

The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag, featuring a blue field with white stars and red and white stripes. The flag is oriented vertically, with the stars on the left and the stripes on the right.

# **Military Evangelism**



**The Local Church  
Reaching the Military**

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*“Where there is no vision...” Prov.29:18*



# MILITARY EVANGELISM

An effective concept for the Church in a  
military community  
which can multiply conversions,  
baptisms, and church membership

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# MILITARY EVANGELISM

## *INTRODUCTION*

**Evangelizing** or winning the military to Christ has become more difficult in our modern peaceful age. Old methods once used may not work or cannot be implemented. New approaches may need to be considered.

### WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

1. The G.I. is more mobile than ever before. That is, he has *wheels* to go wherever he desires. It's difficult to catch them on the streets as we once did.
2. Families are either situated in military housing areas not usually open to visitation or they live off base in homes and apartments not easily discernible from their civilian counter parts.
3. Military bases have become more restrictive to visitors, making access difficult.
4. Churches usually do not put forth a concentrated effort or plan for reaching the military in its area.

### WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

1. The answer needs to start with **the Church!** The answer is and always will be the local church. It's not the responsibility of a missionary, a mission organization, or a retired military person in the church assigned the responsibility; but, it is **the church's care and responsibility!**
2. **Get organized!** The church must come up with *a plan of action* to reach and win Service members. Appointing one person to do all the work will not suffice; it must be a *TEAM* effort by the church.

# THE TEAM CONCEPT

The secret in reaching and winning the military rests with the church.  
Luke 5:7

## INTRODUCTION

**THE PASTOR is OVERSEER.**

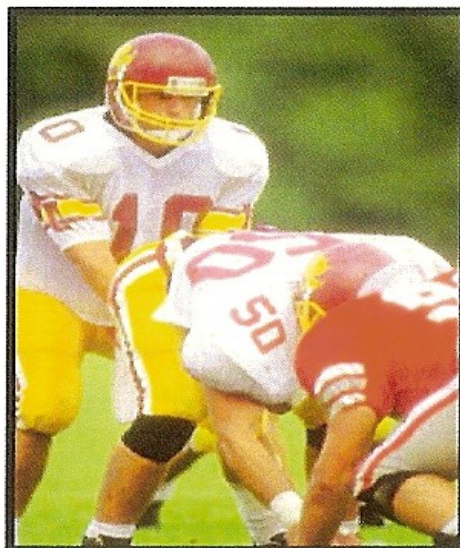
**THE TEAM CONCEPT.** This is a *concept* which can be used by a local fundamental church to reach or win the military at a nearby base.

1. The *Team* should be made up of 3 or more members, military or non-military.
2. The *Team* should have a *director* who will act as a supervisor or a coordinator of the *Team*.

## WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF A TEAM?

It is the *Team* coming up with a thoroughly planned effort to produce results in getting military saved, disciplined, and brought into membership of the local church.

Eventually the *Team* will involve numerous individuals helping in a program in reaching military for Christ.





# DIRECTOR

of the Military Ministry



## SUPERVISOR/COORDINATOR.

HE IS SELECTED BY THE PASTOR!

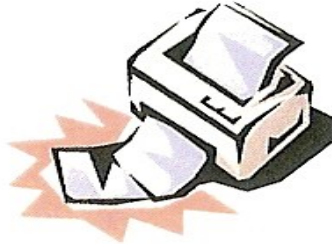
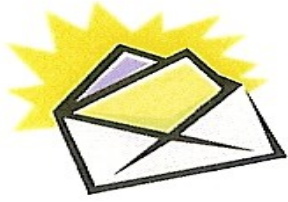
1. He *informs* the pastor of plans and progress of the military outreach, and seeks his APPROVAL of courses of action, plans , appointments, and etc.

2. The *additional Team members* are appointed by the pastor after the director has made his suggestions to the pastor as who should head up all the other departments of the Team:

1. The **Administration** person
2. The **Information** person
3. The **Operations** person
4. The **Supply** person
5. The **Transportation** person

# ADMINISTRATION

(Person)



## 1. LETTERS

A mailing list will need to be developed concerning those military attending your church and those who are prospects.

## 2. PRINTING

Attractive *flyers* and *pamphlets* will need to be made to advertise the work .

## 3. PERSONNEL

A healthy list of names will need to be generated of attendance, and prospects, and will need continual updating.

## 4. FINANCES

Financial records should be maintained of operational expenses, and how to obtain needed funds for various activities, and etc.

## 5. ADVERTISING

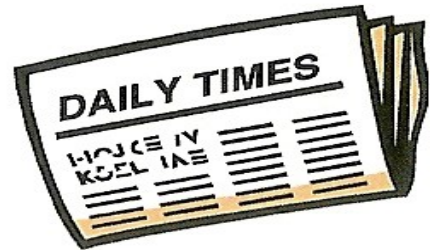
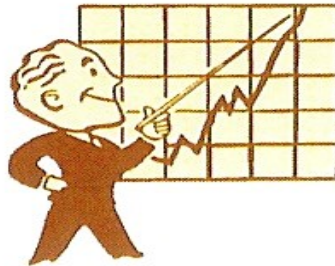
This can mean the difference often in success or failure. What do you want to advertise? How will you do it? Where will you advertise? *Try the base military publications!*



# INFORMATION

(Person)

## The GATHERING OF VITAL INFORMATION



### 1. BASE MAPS

A first priority is to obtain a map of the base. The Public Information Office (PIO) or the gate guard on the base can usually provide a map .

### 2. ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS

These also may be available at the PIO mentioned above.

### 3. POINTS OF CONTACT (POC)

Who are your points of contact on the base in the various units ?

### 4. NAMES OF COMMANDERS

Keep current as to who is in charge. From time to time plan to visit and tell them what you are trying to do. You might be surprised how they will try to help you.

### 5. NAMES OF CHAPLAINS

*Keep current* as to who are the chaplains, what unit are they assigned to , and what denomination are they? Again, go visit them. Tell them what you are doing.

### 6. NAMES OF ATTENDEES

These are most important and need to be current.



# OPERATIONS

(Person)



## 1. DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

### a. Soul winning program

Who will assist? Where will you go do it. How do you intend to follow up in keeping the converts?

### b. Discipleship program

*It is critical to get each convert into a discipleship program immediately !*

### c. Activity program

Servicemen and women need Christian activities. What kind of activities do you want? Make use of the fine facilities on the base. Provide homes for meals. The *HOME* is the best we can offer other than the church.

### d. Barracks Bible Study

Get your convert to *invite* you to his room or another location in the building , and have him invite others for participation.

### e. Military Wives Support Group

The military wife is a vital link to the Service member. Her life is somewhat different than the ordinary wife or mother. Often they just need to know that someone cares. Assist with their needs, win them to the Lord, then disciple them.

### f. Other Operations

*A Christian Service Center* can be considered in some cases. Others: a *Ranch ministry*, a *Retreat concept.*, or *Home ministry*.

## 2. DEVELOP SCHEDULES and MONITOR PROGRAMS

Avoid conflicts and evaluate the programs for improvements.

# SUPPLY

(person)



## 1. MATERIALS

Where will you get the supplies you need? Who will get them? How much will you need? What will it cost? These and many more questions will need to be considered when planning activities. Sometimes equipment can be checked out from the base.

## 2. MEALS

*Nothing satisfies more* than good food and plenty of it. This is a sizable task which will involve a *Staff* of woman. Prepare a *good dish* for the soldier and he will *never forget* it. You will have won his heart.

## 3. HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The one thing the servicemembers, especially the singles, appreciate more than anything is a **HOME**, a place where they can be relaxed and to which they can be a part. They look forward to getting away from the barracks and ships.



# TRANSPORTATION

(Person)



## 1. BUSES

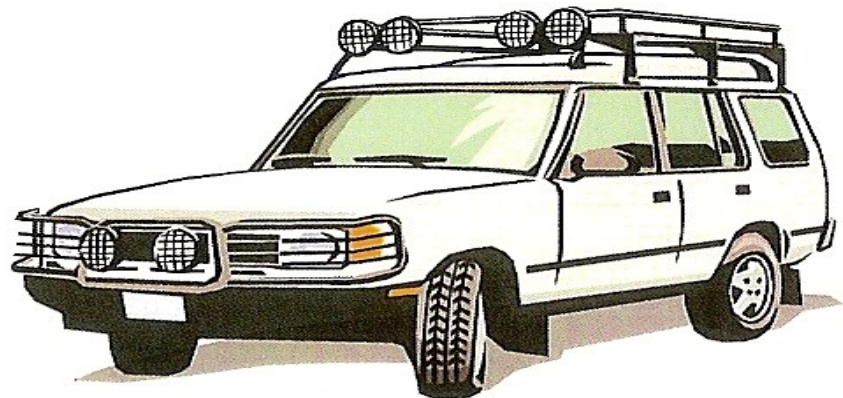
If you plan a big activity and need a bus, don't be afraid to ask the Post Transportation Officer if he could accommodate you.

## 2. VANS

Most churches have vans or know members who do.

## 3. CARS

Get a list of volunteers.



# ACTIVE, RETIRED, & PRIOR MILITARY PERSONS



## 1. THEIR VALUE

Use these highly experienced persons who know the military system.

## 2. THEIR ACCESS TO BE THE BASE

Retirees have the *I.D Card* (military retirement identification). This is an automatic *in* for them to most facilities. They have unlimited potentials. What a shame not to use these persons. What better Bible study leader can you have in the barracks, day room, or a class room?

## 3. THEIR COMMUNICATION TO THE AUTHORITIES

The military authorities will ordinarily listen to one who states he is a *retired or former* military. He may possess special privileges in securing recreational facilities or checking out equipment on a base for use of your desired functions.

## 4. ACTIVE MILITARY OR PRIOR SERVICE

Don't neglect using those presently serving *on active duty*. For they are your number one potentials for getting others, as well as names.



# THE PROCEDURE - HOW?

(Launch out into the at let down your nets...Luke 5:4)



## 1. GET TOGETHER YOUR RESOURCES

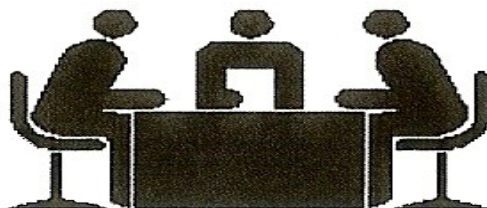
Start by organizing. Make sure each person knows his/her job. Find out who is in the Service from your church, prior years service, retired, and etc. Consider how you can use them.

## 2. PLAN MEETINGS WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE

A Saturday morning breakfast or like might be desirable, or meet prior to or after a church service.

## 3. EARLY PREPARATION FOR A DISCIPLINED PROGRAM

A discipleship program should *be top priority* in your first plans.







#### 4. KNOW WHERE THE FISH ARE

Whether on or off the base, go after them. *On the base your converts will have the best opportunity.*

##### a. On base

There are various activities where numerous troops are assembled: sport activities, indoor and out door, festivals, unit programs, and many other base functions.

##### b. Off base

Know the off base places of attraction. Make the direct Gospel witness as opportunity opens.

#### 5. MAKING THE DISCIPLED, SOUL WINNERS

This is the *next* immediate stage after or *along with* discipling. *The secret to reaching the military*, is through their own witness to their fellow military. If all else fails this will work!

#### 6. THE BUDDY SYSTEM

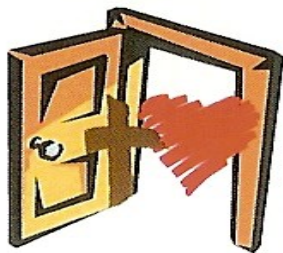
*Assign* someone, preferably another service member to look after each convert or prospect. The *buddy* system will work. It gives responsibility to others, and is a beautiful picture of Scriptural care for others.

#### 7. CALLING AT THE COMPANY (UNIT) OR SHIP, ETC.

It is perfectly acceptable to arrange for picking up personnel at their company or ship. Call ahead if you desire and talk with the desk clerk (person in charge *after* duty hours). Try not to anger the head person(s) at the unit. Maybe a visit to them would be helpful. Try to establish a regular pickup time.

## APPENDIX C

# THE DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM



**Introduction:** New converts must be early discipled. What system, method, or text materials are questions unresolved. It is suggested that *the local church decide* what is best, or what will work for them. **WHERE TO DISCIPLE?** This depends upon the type of military training to which the military persons are committed.

1. Are they trainees with very limited pass privileges and with only a few weeks before graduating?
2. Are they advanced trainees with some limitations as above?
3. Are they permanent party now at a permanent duty station?

### POSSIBLE SUBJECT STUDY AREAS:

- Bible doctrine
- Christian living/separation
- Bible Study
- How to do soul winning/demonstrate it

### SOME SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

*Basic for Believers, an Introduction to Christian Growth*, by James Berg: Bob Jones University Press, Inc., Greenville, SC 29614

*Source of Light Ministries International, Inc.*,  
Madison, GA 30650

*Growing In Grace*, Dr. Ed Nelson, Bethel Baptist Church,  
11040 East Escalante Road, Tusan, AZ 85730

# THE MILITARY FAMILY



## ***Introduction:***

Up to this point, little or nothing has been related on the married families in the community or in the base housing. The military family (married couples) can be contacted much like the approach used with the civilian families.

## **1. FAMILIES HOUSING ON POST**

The point is that you use caution, visiting preferably *by invitation*. Call first and try to make an appointment. Breaking the rules can hinder your future access on base. Church buses and vans are normally permissible to pick up the children and adults. A pass may be required for your vehicles. Exercise safety with extreme care! Get names of others from those you pick up whom you would like to visit. Use the children to pass on information and to invite friends.

## **2. FAMILIES OFF POST**

Visiting these families is conducted along with your normal church's visitation program. No restrictions unless posted.

## **3. THE MILITARY WIFE**

One of the greatest assets the church has in reaching the military family is through the Christian military wife already in the church.

### ***She can initiate:***

- a. Visits to other neighboring wives on or off base.
- b. Meeting other wives at the various base activities and sport events.
- c. Morning coffee/tea get together in her home during the week.
- d. A wives Bible study and fellowship in the housing area.
- e. Visits and establish friendships with the wives whose husbands are deployed.



## APPENDIX D/part 2

### 4. WIVES SUPPORT TEAM

Wives especially are often hurting for moral support when the husband is deployed or sent on a long tour. The church can fill the void by providing compassionate support and assistance when the husband/father is deployed for an extended period of time.

Develop a plan of assistance and/or emergency help. It is relatively easy for wives to learn whose husbands are being deployed off on TDY or extended tours.

## THE CHURCH'S VETERAN'S FELLOWSHIP

A tremendous asset for every church is the makeup of its veterans and active duty personnel. Most of our churches have no such organization. This fellowship could provide substantial input to reaching the military in the church's area, plus making our veterans active and military noticed and useful. These folks need this recognition.

## THE SINGLE MILITARY PERSON

The single military person makes up approximately 65% of the total military. Therefore, any military evangelization that overlooks this field is failing to reach the majority of our young men and women in uniform.

