



Spiritual Boot Camp

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 Timothy 2:2

These words from the Apostle Paul remind those of us entrusted with the Gospel of salvation to keep our focus on preparing a new generation for the challenges which lie ahead of them in maintaining the faith. This is of great importance when it comes to ministering to the military community since there are demands placed upon the warfighter unlike any experienced in the civilian world.

The goal of the *Spiritual Boot Camp* is to be proactive and intentional in preparing young men and women entering the Armed Forces to maintain and strengthen their faith journey with the Lord.

There is a need to support not only those serving on Active Duty, as a Reservist, or National Guard but especially for those entering military service through Enlisted Basic Training or Commissioning programs like the Service Academies or Reserve Officer Training Programs. Too often Christian young adults will stray from the faith in which they were raised once they encounter the bewildering array of choices that come from leaving home for the military. The wise church leader, like the military commander, knows we need to prepare the individual before the battle begins.

That is why AMEN with support from the *God's Word for Warriors* and the *Military Outreach & Encouragement* ministries are offering the *Spiritual Boot Camp* for incoming recruits to the U.S. Armed Forces.

The concept is simple! We seek to prepare the recruits before they begin their military experience in Basic Training by understanding military culture and how faith is vital to their success and spiritual fulfillment while they wear the nation's uniform.

Sponsor A Recruit

Be part of a life changing event for military recruits by sponsoring a young person to attend the *Spiritual Boot Camp*, May 16-18 in Smithville TN.

This first of its kind workshop will better prepare the new recruit to face the challenges not only Basic Training but the rest of their time in military service.

Details are available on the AMEN Web site at

www.amenministry.org/Spiritual Boot Camp.

The cost for two nights lodging and meals is \$333.00 per person. You can donate on the AMEN Web Site on the Donate Now Tab or send check Payable to Manchester Church of Christ, add AMEN on Memo line and mail to Manchester Church of Christ, 595 Tolland Turnpike, Manchester CT 06042. Call 860 372 7051 for questions.



Spiritual Boot Camp (con't)

In the three decades of my military chaplain experience I saw how each of the military branches stressed the need for strong spiritual character to achieve mission accomplishment and personal survival in an often-chaotic environment. We are designing the *Spiritual Boot Camp* to address issues typically not discussed in the recruit's home congregations like the Christian and the use of Lethal Force; how to handle loneliness during deployments; how to keep one's faith and relationships strong in austere and foreign assignments; and how to cope with loss and the stress of combat environment. Too often issues like these can make or break a Christian's walk with the Lord and the inexperience of many recruits leaves them unprepared for the challenges they will face in the military. Sadly, many congregations located near military installations are either ignorant or indifferent to these unique needs of military Christians.

The goal of the *Spiritual Boot Camp* is to be proactive and intentional in preparing young men and women entering the Armed Forces to maintain and strengthen their faith journey with the Lord. Knowledge and experience are the tools we will use in preparing recruits for one of the most important life milestones they will ever make. Military service is one of the most intense transformations a person will go through. Veterans have an outlook on life and a manner of living which often sets them apart from their civilian contemporaries. It can be both a negative and a positive life change. Some carry the scars of battle, the loss of comrades, and the memories of conflict, often silently, for the rest of their lives. Others are transformed with a sense of discipline and purpose which transcends the "eat, drink, and be merry" philosophy of the world. The presenters like Dr. Tom Seals (USMC), Ed Linebaugh (Army) and Dorn Muscar (USAF) are seasoned veterans who have worn the uniform and navigated the trials of military life. The lessons are designed to spark curiosity and the examples of these veterans are a testimony of lives transformed by God's grace.

The *Spiritual Boot Camp* is May 16-18 at the Retreat at Center Hill Lake, Smithville TN. [See the advertisement in this newsletter](#) for more information, the cost, and the link to register on the AMEN web site. We are seeking churches or individual donors to sponsor a recruit at \$333.00 for this life changing event. Use the Donate Now tab on the AMEN web site or mail check payable to Manchester Church of Christ, 595 Tolland Turnpike, Manchester CT 06042, add AMEN in the Memo Line. Your gift will reap a powerful reward helping a recruit to remain faithful and thrive in the knowledge of the Lord while serving in uniform.



Key News

Naples, Italy

LCDR Maccon A. Buchanan is a U.S. Navy Industrial Hygiene Officer and native of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Maccon enlisted in the Navy after high school in 1998 in the Naval Nuclear Power

Training Pipeline as an Electrician's Mate. He went on to qualify as Enlisted Surface



Warfare Specialist, Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist, Electrical Load Dispatcher, and Shutdown Reactor Operator.

In 2004 he was selected for the Navy's Seaman-to-Admiral-21 Program. He attended North Carolina State University, participated in NROTC training, and graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Science w/ concentration in Geology in 2008 and was commissioned as a SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER. His shipboard assignments include PCU Ronald Reagan (CVN 76); USS Bunker Hill (CG 72) USS Ramage (DDG 61); and PCU John F. Kennedy (CVN 79)

In December of 2013, he was selected for career redesignation to the Medical Service Corps as an Industrial Hygiene Officer. He has held numerous assignments in the Damage Control area, as Public Health Officer and as the Assistant Officer in Charge of the Department of Naval Science at Massachusetts Maritime Academy. While assigned to the Naval Hospital in Yokosuka Japan he served as the authorized Lay Leader allowing him to provide a Church of Christ service.

He and his wonderful wife Ashlee with their four daughters are now at the Naval Hospital, Naples Italy since January 2025. They are working to establish a Church of Christ community in the Naples area.




Help the Ministry by donating monthly or one-time to provide workshops, books, and travel to promote the spiritual wellbeing of our Servicemen and women.


www.amenministry.org (Donation Tab)
AMEN Ministry, P.O. Box 353, Hebron, CT 06248




Contact Us

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 AMENMINISTRY of the churches of Christ

 www.amenministry.org

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CARE PACKAGES

Spring Brook Hills Church of Christ (Dewitt, MI) sends morale packages to members of the Church from Michigan area.
Contact Jeff Murray with names & addresses at (517) 945.2155 or fop70@aol.com.



Military Ministry RESOURCES

Center for Christian Studies (CCS)

www.Christian-Studies.org
info@christian-studies.org

12407 N. Mopac Expy.
Ste 250-530 Austin TX 78758

Quality theological and biblical resources for churches and Christian leaders to help with growth in biblical literacy, theological understanding, thoughtful worship, spiritual formation, and ethical living.

Essential to the renewal of the church, they offer online video courses, the Journal of Christian Studies, "Theological Table Talk" podcast and live on-site instruction at your congregation.

Yellow Ribbon Program, Pepperdine Univ.

www.pepperdine.edu/veterans/yellow-ribbon/
Part of the Post-9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33), allows higher education institutions to partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to cover veterans' unmet tuition and certifiable fees. Pepperdine and the VA match contributions to ensure eligible students have 100% tuition coverage. Recently, the program expanded to include active service members and their spouses.

Did you know that no cost **Veteran Counseling Services** from pastoral counselors are available from God's Word for Warriors? Register at:
<http://www.godswordforwarriors.com/contact-10/>

Schedule an appointment by calling (615) 430.3544. We offer in-person and zoom meetings. Referrals to other resources may be made when appropriate.

amen military ministry presents



SPIRITUAL BOOT CAMP



For New Recruits to U.S. Armed Forces
Faith Preparation for Basic Training

16-18 May 2025

SMITHVILLE TN

THE RETREAT AT CENTER HILL LAKE

amenministry.org

WARRIORS NEED FAITH



scan for details



REGISTER BEFORE APRIL 18

860.372.7051

M.O.R.E.



WARRIORS NEED FAITH

SPIRITUAL BOOT CAMP

MAY 16-18, 2025

THE RETREAT AT CENTER HILL LAKE
SMITHVILLE, TN 37166

COST: \$130*

*\$50 DUE AT REGISTRATION

ATTENTION: Faith-based recruits entering military service

Is your faith ready to meet the demands of a combat ready force?
Be prepared to dig into the trenches of your faith.

Recognize the role faith and spirituality plays in preparing
you to be within military culture.

Establish faith-based mentoring relationships with veteran
military Christians who have walked the walk.

Learn what challenges recruits can experience

Topics

- **Battle Ready:** what the Bible says about the Christian and War
- A Warfighter Looks at **Spiritual Armor** from Ephesians 6:10-18
- 'We Band of Brothers': Importance of Christian, Church & Family Relationships
- **Fit to Fight:** Developing the Warrior's Spiritual Resiliency
- **Spiritual Vectoring:** Managing Transitions & Finding Peace

Presenters:

Chaplain, Lt Colonel Dennis Saucier, USAF (Ret) AMENministry
Dr. Tom Seals, USMC Veteran and CEO God's Word for Warriors
Ed Linebaugh, SFC U.S. Army (Ret) Director Military Outreach & Encouragement, et al.

AMENministry.org

860-372-7051

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 18

space is limited

