



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE, AND SEVENTH ARMY  
THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
UNIT 29351  
APO AE 09014

AEACH-ZA

6 November 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: USAREUR Command Policy Letter 28, Accommodating Religious Needs

1. Reference AR 165-1, 27 February 1998, Chaplain Activities in the United States Army.
2. Chaplains are responsible for accommodating the religious needs of all personnel, regardless of their religious affiliation. Each individual must be provided the opportunity to practice his or her religious beliefs freely. Accommodation of a soldier's religious practices, however, must be examined against military necessity and cannot be guaranteed at all times.
3. Chaplains need not establish worship services to accommodate each religious affiliation. They may, however, help individuals grow through prayer and scriptural study, and provide literature that supports the individual's faith or denomination. Distinctive faith group leaders (DFGLs) also may provide ministry support as an exception to policy if a military chaplain is not available to meet the requirements of a distinctive faith group. Requests for distinctive faith group support should originate from soldiers.
  - a. AR 165-1 prescribes policy on DFGL certification, DFGL use of chapels, and guidelines for conducting distinctive faith group services. To request certification, DFGLs will send the information specified in AR 165-1, paragraph 5-5, to the area support group (ASG) chaplain. The ASG chaplain will review the request, prepare a recommendation, and forward both to the USAREUR Chaplain, the approval authority for DFGL certification in USAREUR.
  - b. DFGLs are authorized to conduct worship services, but may not establish a church, parish, congregation, or mission. DFGLs are not authorized to provide a full range of programs or activities normally expected in a civilian parish, church, or mission for a particular denomination or faith group (for example, youth ministry, religious education); nor are DFGLs authorized to assume control or management of military facilities.
4. Commanders usually can accommodate the religious needs of personnel in their command. If resources restrict the religious support that can be provided, accommodation may be limited to providing the essential elements of religious services required by a distinctive faith group, or by offering a broad or collective service that combines the needs of several distinctive faith groups.

  
MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS  
General, USA  
Commanding

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