



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAY 20 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Updated Religious Affiliation Codes

This memorandum directs the implementation of updated and consolidated Religious Affiliation Codes across the DoW, as directed by the Secretary of War. This action will streamline the DoW collection of religious preferences selection for Service members to enhance the delivery of targeted religious support from the Chaplaincy. The attached list of "Religious Affiliation Codes" replaces the DoW's previous "Faith and Belief Codes" and will be used exclusively to inform DoW's provision of religious support activities.

The new "Religious Affiliation Codes" list will provide chaplains with clear, readily available information that will better enable them to anticipate the religious support needs of Service members and to provide religious support activities that align with Service members' personal faith and practices. Service members will not be limited to the list of "Religious Affiliation Codes" when selecting information to place on their identification tags (i.e., "dog tags").

The Director, Defense Human Resources Activity, and Director, Defense Manpower Data Center, must execute all necessary system changes to replace the previous "Faith and Belief Codes" with the newly approved "Religious Affiliation Codes" within 60 days of the date of this memorandum.

To ensure consistent implementation, the Secretaries of the Military Departments must convert personnel systems and provide this office with a process for updating the personnel records of all current Service members no later than 15 days from the date of this memorandum. My office retains sole authority to make changes to the Religious Affiliation Codes listing.

My point of contact for this memorandum is Chaplain David Wake, Executive Director of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board, at david.e.wake.mil@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony J. Tata".

Anthony J. Tata

Attachment:
As stated

RAC**Religious Faith**

AN	Agnostic
BH	Baha'i faith
BU	Buddhism
AG	Christian - Assemblies of God
BA	Christian - Baptist
BR	Christian - Brethren
CA	Christian - Catholic
CC	Christian - Church of Christ
CG	Christian - Church of God
CN	Christian - Church of the Nazarene
EA	Christian - Episcopal/Anglican
EV	Christian - Evangelical
JW	Christian - Jehovah's Witnesses
LU	Christian - Lutheran
ME	Christian - Methodist
ND	Christian - Non Denominational
OX	Christian - Orthodox
CO	Christian - Other
PE	Christian - Pentecostal
PR	Christian - Presbyterian
QU	Christian - Quaker
RE	Christian - Reformed
SC	Christian - Scientist
SA	Christian - Seventh Day Adventist
CJ	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
HI	Hindu
IS	Islam (Muslim)
JU	Judaism (Jewish)
NR	No Religion
OR	Other Religions
SI	Sikh