

# Representatives of Secular Spiritual Care in the Military



Netherlands  
Armed Forces  
(NLD)



Colonel  
Erwin Kamp



Belgium  
Armed Forces  
(BAF)



Major General  
Hans De Ceuster



Norwegian  
Armed Forces  
(NORAF)



Commander  
Ida Helene Henriksen



Australian  
Defence Force  
(ADF)



MSWO  
Trent Bowen



Canadian  
Armed Forces  
(CAF)



Captain  
Marie-Claire Khadij

**Pictures**

**Title**  
Colonel Erwin Kamp: Humanist Chaplain [Humanistisch Geestelijk Verzorger (raadsman/raadvrouw)]  
Major General Hans De Ceuster: Moral Counsellor [Conseiller moral (Moreel consultant)]  
Commander Ida Helene Henriksen: Humanist Chaplain [Felthumanist]  
MSWO Trent Bowen: Maritime Spiritual Wellbeing Officers (MSWO)  
Captain Marie-Claire Khadij: Humanist Chaplain [Aumônier humaniste]

**Since**  
Colonel Erwin Kamp: Since 1964  
Major General Hans De Ceuster: Since 1999  
Commander Ida Helene Henriksen: Since 2017  
MSWO Trent Bowen: Since 2021  
Captain Marie-Claire Khadij: Since 2022

**Statistics**  
Colonel Erwin Kamp: 39 humanist chaplains (16 women & 23 men) 156 NLD chaplains  
Major General Hans De Ceuster: 8 moral counsellors (4 women & 4 men) 23 BAF chaplains  
Commander Ida Helene Henriksen: 2 humanist chaplains (2 women) 50 NORAF chaplains  
MSWO Trent Bowen: 11 MSWO (6 women & 5 men) 326 ADF chaplains  
Captain Marie-Claire Khadij: 1 humanist chaplain (1 woman) 395 CAF chaplains

**Identification**



NLD humanist chaplains wear the 1946 iteration of the Dutch Humanist Association logo. The star and flower represent finding meaning between heaven and earth.



A flaming torch accompanied by happy humans. The symbol of the flaming torch was adopted in 1972 by the secular Belgium organization.



The Happy Human, an international humanist symbol.



A compass rose, a navy symbol representing direction and purpose.



The Happy Human, an international humanist symbol.

**Chaplaincy structure**

The NLD chaplaincy is composed of Protestant, Roman Catholic, humanist, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim chaplains.

Together they compose one chaplaincy.

The BAF chaplaincy is composed of Jewish (1), Roman Catholic (14), Protestant (1), and humanist (8) chaplains.

The different services work together in one chaplaincy, the Division of Services for Religious and Moral Assistance (Div SARM).

The NORAF chaplaincy is composed of Christian chaplains, humanist chaplains (2), and a Muslim chaplain (1). They are all part of the same chaplaincy.

Chaplaincy in the ADF is currently governed by three branches: one for each of the three Services (Navy, Army and Air Force). The majority of chaplains are Christians, but there are also the MSWO (navy only), as well as Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim chaplains.

The Royal Canadian Chaplain Services is one chaplaincy composed of a Christian majority. However there are also Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Buddhist, Unitarian Universalist, and humanist chaplains. They all work as one team in the same chain of command.

**Additional notes**

NLD humanist chaplains have deployed to Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Lithuania, former Yugoslavia, Kirgizië, Mali, Jordan, Romania, the Middle East, the Caribbean, Somalia, and Turkey.

All Moral Counsellors are civilians who wear the uniform to provide humanist assistance to the Belgium Armed Forces around the world. Div SARM is in reform to create a more inclusive chaplaincy that includes all officially recognized life stances in Belgium, improving the spiritual-existential care of the Belgium Armed Forces.

MSWO can personally adhere to a religion but are employed in a secular capacity.

MSWO and chaplains are commissioned officers without rank. However, they are afforded an honorary rank for reasons of protocol, convention, and salary.

Humanist chaplains are endorsed by Humanist Canada and are composed of agnostics, atheists, free-thinkers, and other secular worldviews. Like all other chaplains in the CAF, they offer services to all CAF members.

## Did you know?

In some countries where there are no official positions in the military to represent humanists, atheists, agnostics, free-thinkers, and other secular worldviews, organizations were formed by military members and/or veterans to provide secular support and to advocate for the creation of positions for representatives of secular spiritual care.



Humanists and Non-religious in Defence (HAND) Network



Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers (MAAF)



**HUMANIST  
CANADA**

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Please contact Humanist Canada for suggestions and updates.