



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
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December 5, 2023


On behalf of the United States Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) Commanding General, GEN Andrew Poppas, and CSM T.J. Holland, we extend a warm welcome to you as we gather for the 2023 FORSCOM OC/T Religious Support Synchronization Symposium (FORTRESS) at Fort Liberty, NC.

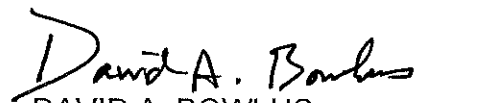
This year's theme is "Preparing Souls for War Through Total Army Training." As the US Army develops readiness in conditions of competition, crisis, conflict, and change, planned, coordinated, and realistic religious support training is vital in preparing FORSCOM UMTs and Chaplain Sections for present and future military operations.

Senior leaders like you are essential to ensuring that our Unit Ministry Teams and Chaplain Sections are combat-ready, trained, and prepared for the future fight. While counterinsurgency (COIN) operations were our reality for the last 20+ years, we must glean lessons from the past and conduct training to prepare for the certain rigors of large-scale combat operations (LSCO) and multi-domain operations (MDO). None of us have experienced the full realities of the LSCO fight. Yet, all of us have the responsibility to train our religious support leaders to meet the anticipated needs of the battlefields of today and tomorrow.

As we train, we must do it together, as a Multi-COMPO team of teams. We must seek opportunities to partner together to improve RS training and spiritual readiness of the Total Force. Understanding the opportunities and training limitations of each component will enable optimized training in a resource-constrained environment. FORTRESS '23 is a vital opportunity to strengthen professional and collegial relationships to achieve training success for all COMPOs. We look forward to the discussions, briefings, learnings, and collaboration that will mark our time this year.

Thank you for taking time out of your schedules and away from your families to join us this year! May God continue to bless us with His grace and mercy as we embark on providing world-class religious support training to prepare souls for war.


KEISHA D. ARCHER
SGM, USA
Chief Religious Affairs NCO


DAVID A. BOWLUS
Chaplain (Colonel), USA
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