2.2. Availability and location of government provided housing, traditional or anticipated, composition of the particular chapel communities, and the percentage of the installation's population residing in civilian communities (CONUS only), are variables to be considered in the chapel planning process.

1.2.3. In addition to space for worship, Chapels normally include provisions for individual and group counseling, clergy-congregation relationships, sacramental rites and ceremonies, religious observances, and other activities normally associated with the Chaplain Corps. Religious facilities should be constructed with all appropriate safety and accessibility features required of Air Force facilities.

1.3. **Scope Determination.** The *USAF Religious Facility Design Guide* provides guidelines to be used in conjunction with other command and installation requirements for determining spatial allowances for chapel facilities. Specific and unique chapel facility spatial requirements may be justified on the basis of local installation needs. See AFI 52-101 for additional guidance.

1.4. **Dimensions.** Most chapels are constructed with a seating capacity of approximately 300, and normally it is not recommended that a chapel exceed 400 seats. Requirements for larger or smaller chapels may be established by validated local needs. Installations with a population of 500 or less are not normally authorized a free-standing chapel, although an area for worship, or the requirements of religious practices and needs, may be provided in a multipurpose facility with spaces for services, meditation, office(s), and storage.

1.5. **Design Considerations.**

1.5.1. Provide reasonable separation of meeting areas to enable simultaneous activities such as, the conduct of worship services while counseling, religious instruction, or meetings occur.

1.5.2. Office space must be arranged to facilitate counseling and protect the clergy-parishioner relationship. Privileged communication requires both visual and acoustical confidentiality (see AFI 52-101 and UCMJ Rules of Evidence, Rule 503).

1.5.3. Chapels should be designed and constructed by those with professional experience in providing aesthetics that are conducive to worship and meet the religious needs of multi-faith users.