DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 19TH THEATER SUPPORT COMMAND
UNIT #15015
APO AP 96218-5015

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

EANC-CH

11 MAR 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Policy Letter #54 - Religious Support

1. References:

a. Army Regulation 165-1, 25 Mar 2004, Chaplain Activities in the United States Army

b. DA Pam 165-18, 21 Jan 2000, Chaplaincy Resources Management

2. Spiritual fitness is essential to a Soldier's overall well being and readiness. Title 10 of our US Code guarantees the free exercise of religion and mandates that Chaplains (as the Commander's Special Staff) perform or provide Religious Support (RS) to all Soldiers and authorized civilians. Chaplains within the 19th Theater Support Command (TSC) will use the Command Master Religious Plan (CMRP) to plan and implement this support.

3. It is important that commanders be involved in the CMRP development by establishing priorities based on their vision, mission, demographics, location and unique requirements.

4. Funding for CMRP based programs is obtained from two sources: Appropriated Funds and Non-Appropriated Funds (collections). Authorized uses of Appropriated Funds in support of RS programs is governed by AR 165-1. Chaplains request Appropriated Funds through their assigned unit commander to fund routine RS. Routine RS includes such events as worship services, Bible studies, spiritual fitness training, single Soldier programs and one day spiritual/morale-building events.

5. There is no formula or per person calculation to determine what is the right amount of Appropriated Funds to allocate to a RS program out of available mission funds. However, in that Appropriated Funds are tax payer dollars, care should be taken to ensure that such funds allocated by commanders to their CMRP/RS programs are spent wisely and in the best interest and support of the maximum number of Soldiers and authorized civilians in their commands. TDY and per diem rates may serve as a starting point for determining a per person, per day expenditure.

6. Equitable support is essential to avoid any perception of favored persons, denominations or groups. All interested Soldiers should have equal access to RS programs funded with Appropriated Funds and run under the umbrella of authorized CMRP activities. In addition to the equitability of support, commanders must ensure that the expenditures of Appropriated Funds adhere both to the governing regulation(s) and would withstand the scrutiny of an audit by the tax payer. RS programs that would use large portions of available funds that benefit only a fraction of the served population must be carefully reviewed. High cost off-sites or other expensive programs should be challenged and avoided, or means to reduce costs explored.

7. The point of contact is the 19th TSC Command Chaplain at 768-6902.

TEAM 19!

TIMOTHY P. McHALE
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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