



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 26TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP
UNIT 29237
APO AE 09102-9237

AEUSG-CH

15 August 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 26th ASG Command Policy Memorandum 4, Civilian Religious Leaders

1. References:

- a. AR 165-1, 26 May 2000, subject: Chaplain Activities in the United States Army.
- b. USAREUR MOI, 1 May 2001, subject: Distinctive Faith Group Leaders.

2. While the services of civilian religious leaders and organizations are valued for the contribution they make to quality of life in and around the various military communities of the 26th ASG their activities on a U.S. military installation fall under the prerogative of the command and must comply with all applicable U.S. public law, Status of Forces Agreements, and U.S. Army Regulations.

3. The 26th ASG Chaplain represents the command's interests in all religious matters, whether civilian or military. The 26th ASG Chaplain is delegated authority by the 26th ASG commander to grant access and/or support civilian religious organizations, insofar as that access or support is furnished from within the technical (BSB) channels supervised by the 26th ASG Chaplain. Access or support requiring additional command assets outside of chaplain resources will be coordinated by the 26th ASG Chaplain with other appropriate staff agencies, and submitted to command for approval. "Free exercise of religion," the military mission, established priorities, principles of equity and proportionality to the eligible population served will be the primary criteria in determining responses to requests for utilization of military religious facilities and resources.

4. Civilian religious leaders and organizations who wish to interact with U.S. military personnel and desire privileges on any U.S. Army installation should initiate liaison and coordinate such requests and activities with the 26th ASG Chaplain through the BSB Chaplain. Except by invitation from the 26th ASG Chaplain and/or as IMA-EUR-approved Distinctive Faith Group Leader (DFGL) civilian religious leaders are prohibited from performing ministry on a U.S. Army installation within the 26th ASG Area of Responsibility (AOR). Flyers, posters, and all other types of religious literature will not be distributed by civilian religious organizations in U.S. housing areas or on military installations of the 26th ASG.

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5. Civilian religious leaders are to establish liaison with the BSB Chaplains and cooperate in achieving mutual goals that will benefit the spiritual development of the total American population served. Ministry Teams of the 26th ASG will offer civilian religious leaders the following resources:

- a. Professional consultation over issues involving military personnel.
- b. Current listings and schedules of military chapel religious services.
- c. Professional coordination and liaison.

6. In the event of deployment and / or combat, the religious mission assumes increased importance. Voluntary support from civilian religious leaders and organizations contribute greatly to the ministry of chaplains and morale of soldiers in the past. Recent conflicts in Southwest Asia, the Balkans and other future contingencies will require a continued partnership. The 26th ASG Chaplain will screen all offers of help from civilian religious leaders and organizations.

7. The ASG Chaplain is responsible to the commander for the total religious program within the geographic footprint, to include the supervision of Distinctive Faith Group Leaders, volunteers, and religious private organizations. The goal is to provide the military community with a seamless, coordinated, quality religious support program.

8. Point of contact for this policy is the 26th ASG Chaplain, DSN 379-6190.

/s/

ROBERT C. RUSH, JR

Colonel, IN

Commanding

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