

# History of the RP Rating



The idea of having a Chaplain's Specialist assigned to each ship with a Chaplain aboard dates from 1878.



In 1979, the Secretary of the Navy approved the establishment of the Religious Program Specialist (RP) rating. RPs provide support to Navy Chaplains in developing programs to meet the needs of Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families. RPs perform many varied functions that do not require ordination. They are called upon to listen to the needs of personnel and their units and to work with the Chaplain in getting those needs met.



In 1942, the Navy Department took the first step to establish a Specialist (W) rating to help Navy Chaplains.



In April 1948, the Navy established the Personnelman (PN) rating. In an effort to establish the job's classifications, the rating included some of the Chaplain's Assistant duties. But in order for a PN to be assigned to the office of the Chaplain, the Command Chaplain would have to justify the need for one. This proved to be a time-consuming process and placed the Command Religious Program in direct competition with other departments competing for Personnelmen services.



The RP rating insignia consists of a rose compass, a globe, and an anchor. The rose compass represents the direction religion gives to life; the globe indicates the RPs' service throughout the world; and the anchor represents each RP's tie to the sea services.



**EXPEDITIONARY MINISTRY SUPPORT:** RPs in expeditionary environments are combatants who provide force protection expertise as well as other duties for Religious Ministry Teams.



From 1949 to 1979, the Yeoman rating furnished personnel to the Chaplain's Clerk specialty (YN 2525) to aid and support the Navy Chaplains in their efforts to provide quality ministry. Before a Yeoman could be assigned to the Chaplain, the Command Chaplain once again had to go through the lengthy and time consuming process of justifying the need for a YN 2525 billet.

