

# Helpful Counsel

for Latter-day Saints Serving in the Armed Forces

1. Live righteously and be worthy of the Lord's Spirit and protection.
2. Pray regularly. Study the scriptures daily. Ponder and meditate.
3. Seek to have a temple recommend and, where possible, to attend the temple regularly.
4. Avoid the very appearance of evil.
5. Stay in contact with your family.
6. Make every effort to find the Church unit nearest your military installation during your initial training and immediately upon reassignment to your next duty station. Often there will be a ward, branch, or military group organized wherever you are stationed or deployed on land or sea. Military personnel in the United States and Canada who need assistance locating a Church unit may call 1-800-453-3860, extension 2-3500.
7. Be active in your ward, branch, or group. The Church is your "home away from home."
8. Take advantage of your missionary opportunities. Cultivate friendships among your fellow military associates.
9. Wear the uniform with dignity. Bring credit to yourself and the Church, which you represent.
10. Return with honor.

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



# SERVING YOUR COUNTRY

INSTRUCTIONS FOR  
MEMBERS OF  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
ENTERING THE  
ARMED FORCES

## Message from the First Presidency

---

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Many of the finest Latter-day Saints in the world are those who are in the military. Thousands and tens of thousands have demonstrated that they could keep the faith and build the kingdom while in the service of their country. You now may stand with them as examples of righteousness amid often difficult conditions. The Lord will strengthen and guide you.

During times of military action, military service can demand the ultimate sacrifice—life itself. Even in periods of peace, military service can separate you from parents, wives, husbands, and children for a considerable length of time. Nevertheless, countless Latter-day Saints have willingly given military service as volunteers or to obey the law of the land. They have served honorably, not to be heroes, but because it was the right thing to do.

We are grateful for your willingness to continue this legacy through your service. As men and women in uniform, you can influence thousands for good by living the commandments of God and teaching others His divine word through example and precept. Your conduct and your knowledge and testimony of the doctrines of the Church can touch the hearts of your associates and help them draw nearer to the Lord. We offer you our support and pray that God will bless you in this honorable endeavor.

Sincerely,  
The First Presidency

## Entering Military Service

---

The Church extends its love to you as you serve your country. Military service is honorable. Upon request, and where available, local leaders will provide you with a military scriptures set and an LDS military identification tag.

You face significant challenges ahead. The local LDS ward or branch can be a haven to you during the rigors of basic training and throughout your military service. Your bishop can help you locate the ward or branch that serves your military installation. Please contact the Church immediately upon arriving on active duty. You will be welcomed and able to enjoy the full blessings of Church membership wherever you serve.

Please review the “Helpful Counsel for Latter-day Saints Serving in the Armed Forces” at the end of this brochure. Also, if you have been endowed and have questions about wearing the garment, consult with your priesthood leaders.