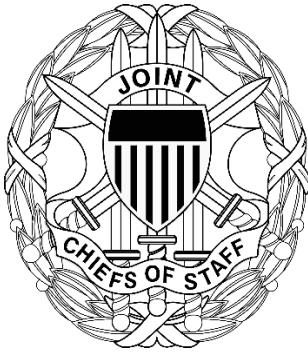


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CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION



OCJCS/RA
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STRATEGIC RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

References:

See Enclosure E

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 leadership development outcomes to ensure leaders and strategic-level chaplains are equipped to fully implement RA at Combatant Commands (CCMDs).

2. Superseded. CJCS Instruction 3070.01, 20 October 2020, "Strategic Religious Affairs," is hereby superseded.

3. Applicability. This instruction applies to the CCMDs, Services, National Guard Bureau (NGB), Joint Staff (JS), and other joint organizations.

4. Policy. RA informs the CCDR of religious factors that affect, or are affected 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 around the globe. RA staff will work with RA personnel of foreign militaries to strengthen alliances and further new partnerships in accordance with references a and b.

5. Definitions. See Glossary.

6. Responsibilities. See Enclosure D.

7. Summary of Changes. This revision clarifies the importance of understanding religious themes, customs, motivations, trends, and activities in planning and conducting Joint Operations, and updates recommended themes for leadership development.

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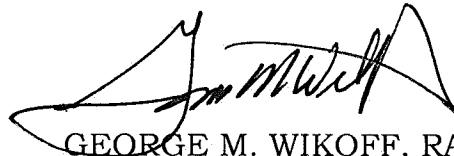
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8. Releasability. UNRESTRICTED. This directive is approved for public release; distribution is unlimited on the non-secure internet protocol router network. DoD Components (to include the CCMDs), other Federal agencies, and the public may obtain copies 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 secure internet protocol router network directives Electronic Library web sites.

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

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



GEORGE M. WIKOFF, RADM, USN
Vice Director, Joint Staff

Enclosures

- A – Background
- B – Religious Affairs Functions
- C – Leadership Development Outcomes
- 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. More than 80 percent of the world's population describes itself as religious, and religious institutions, ideas, and actors shape societies in fundamental ways. Religion is a primary frame of meaning for many in the world and can be a powerful contributor to both conflict and peace in Joint Force operational areas. Shifting immigration trends present important issues for the Joint Force and challenge traditional conceptions about how religion motivates and influences allies, mission partners, adversaries, and indigenous populations and institutions in various regions. Analyzing religious themes, customs, motivations, trends, and activities is essential but difficult, and should not be approached haphazardly.

2. Religious Affairs. The staff function with dual responsibility for advising the commander on the influence of religion on military operations and ensuring religious support in accordance with Service guidance for authorized personnel.

a. Religious advisement includes informing and guiding the operational commander on:

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

(2) The complex interaction between religion, religious customs, religious practices, and religious actors within the CCMD area of operations.

b. Religious support ensures coordination of chaplain-facilitated free exercise of religion through worship, religious and pastoral counseling services, ceremonial honors for the fallen, crisis intervention, and advice to the commander on religion, morals, ethics, morale, and well-being in the unit. Each Service maintains detailed guidance for RA personnel on providing religious support to Service members.

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c. Although both religious advisement and religious support are vital to the Joint Force, their focus and activities are distinct. The former requires seasoned and trained RA staff sections with the knowledge and background to understand complex religious issues and dynamics across culture. The latter is an internally focused effort directed at upholding the religious freedom and spiritual fitness of the Joint Force. As religious leaders in uniform, chaplains are uniquely suited for both roles.

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ENCLOSURE B

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS FUNCTIONS

1. RA personnel support the Joint Force through the following functions:

a. Advisement on Religious Dynamics. Analyzing religious themes, customs, motivations, trends, and activities is best accomplished with input from robust partnerships. Whenever possible, CCMD chaplains, working within their role as noncombatants, should engage with various interagency (IA) teams that share a focus on religious issues and awareness. Increased collaboration with nongovernmental organizations, faith-based organizations (FBOs), academic institutions, and various national-level religious organizations, groups, and individuals can also provide essential insight into religious issues and their potential impact on military operations

b. Coordination of RA Activities. Chaplains serve as principal advisors to commanders for all issues regarding religion's influence on military operations in accordance with reference c. They perform analysis of strategic-level religious dynamics within their operational area and coordinate efforts within the CCMD and components to enhance the understanding of these dynamics and their implications for military operations. CCMD RA personnel are aided in these activities by receiving regular reports from Service component RA personnel working in the same operational area, who provide insight on local and regional religious issues. They also receive reports from National Guard RA personnel working in State Partnership Programs (SPPs) with foreign militaries, who provide long-term access and insight into religious dynamics within specific nations.

c. Informing Engagement Strategies. As CCMD RA personnel build and maintain an aggregate awareness of religious dynamics at strategic, regional, and local levels within their operational area, they are in position to provide continuously evolving guidance on opportunities for future religious engagement. Such engagement, when coordinated across the staff and incorporated into the CCDR's broader engagement strategy, can serve to enhance understanding and good will, and undergird lasting partnerships.

d. Staff Integration. Growing understanding of relevant religious dynamics should be integrated into planning across the CCMD, to include the consideration of religious implications for both current and future operations and recommendations for training.

2. RA personnel provide coordination of religious support, concurrently ensuring and supervising such support as necessary to all authorized personnel consistent with established Service guidance.

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Enclosure B

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ENCLOSURE C

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

1. To foster greater awareness of global religious dynamics and religion's influence on military operations, leadership development should expand to include outcomes related to strategic RA.

a. Leadership Development for Commanders and Staff. It is essential that senior military leaders strengthen their appreciation for the variety of global national-level challenges and opportunities that religion presents in the development of multinational partnerships and joint military operations. Potential outcomes include:

(1) Appreciating the interplay between religious authority and civil authority in a variety of societies with high proportions of religious adherence.

(2) Understanding national security implications of current U.S. policy on International Religious Freedom.

(3) Insight into recent case studies of successful peacebuilding and/or anti-radicalization initiatives in global conflict areas in which religious actors played a leading role.

(4) Insight into recent case studies of the involvement and/or resistance of religious actors in global development initiatives during reconstruction after political violence.

b. Leadership Development for Religious Affairs Personnel. 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 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. Leadership development should include:

(1) Knowledge and Skill Development. The Services should prepare RA personnel to function capably as religious advisors at every echelon by providing regular and focused enrichment training in global religious literacy, sensitive engagement strategies that support joint operations without compromising the non-combatant status of chaplains, and U.S. policies and

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initiatives related to religion and diplomacy. To maintain relationships and stay current with trends within their own religious traditions, joint force chaplains are authorized to attend religious endorser-established training, seminars, or events as they would in a Service-specific billet. Commanders are authorized to provide travel and per diem for chaplain attendance at such events.

(2) Formal Education. Funded education opportunities for RA personnel to specialize in religious literacy, religion and culture, or religion and diplomacy are of great value to the joint force, as graduates of such programs are poised to serve as subject-matter experts in religious advisement both in their commands and among their peers. To the greatest extent possible, RA personnel receiving such education should have follow-on assignments that will allow them to leverage their knowledge and strengthen their expertise within the joint force.

(3) Religious Organization Training. Chaplains serving with the joint force may attend religious endorser-established training, seminars, or events as they would in a Service-specific billet. Commanders may provide travel and per diem for chaplain attendance at such events, in accordance with references e and f and Service policies.

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ENCLOSURE D

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Military Services. The Services will act upon the guidance of Enclosure C on leadership development and assignments for RA personnel.
2. Combatant Commanders. CCDRs are responsible for RA, in accordance with reference d. Throughout planning and execution, CCDRs and staffs should consider the possible impact of religion on military operations throughout the operational area and area of influence. CCDRs are encouraged to support the development of an RA section capable of accomplishing the functions outlined in this document.
3. National Guard Bureau. The Chief, NGB will ensure integration of SPP planning 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 Joint Staff Director for Joint Force Development, J-7 will manage methodology to consider topics nominated on the global and national-level challenges and issues related to religion for inclusion into Service and/or Joint professional military education as appropriate (see Enclosure C, paragraph 2).
 - b. The Director, Strategic Religious Affairs (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 leadership development outcomes 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 elements of the IA, FBOs, academic institutions, 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 1304.28, 12 May 2021, “The Appointment and Service of Chaplains”
- d. Joint Publication 1, Volume 2, 19 June 2020, “The Joint Force”
- e. DoD 7000.14-R, December 2021, “Financial Management Regulation”
- f. DoD Joint Travel Regulations, 1 January 2023

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. Title 10, U.S. Code
2. Joint Publication 3-83, 19 December 2022, “Religious Affairs in Joint Operations”
3. DoDI 1300.17, 1 September 2020, “Religious Liberty in the Military Services”
4. Geneva Conventions
5. DoDI 5111.20, 12 October 2016, “State Partnership Program (SPP)”
6. CJCSM 3130.03 Series, “Planning and Execution Formats and Guidance”
7. CJCSI 1800.01 Series, “Officer Professional Military Education Policy (OPMEP)”
8. CJCSM 3500.03 Series, “Joint Training Manual for the Armed Forces of the United States”
9. CJCSM 3500.04 Series, “Universal Joint Task Manual”
10. 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
CJCS	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
DoD	Department of Defense
FBO	faith-based organization
IA	interagency
JS	Joint Staff
NGB	National Guard Bureau
RA*	Religious Affairs
SPP	State Partnership Program

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PART II-DEFINITIONS

Religious advisement. The practice of informing the commander on the impact of religion on operations, to include worship, rituals, customs, and practices of U.S. military personnel, international forces, and the indigenous population, as well as the impact of military operations on the religious and humanitarian dynamics in the operational area. (JP 3-0)

Religious Affairs. The staff function with dual responsibility for advising the commander on the influence of religion on military operations and ensuring religious support per in accordance with Service guidance for authorized personnel. Also called RA.

Religious Support. Chaplain-facilitated free exercise of religion through worship, religious and pastoral counseling services, ceremonial honors for the fallen, individual and family intervention, and advice to the commander on ethical and moral issues and morale. Also called RS. (JP 3-0)

Religious support team. A team comprising of at least one chaplain and one enlisted religious affairs person. Also called RST. (JP 3-0)

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