

APPENDIX B RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

1. General

a. **Basis for Religious Affairs.** Religious affairs is the combination of RS and religious advisement. The Services maintain chaplaincies to accommodate religious needs; provide religious and pastoral care; and advise commanders on religion, ethics, morals, and morale with regard to personnel and the assigned mission. As military members, chaplains are uniquely positioned to assist Service members and their families, and other authorized personnel, with the challenges of military Service as advocates of religious, moral, ethical, and spiritual well-being and resiliency.

b. **Authorities.** The US Constitution, law, and policy support free exercise of religion. Military commanders are responsible for providing the free exercise of religion for those under their authority. RS is the chaplain-facilitated free exercise of religion.

c. **The RST.** The RST is a team comprising at least one chaplain and one enlisted religious affairs person. The RST plans, executes, and assesses the commander's religious program and training. The geographic combatant command chaplain is the senior chaplain assigned to the staff of, or designated by, the GCC to provide advice on religion, ethical and moral issues, and morale of assigned personnel and to coordinate RS within the GCC's AOR. The command chaplain is the senior chaplain assigned to or designated by a commander of a staff, command, or unit. The joint force chaplain (JFCH) is the military chaplain designated by the JFC to serve as the senior chaplain for the joint force. Each echelon is responsible for training and supervision of subordinate RSTs.

d. **The Noncombatant Status of the Chaplain.** As noncombatants, advisement is limited to the ethical, moral, and religious dimensions of the targeting process. Chaplains will not engage in combatant duties, will not conduct activities that compromise their noncombatant status, will not function as intelligence collectors or propose combat target selection, and will not advise on including or excluding specific structures on the no-strike list or target list.

e. **The Combatant Status of Enlisted RS Personnel.** Service doctrine describes enlisted religious affairs personnel as combatants. Therefore, enlisted religious affairs personnel are trained and authorized, IAW approved ROE, to use lethal force. This includes providing force protection and security measures for the RST. Enlisted religious affairs personnel therefore bear arms. Chaplains supervise enlisted RS personnel to ensure their employment does not jeopardize the chaplain's protected status.

2. Fundamentals of Religious Affairs

a. **Religious affairs is the commander's responsibility.** Throughout planning and execution, commanders and staffs consider the possible impact of religion throughout the OA and area of influence. Religious beliefs and practices influence the adversary and may influence civilians and populations within the OA, impacting the ideology or functioning

of the government. Chaplains and enlisted RS personnel enable and support free expression of faith and/or religious practice for all assigned, attached, or authorized personnel. They also guard against religious discrimination within the command. Commanders are responsible for the religious accommodation of joint force personnel.

b. **Religious advisement** is the practice of informing the commander on the impact of religion on operations, to include, but not be limited to, worship, rituals, customs, and practices of unified action partners and the indigenous population, as well as the impact of military operations on the religious and humanitarian dynamics in the OA.

c. **RS consists of** provision and facilitation of religious worship, rites, pastoral counseling, and DOD support to accommodate free exercise of religion for all assigned, attached, or authorized personnel; pastoral care and counseling for individuals; and visitation of work areas, living areas, medical treatment facilities, and confinement facilities.

d. **Functions.** Joint RS requirements are determined and validated IAW existing joint processes. RSTs need to be integrated into their staffs and must use command reporting and tasking procedures. Chaplains must understand the limits of their tasking authority. Official tasking comes from appropriate command authority. Command chaplains do not task subordinate unit RS personnel directly. Tasking occurs through normal command tasking processes.

e. **Religious Affairs in Interorganizational Cooperation.** When directed by the commander, the JFCH establishes relationships with non-DOD organizations to increase capacity, enhance capabilities, promote interoperability, and advise the commander in support of mission requirements. Issues of legality, permissions, collaborative tools, information sharing, and partnering with other governmental agencies or PNs to meet religious needs should be considered.

3. The Role of Religious Affairs in Joint Operations

a. **RSTs and the Conflict Continuum.** Religious affairs in joint military operations will require a variety of actions supporting different types and phases of operations across the conflict continuum. The JFCH and RST support the joint force during military engagement, security cooperation, and deterrence; crisis response and limited contingency operations; and major operations and campaigns. Close coordination should be maintained among the RSTs of the CCMDs, Service components, JTFs, and other subordinate units involved in joint military operations.

b. **Chaplain Liaison in Support of Military Engagement.** In many situations, and only when approved by the command, clergy-to-clergy communication is preferred by indigenous religious leaders. Military chaplains with the requisite knowledge, experience, and training/education have religious legitimacy that may directly contribute positively to the JFC's mission.

For more doctrinal information, see Joint Guide 1-05, Religious Affairs in Joint Operations.