



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORRECTIONS COMMAND
150 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0150

DAPM-ACC

POLICY LETTER # 25

MAY 13 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: ACC Policy Letter # 25 Chaplain Policy

1. Army Corrections System (ACS) Facility Commanders will develop procedures, and provide religious support where prisoners have the opportunity to participate in practices of their faith deemed essential by the faith's judicatory. Practices of religious faith must not cause disruption to the order and discipline within the institution and/or pose a threat to the safety of persons involved. Commanders will ensure prisoners are not subjected to coercion, harassment, or ridicule due to religious affiliation. Commanders will provide accessibility of staff chaplains to all areas of the facility to minister to prisoners and staff.
2. The senior facility chaplain is the commander's staff officer responsible for performing or providing opportunity for religious faith practices for prisoners. The chaplain plans, directs, and coordinates all aspects of the religious program, including approval and the training of both lay and clergy volunteers from faiths represented by the prisoner population. The garrison chaplain is responsible for performing or providing religious opportunities for religious practices and pastoral care at ACS facilities without a Unit Ministry Team. Chaplains assigned to an authorized ACS facility position must have completed four quarters of clinical pastoral education. Annually, the ACS facility chaplain submits a Command Master Religious Program (CMRP) to the Commander for signature/approval. The ACS facility chaplain forwards the CMRP to the garrison chaplain.
3. Consistent with the overarching requirements to maintain the safety and security of the facility, the ACS Facility Commander will ensure the availability of religious program information to prisoners; provide access to approved publications related to religious beliefs and practices; and allow the observance of authorized diets, holy day ceremonies, and authorized religious communal sacramental rites. Commanders will provide prisoners the ability to identify religious preference upon entering the system and provide a process where the religious preference may be changed. Commanders will allow for the possession of authorized religious symbols and/or items essential for faith. Confidential communication is protected communication. It is any communication given to a Chaplain in trust by an individual, to include Enemy Prisoner of War (EPW), if such communication is made either as a formal act of religion or as a matter of conscience. It is a communication not intended to be disclosed to third party persons in any context, legal, or otherwise.
4. Commanders will make religious provisions for other than major faith groups as resources allow and address opportunities to practice one's faith individually and corporately as authorized. When a religious leader of a prisoner's faith is not represented

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through the chaplaincy staff or volunteers, the chaplain will assist the prisoner in contacting such a person. That person must have the appropriate credentials from the faith's judicatory and may minister to the prisoner under the supervision of the chaplain. Clergy/spiritual advisor visitation occur through established visiting procedures and the use of community resources; to include the use of religious volunteers, consistent with the safety and security of the facility.

4. Commanders will ensure adequate space and equipment are available for the conduct and administration of religious practices. Chaplains will ensure the distribution of resources among faith groups authorized to meet are commensurate with representation within the population, to include the use of religious facilities and equipment. The facility will provide for the availability of non-prisoner clerical staff for confidential materials. The facility commander or designee develops and maintains communications with faith communities and approves donations of equipment or materials for use in religious programs.

6. This policy letter will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

7. Point of contact for this policy is PP Corrections Program Specialist, 703-428-7705/DSN 328-7705.

PP

COL, MP
Commanding

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