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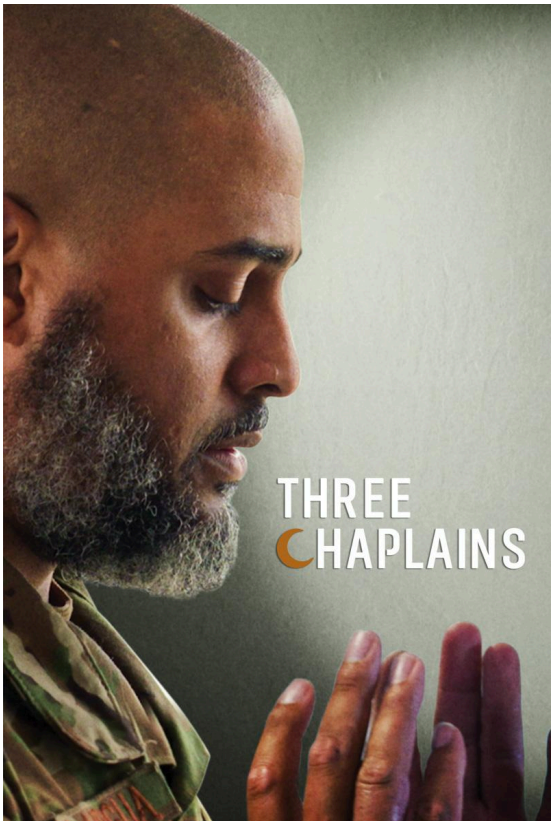
Present

THREE CHAPLAINS

A film by David Washburn

Muslim chaplains work for change in one of America's most powerful institutions—the military.

For them, the fight for equality and religious freedom begins on the inside.



For more information, please contact:
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Three Chaplains Film Stills

Broadcast nationwide:
April 26, 2025 on PBS stations
(check local listings)

Streaming via PBS:
https://bit.ly/3uuTU2u

Runtime: 55 mins

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Muslim chaplains in the U.S. military support and defend the religious rights of all service members. But their leadership sparks accusations of disloyalty and even disapproval from within their own communities. Resisting calls to blend in, the chaplains fight to maintain a balanced devotion to Islam, the Constitution and the military. They fully embrace their Muslim identities while in uniform and show what a diverse U.S. Armed Forces really looks like.

Press Highlights

Associated Press: *New documentary offers a peek into the triumphs and struggles of Muslim chaplains in US military*

NPR's Morning Edition: Documentary on PBS highlights 3 Muslim chaplains serving in the U.S. military

Religion News Service: In 'Three Chaplains,' Muslim military chaplains find resilience in faith

Military Times: 'Three Chaplains' follows Muslim fight for military religious freedom

LONG SYNOPSIS

As Muslim chaplains, upholding the First Amendment is not just part of their job description, it is highly personal. Rafael Lantigua, Khallid Shabazz, and Saleha Jabeen swear an oath to the Constitution, vowing to protect the right of every service member to practice their faith freely. Despite decades of military service, some still view them as the enemy and unfit to serve because of their beliefs. Rather than blend in, they accept the challenges and inherent dangers of being the public face of Islam for the U.S. military. *Three Chaplains* goes inside the armed forces to reveal how these chaplains practice, teach, and share their faith with troops around the country. Rafael, Khallid, and Saleha each face resistance—from accusations of terror to disapproval from their own families and community—while ascending to the highest ranks of the military. Like generations of minority service members before them, they call on the Department of Defense to support equality for all.

FEATURED IN THE FILM



Rafael Lantigua
Chaplain Rafael Lantigua is a Major in the U.S. Air Force and is currently assigned to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. He provides unit ministry, pastoral care, counseling, and advice to leadership for the 673 Air Base Wing. He is a graduate of Hartford Seminary and is endorsed by ISNA. He is featured in the film when he served as chaplain to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and the United States Air Force Academy.



Khallid Shabazz
Chaplain Khallid Shabazz is a Colonel in the U.S. Army. He is the highest-ranking Muslim chaplain in the Department of Defense. Shabazz is currently the Command Chaplain at CENTCOM based at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. He holds a PhD in Higher Education Administration and a Doctorate in Ministry. He is featured in the film when he served as the division level chaplain to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, where we learn more about the series of early life events – including a near-fatal shooting– that set him on his path towards chaplaincy.



Saleha Jabeen
Chaplain Saleha Jabeen is the first female Mulsim chaplain in the Department of Defense. She is a Captain in the U.S. Air Force and serves at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, California. She is a graduate of Catholic Theological Union and is endorsed by ISNA. She is first featured in the film as an early chaplain candidate, and the film follows her successful progression as she becomes the first female Muslim chaplain to serve in the Department of Defense.

FILMMAKER BIOS

David Washburn, Director & Producer

David Washburn has partnered with Muslim storytellers for over a decade. His documentary, An *American Mosque*, aired on public television nationwide and was acquired by Al Jazeera. He developed *Three Chaplains* from his short film series featuring Muslim veterans that ran online in the *Washington Post*, *San Diego Union Tribune*, and *NBC News*.

Razi Jafri, Producer

Razi Jafri makes films about America's changing cultural landscape. His previous film, Hamtramck, USA (SXSW 2020) chronicles democracy in America's first Muslim-majority city. He is an alumnus of the Sundance Producers Fellowship. His projects have been funded by the Ford Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation, Knight Foundation, and CAAM.

CREDITS

TERRACE FILMS and ITVS present

"THREE CHAPLAINS"

a documentary film by DAVID WASHBURN

Editors DAVID WASHBURN & ERIC DANIEL METZGAR

Original Music BRIAN DEMING

Executive Producer SALLY JO FIFER

Director DAVID WASHBURN

Producers RAZI JAFRI & DAVID WASHBURN

THREE CHAPLAINS is a co-production of Terrace Films LLC, and ITVS with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

This program was produced by Terrace Films LLC, which is solely responsible for its content.

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