



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](mailto:david.e.wake.mil@mail.mil).



Anthony S. Tata

Attachment:  
As stated

**RAC****Religious Faith**

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