

Military Missioner Job Description

Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma

The Military Missioner assists congregations throughout the diocese in identifying and accomplishing the mission of the Church by serving the spiritual support and care of active/retired service members, families, veterans, and widows/widowers who experience unique circumstances due to the nature of their service. Throughout the Diocese of Oklahoma there are five (5) major military installations to whom God is calling our diocese to minister and connect: Tinker AFB, OKC, OK; Altus AFB, Altus, OK; Vance AFB, Enid OK; Fort Sill Army Base, Lawton, OK; McAlester Ammunition Army Base, McAlester, OK; Container Inspection Training USCG, OKC, OK; and Coast Guard Institute, OKC, OK.

Consulting with vestries, congregations, and diocesan groups, this Missioner connects churches with resources that can help active/retired military service members, veterans and their families far and wide, raises awareness about the needs of military service members in the Diocese of Oklahoma, builds relationships with counterparts or chaplains at military installations throughout the diocese, and discerns new mission opportunities in the military mission field. The Missioner serves as a member of the diocesan staff, reporting to the Canon to the Ordinary, and will serve as staff liaison to diocesan groups.

Class: Quarter-Time, Non-Exempt
Expectations: Approximately 520 hours per year (may include one Sunday per Quarter)

Responsibilities:

Responsibilities would include duties such as the following:

- Regularly visits congregations throughout the diocese to further the diocesan vision and commitment to military ministry, connecting churches with resources that can help their existing active military and veteran parishioners and their families.
- Establish regular and ongoing relationships with military chaplains, both active and retired.
- Conducts a "military mission field profile" to include the location of the military installations in proximity to Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma churches, the distribution of the base/installation populations, and a sense of the community demographics, and creates a list of focus congregations for military ministries, which will be primary providers of military support.
- Consults with vestries, congregations, and diocesan groups focusing on how churches can be more military /veteran-friendly, how churches can welcome them into the Episcopal Church in ways that resonate most with their lived experience, how to inform congregations about this exciting and highly diverse mission field, conducting vestry workshops, diocesan forums, and other opportunities.
- Develops or identifies event and program resources for serving the needs of military families such as: assisting in the forming of support groups, providing resources to address practical needs of financial management and budgeting, conducting marriage enrichment programs, and/or identifying youth ministry opportunities.
- Develops or identifies event and program resources for serving the needs of stateside families of those military members who are currently deployed, such as increasing church awareness about the unique needs of these families, assisting in developing support role opportunities for churches; instituting regular care packages to deployed service members.
- Conducts a needs assessment on the status of support to veterans and ways our diocese and congregations can support them.

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- Develops and disseminates resources to honor active and retired service members and veterans, widows/widowers such as Memorial Day, July 4th weekend, and Veterans Day that can also take place in individual churches.
- Engages social media resources to connect with those deployed, to disseminate resources and information to churches and families, and to strengthen awareness and the presence of the Episcopal Church in the lives of military service members both active and retired and veterans.
- Offers training and events to teach and support the military mission field, sharing the good news of Christ with others.

Essential Skills and Qualifications:

- Committed Episcopalian with extensive congregational experience and demonstrated dedication to the mission of Jesus through the Episcopal Church.
- A strong sense of Jesus' calling and guidance in the Missioner's own life, and a commitment to a life of prayer, study, and witness in the Christian faith.
- Experience with and passion for the military mission field in Episcopal communities of faith, including an understanding of the leadership skills, family systems, and ongoing training and support necessary.
- A passion for sharing the good news of Christ and for helping others grow in their faith and their ability to articulate God's work in their lives.
- Knowledge and experience in the spiritual, social, physical, and mental health aspects and demands of military life from active duty/retired service members, families, veterans, to widow/widowers.
- Organized, personable self-starter with proven ability to work collaboratively on a ministry team as a servant leader.
- Clear and effective communication, preaching, teaching, and leadership skills.
- Self-differentiated leader who has experience working within anxious systems and understands congregational systems and leadership theories and practices.
- Ability to create new and effective systems and processes to further the diocesan military mission field and proven effectiveness at project and event management.
- Ability to work collaboratively and respectfully with a staff team and with Episcopalians across the Diocese of Oklahoma, respecting a variety of theological, liturgical, and cultural perspectives.
- Proficiency with a variety of communications styles and methods, including writing, video, and online communications.
- Willingness to travel throughout the Diocese of Oklahoma, and to conferences and other opportunities outside the diocese.

Other Skills That Will Be A Plus:

- Ordained Episcopal priest or ELCA Lutheran Pastor with appropriate theological training preferred.
- Knowledge and experience as a military chaplain.
- Broad knowledge of The Episcopal Church and a variety of Christian formation and evangelism resources.