



U.S. AIR FORCE

# *The Commander & Religion*

## *Communication Card*

*POCs: AF/HC, AF/JA and SAF/PA*



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### Intent

This card is provided to assist Wing Commanders and senior enlisted leaders with questions involving religious freedoms or government neutrality toward religion.

### Talking Points

- The Air Force is dedicated to creating an environment in which people can realize their highest potential regardless of their personal religious or other beliefs. Mutual respect is an essential part of Air Force culture.
- The Air Force Chaplain Corps advises leaders on matters related to religious, spiritual, ethical, moral, and morale concerns and advocates for the religious and spiritual needs of Airmen and their families.
- The Air Force Judge Advocate General advises Air Force leaders on all legal matters related to religion including First Amendment issues, statutory requirements, DoD regulations, and Air Force standards.
- The Air Force thoroughly reviews all instances in which the Air Force's neutrality toward religion is questioned.
- Voluntary discussions of religion are permissible, even if conducted in uniform, where it is reasonably clear that the discussions are personal, not official, and they are free of coercion or the appearance of coercion.

### Checklist

- **Don't rush to judgment.**  
Very few situations in which questions are raised about the Air Force's neutrality toward religion are emergencies.
- **Assure parties involved you and your leadership team will consider the issue seriously and deliberately.**
- **Inform HHQ.**  
Report the situation up the chain of command, as appropriate.
- **Gather Information.**  
Get the facts surrounding the issue and document them.
- **Consult with your SMEs and determine possible COAs.**  
Wing Commanders should speak with their Wing Chaplains and Staff Judge Advocates first. If more input is needed, then you and/or your Wing Chaplain and Staff Judge Advocate may also consult with your MAJCOM/HC, JA, PA. The MAJCOM staff may choose to consult with AF/HC, AF/JA and SAF/PA offices.  
\*\*\* If a Wing Commander needs immediate Air Staff assistance, call the Religious Freedoms points of contact (numbers below).
- **Decide on a COA.**  
After you understand the facts and have consulted with your SMEs, make your decision.