

Selection Data for Size of Religious Education Facility

There are three sizes to choose from for this facility type. Once the need for this type of facility has been recognized, there are two things to consider when determining which size (Small, Medium, or Large) Religious Education Facility (REF) to select for developing a project around.

The first step in selecting a facility size is to examine/evaluate the Garrison's space authorization. Proposing any new REF project must be based on the amount of religious space authorized for a Garrison based upon the Garrison population. The table for determining this is a part of the Army's web-based RPLANS system. No new facility is authorized that will bring the total religious space on a Garrison to a level above the amount authorized.

The second step in selecting a facility size is to examine/evaluate the population sizes of congregations. A new project must accommodate the sizes of the congregations that are expected to be served by the facility, once it is completed.

At most Garrisons a Chapel must be programmed with a companion Religious Education Facility, the two facilities to be collocated on the same site. Ideally, the appropriate companion facility size for a Chapel would be a Religious Education Facility of the same size. Therefore, a Small Chapel would have a companion Small Religious Education facility, a Medium Chapel would have a companion Medium Religious Education Facility, and a Large Chapel would have a Large Religious Education Facility. However, most Garrisons have existing worship space (Chapels) that are without REF spaces. In consequence, any new REF will collect students or activities from more than the congregations being supported by the collocated Chapel. Due to the additional student and activity load, the appropriate companion facility size for a Religious Education Facility may be a different size than its companion Chapel size. Current populations and anticipated future growth should be taken into account, and congregations near the upper end of a size's capacity may be better off selecting the next largest size facility.

The size identified as "Small" provides a multi-purpose area with a seating capacity of around 200 persons, with classroom and activity space to support an additional 285 students, for a max occupancy of 485 students.

The size identified as "Medium" provides a multi-purpose area with a seating capacity of around 350 persons, with classroom and activity space to support an additional 382 students, for a max occupancy of 732 students.

The size identified as "Large" provides a multi-purpose area with a seating capacity of around 400 persons, with classroom and activity space to support an additional 550 students, for a max occupancy of 950 students.

The following Basis of Authorization is drawn from the Army Standard for Religious Education Facility design.

The Religious Education Facility (REF) will be authorized on garrisons IAW the following criteria:

Population	REF Size
1,601 to 10,000	Small (22,500 SF)
10,001 to 20,000	Medium (28,700 SF)
20,001 to 35,000	Large (36,500 SF) *
35,001 to 45,000	Large *
45,001 to 55,000	Large *

Notes:

* Garrisons with populations over 20,000 will have at least one Large REF and will determine additional REF size requirements based on an analysis of the total square footage needed to support its population.

** Requirement generated only where a chaplain is authorized.

*** Deviations from REF sizes due to existing facilities will be requested from DACH-4/6/8/EN/Stratcom.

Population is defined as:

CONUS Population = Authorized Military Population + Dependent Population (Dependent Population = Military Population x 2.5)

OCONUS Population = Authorized Military Population + Dependent Population + Civilian Population