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CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION



OCJCS/RA
DISTRIBUTION: A, B, C

CJCSI 3070.01
30 October 2020

STRATEGIC RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Reference(s):

See Enclosure E for References

1. Purpose. This instruction provides Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) guidance to all Department of Defense (DoD) Components to implement religious affairs (RA) as an essential Joint Force enabler and staff function. It prescribes key RA functions in support of the Combatant Commander (CCDR) and directs appropriate Service professional military educational requirements to ensure leaders and strategic-level chaplains are equipped to fully implement RA at Combatant Commands (CCMDs).
2. Applicability. This instruction applies to the CCMDs, Services, National Guard Bureau, Joint Staff (JS), and other joint organizations.
3. Policy. RA informs the CCDR of religious factors that impact, or are impacted by, military operations and furthers CCDR understanding of how religion factors into the dynamics between governing powers and various people groups. Religion is a potent factor in many nations and societies throughout the globe. RA staff will play an active role in strengthening alliances and furthering new partnerships in accordance with reference a and the reference b.
4. Responsibilities. See Enclosure D.
5. Definitions. Definitions are listed in the Glossary.
6. Releasability. UNRESTRICTED. This directive is approved for public release; distribution is unlimited on NIPRNET. DoD Components (to include the Combatant Commands), other Federal agencies, and the public, may obtain copies of this directive through the Internet from the CJCS Directives Electronic Library at: <<http://www.jcs.mil/library>>. JS activities may also obtain access via the SIPR Directives Electronic Library Websites.

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7. Effective Date. This INSTRUCTION is effective upon receipt.

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



ANDREW P. POPPAS, LTG, USA
Director, Joint Staff

Enclosures

- A - Background
- B - Religious Affairs Functions
- C - Professional Military Educational Requirements
- D - Responsibilities
- E - References
- GL - Glossary

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ENCLOSURE A

BACKGROUND

1. The Religious Environment. Religion is global in its reach and influence. An enhanced understanding of religion recognizes that a Western perspective of religion must not be projected upon the remainder of the global population. To do so is to limit our understanding of the motivations and driving forces present where the Joint Force deploys.

a. Religions are growing world-wide. Outside of Western Europe and North America, populations that hold to historic religious faiths continue to increase. This growth, coupled with shifting immigration trends, presents important issues for the Joint Force. It challenges our understanding of how religion motivates and influences allies, mission partners, adversaries, and indigenous populations and institutions.

b. Religions are prime influencers internationally. Religion commands the attention of governments across the globe. Every nation invests time and energy in controlling, influencing, living under or seeking to exist alongside of religion. That all nations regard religion as part of the calculus of governing and influencing populations demands that the Joint Force account for religion's powerful influence.

2. Religious Affairs. Religious Affairs (RA) is the staff function with dual responsibility for advising the Commander on the impact of religion and ensuring religious support (RS) per Service guidance for authorized personnel.

a. Religious advisement includes advising the operational commander on:

(1) Worship, rituals, customs, and practices of U.S. military personnel, international forces, and indigenous populations.

(2) The complexities and interactions concerning religion and religious practices within the CCMD area of operations.

b. RS ensures coordination of chaplain-facilitated free exercise of religion through worship, religious and pastoral counseling services,

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ceremonial honors for the fallen, crisis intervention, and advice to the CCDR on ethical and moral issues and morale.

c. Although both religious advisement and RS are vital, their focuses and energy are distinct. The former requires seasoned and trained RA staff sections with the knowledge and background to understand complex religious issues and dynamics crossing various religious identities, without compromising the Chaplain's non-combatant role. The identity of chaplains as religious figures makes them uniquely suited for engagement along religious lines. The latter is an internally focused effort directed at the RS and well-being of the Joint Force that increases its resiliency, morale, religious, and spiritual well-being. Each Service maintains detailed guidance for RA personnel on providing RS to Service members.

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ENCLOSURE B

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS FUNCTIONS

1. RA furthers the understanding of religious impact and significance in support of the Joint Force through the following functions:

a. Advisement on Religious Dynamics. Religion informs how people view the world and interpret events. The global nature and presence of religion in its many forms necessitates the ability to appreciate religious developments with the aid of robust partnerships. This calls for CCMD chaplains, working within their role as noncombatants, to engage with various interagency (IA) teams focused on religious issues and awareness. Increased collaboration with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); faith-based organizations (FBOs); academia; and various national-level religious organizations, groups, and individuals is also essential to understanding the breadth of religious issues and their impact on the mission.

b. Coordination of Religious Affairs Activities. Chaplains serve as principal advisors to CCDRs for all issues regarding the impact of religion on military operations in accordance with reference c. In this role, RA performs analysis of religious dynamics and coordinates efforts within the CCMD and components that creates depth of reach and understanding for RA.

(1) Service component RA teams provide the opportunity for varying levels of understanding and insight on religious issues, dynamics, and personalities at the local and regional levels.

(2) National Guard units in State Partnership Programs with foreign militaries provide long-term access and insight into religious dynamics within specific nations.

(3) Whether Active, Reserve, or National Guard, unit-level RS and RA teams build awareness and assessment of the dynamics of religion at the local and national level for CCDRs. These observations are passed up to the next higher echelon and ultimately to the CCMD RA team. CCMD RA teams drive this process by providing guidance on the relevant religious information needed at the CCMD level.

c. Recommendations to Engagement Strategies. As strategic-level RA teams build an awareness of religious dynamics, regional religious organizations and gatherings, status of regional military chaplain or religious

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personnel capacity, and current religious leader engagements, they develop an evolving picture of opportunities for future engagement. Knowledge of RA team efforts and locations helps develop this picture and allows for a strategic-level perspective on engagement opportunities coordinated across the staff and incorporated into the CCDRs strategic-level engagement strategy to support allies and build lasting partnerships.

d. Staff Integration. Growing understanding and analysis of the religious landscape leads to increased coordination across the CCMD. This includes the identification of religious implications for future or current operations, recommendations for training, exercise development, and incorporating RA implications to plans and orders.

2. RA provides coordination of RS. RA teams concurrently ensure and, as required, supervise religious support to command, staff, and all authorized personnel consistent with established Service guidance.

ENCLOSURE C

PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

1. In order to develop a greater awareness of global religious dynamics among military leaders, adjustments need to be made within the military education system as it relates to senior leader awareness and RA personnel development.

a. Senior Leader Professional Military Education. Religion's pervasive and influential role causes all governments to react by formulating policies that seek to control, limit, influence, live under, or co-exist with religion. Given the multi-faceted nature of religion coupled with the shifting migratory pattern of some religious populations brought on by war, oppression, etc., it is increasingly essential that senior military leaders develop an awareness of, and appreciation for, the variety of global national-level challenges and issues related to religion. Potential topics include:

- (1) Dynamics of religious authority in presence of weak civil authority.
- (2) U.S. International Religious Freedom policy from a national security perspective.
- (3) Religious and security issues in various geographic settings.
- (4) Religion and national development and/or reconstruction.
- (5) Religious dynamics of war and peace.

b. Chaplain Corps Personnel Religious Affairs Training and Education. The skills and knowledge required to master the impact and significance of religion across vast spans of nations, religious identities, ethnic groups, and migration trends in order to develop relevant external religious advisement at the strategic level needs to be purposefully developed throughout the career of a chaplain. The Service chaplaincies should execute their responsibility to man, train, and equip their communities with the long-range goal of developing officers and senior enlisted to serve in joint billets and ultimately at CCMDs.

(1) Skills Development. The Services shall develop training, informed by CCMD- and component-identified requirements, to equip RA personnel throughout their career development with competency in religious leader engagements and external religious advisement.

(2) Knowledge Development. The Services shall prepare RA personnel to serve in joint billets and CCMDs by educating them in the understanding of global religious issues, developments, projected trends, and a comprehensive understanding of U.S. policies and issues related to international religious freedom. Additional beneficial areas of training include topics such as the religious justifications for violence and peace, religious factors in war and peacebuilding, the ethical dilemma present at the intersection of religion and security, and an understanding of whole-of-government and NGOs approaches to religion and religious freedom issues.

(3) Education. Funded graduate education opportunities for specialization in areas of World Religions, Religion in Culture, or Religion and Foreign Policy, are of great value to the Joint Force to prepare RA personnel with the depth of knowledge and expertise to develop comprehensive understanding of religious dynamics within geographic CCMDs. To the greatest extent possible, RA personnel receiving such education shall have follow-on assignments in support of component-level commands or CCMDs to leverage their knowledge and expertise and build understanding within the Joint Force.

(4) Professional Development. Chaplains serving with the Joint Force are authorized to attend religious endorser-established training, seminars, or events as they would in a Service-specific billet. CDRs are authorized to provide travel and per diem for chaplain attendance at such events.

ENCLOSURE D
RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Military Services. The Services will act upon the guidance of Enclosure C, Section 3, with respect to education, training, knowledge, skills, and assignments for RA personnel.
2. Combatant Commanders. CCDRs are responsible for RA, in accordance with reference d and reference e. Throughout planning and execution, CCDRs and staffs are to consider the possible impact of religion throughout the operational area and area of influence. CCDRs are encouraged to support the development of a RA section capable of accomplishing the functions outlined in this document and expanded upon in reference e, Annex E.
3. National Guard Bureau. The Chief, National Guard Bureau, will ensure integration of State Partnership Program efforts with RA elements of CCMD engagement strategies where appropriate and ensure the thorough exchange of information related to RA priorities.
4. Joint Staff
 - a. The Director, Joint Force Development (DJ-7), will manage methodology to consider topics nominated on the global and national-level challenges and issues related to religion into Service and/or Joint professional military education as appropriate (see Enclosure C, Section 2).
 - b. JS Chaplain will:
 - (1) Communicate, coordinate, and collaborate across CCMD RA teams to facilitate unity of effort and enhance lines of communication and shared situational awareness.
 - (2) Identify training or education requirements for CCMD RA teams. Provide recommendations for further RA education to Service proponents, as applicable. Seek out and provide training on required skills to newly reporting CCMD RA personnel, as appropriate.
 - (3) Identify and coordinate with appropriate IA, FBOs, academia, and other entities that focus on religious issues as resources for CCMD RA teams.

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ENCLOSURE E

REFERENCES

- a. National Defense Strategy, 2018
- b. National Military Strategy, 2018
- c. DoDD 1304.19, Appointment of Chaplains for the Military Departments
- d. Joint Publication 1, Volume 2, “The Joint Force,” 25 March 2013
- e. Joint Publication 3-0, “Joint Operations,” 17 January 2017

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. Title 10, United States Code.
2. DoDI 1304.28, “Guidance for the Appointment of Chaplains for the Military Departments,” 11 June 2014
3. Joint Guide 1-05, “Religious Affairs in Joint Operations,” 1 February 2018
4. DoDI 1300.17, “Religious Liberty in the Military Services,” 1 September 2020
5. Article 24 of Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field
6. DoDI 5111.20, “State Partnership Program (SPP),” 12 October 2016
7. CJCSM 3130.03 Series, “Planning and Execution Formats and Guidance,”
8. CJCSI 1800.01 Series, “Officer Professional Military Education Policy (OPMEP)”
9. CJCSM 3500.03 Series, “Joint Training Manual for the Armed Forces of the United States”
10. CJCSM 3500.04 Series, “Universal Joint Task Manual”
11. DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms

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GLOSSARY

PART I-ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Items marked with an asterisk () have definitions in PART II*

CCDR	Combatant Commander
CCMD	Combatant Command
DoD	Department of Defense
FBO	faith-based organization
IA	interagency
JS	Joint Staff
NGO	nongovernmental organization
RA*	Religious Affairs
RS*	Religious Support

PART II-DEFINITIONS

religious advisement. See DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.

RA. See DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.

RS. See DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.

religious support team. See DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.

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