

## 2401-ADMN-1002 Religions/Practices Brief

### TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S):

1. Given a requirement. **Deliver a local religions/practices brief to advise a Commander of potential impacts to the mission.** (2401-ADMN-1002)

### ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S):

1. Without the aid of references, given a list, research resources, a requirement to prepare a brief, and an identified Area of Operations (AOR), **research the religious practices and traditions in a given area of operations**, per the student handout. (2401-ADMN-1002a)
2. Without the aid of references, given a list, research resources, a requirement to prepare a brief, and an identified Area of Operations (AOR), **prepare a brief**, per the student handout. (2401-ADMN-1002b)
3. Without the aid of references, given a list, research resources, a requirement to prepare a brief, and an identified Area of Operations (AOR), **assist in delivery of the brief**, per the student handout. (2401-ADMN-1002c)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

When commands are forward deployed, conducting training on foreign soil or engaged in operation with and/or against foreign forces, religious practices of host nationals, indigenous persons, allied forces, and enemy forces may impact on planning and execution of operations. The RMT's knowledge of the religious requirements and practices of various religions and cultures is an important source of information for commanders. Chaplains advise commanders and/or provide information and insights about the impact and consequences of the force's interaction with indigenous persons and help clarify certain aspects of the religion and culture of the area of responsibility.

This understanding may be crucial to an operation or exercise. The RMT is responsible for including this information in the religious ministry plan section of the OPLAN/OPORD (Appendix 6 of Annex E) and/or contributing to the staff estimates in the Marine Corps Planning Process. Chaplains should be careful when providing information in direct support of combat as not to assume a position of intelligence gathering and therefore enter into the realm of the combatant. With that concern in mind, it would be appropriate for the RP to work with the S-2 section to do most of the research with guidance from the chaplain.

2. **RESEARCH SOURCES** – The RMT may have helpful books or CD-ROM for the preparation of these briefs. Other sources could include:
  - a. DOD Country Handbooks – Work with the unit S-2 to secure copies for the required country.
  - b. Chaplain Corps resources – The Chaplain Corps library on NKO has some resources that may be helpful.
  - c. Internet – Recommended sites for research are the Library of Congress, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html> or simply <http://countrystudies.us/>.

## 3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- a. To guide your research and focus your brief, refer to JP 1-05, Appendix A, "Guide to Advising on Religions." This guide is reprinted here.

## GUIDE TO ADVISING ON RELIGIONS

AREAS OF CONCERN	SPECIFIC INFORMATION
Religions in the Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Organized</li> <li>● Unorganized</li> <li>● Relations between religions and religious leaders, both indigenous and missionary</li> </ul>
Clergy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number, locations, and education of clergy</li> <li>● Influence on government and populace</li> </ul>
Religious Beliefs	<p>Major tenets of each religion, to include such concepts as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Faith</li> <li>● Impact of faith on life</li> <li>● Significant dates</li> <li>● Concepts of salvation and hereafter</li> <li>● Ceremonies and practices associated with death and burial</li> <li>● Rites of cleaning and purification</li> <li>● Degree of religious conviction in lives of indigenous populace</li> </ul>
Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Forms of worship</li> <li>● Places of worship</li> <li>● Frequency of worship</li> <li>● Significance of worship</li> </ul>
Relationship Between Religion and Motivation of Indigenous People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strength of religious sentiment</li> <li>● Influence of religion on daily life</li> </ul>
Relationship Between Religion and Trans-Cultural Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attitudes toward people of other races and cultures</li> <li>● Acceptable kinds of social interaction</li> </ul>
Socio-Economic Influence of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Influence of religious leaders</li> <li>● Influence of religion on society</li> <li>● Economic influence of religion</li> <li>● Religious ownership of property and other possessions</li> <li>● Teachings of religion about private property</li> <li>● Relationship of religious leaders to economic leaders</li> </ul>
Relations with Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Relationship of religious leaders to government officials</li> <li>● Role of religion and religious leaders in armed forces</li> <li>● Political influence of religious leaders</li> </ul>
Religious Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Location, size, and attendance</li> <li>● Influence</li> <li>● Relationship to nonreligious schools</li> </ul>

- b. Another guide for your research is found in the Religious Ministry Team Handbook, MCRP 6-12A, Appendix B. Those questions are reprinted on the following pages.

### **Religious Area Survey**

**Date Prepared:**

**Country: Country**

**Regional Area: Province/City**

**Religious Group:**

**Prepared By: Name, DSN telephone**

#### **Holy Days, Rituals, and Customs**

*(1) What holy days and/or festivals may impact military operations?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(2) What are important religious “do’s and don’ts” to observe?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(3) What are dietary restrictions?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(4) What are the group’s distinctive symbols?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(5) What are the nature, frequency, and traits of worship?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(6) What are appropriate protocols for issues related to birth/marriage/death?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

### **Sites and Shrines**

*(1) What are the places of worship, pilgrimage, and memorial sites? Why?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(2) Where are the cemeteries and what is the character of their make-up?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(3) What are distinctive identifying characteristics (architecture, symbols, etc.)?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

### **Primary Values**

*(1) What are they willing to die for?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(2) What subjects incite an emotional response?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(3) What behaviors does the group reward? What are punished?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(4) What value is placed on women, children, ancestors, certain animals or objects?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

## **Leadership**

*(1) Who are the religious leaders (official and unofficial)?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(2) Do the religious leaders have an impact on the armed forces?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(3) What political influence do religious leaders have?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(4) What is the relationship of religious leaders to government officials?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(5) What do religious leaders wear to symbolize their position?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(6) How many leaders are there and where are they located?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(7) What are the leaders titles?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(8) How are leaders selected and trained?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

### **Tolerance/Religious Intensity**

*(1) What is the religious commitment in this group? Nominal (in name only).*

*Mild. Strong. Radical/Fanatical.*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(2) How tolerant is the group to other parties?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(3) How accepting are they of conversion of their members to other groups?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(4) How are members disciplined?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(5) Can others join and quit the group easily?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(6) How are competing groups viewed and received?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

### **Relationship to Society**

*(1) How does this society relate to the religious group? Stamp out the group.*

*Contain the group. Assimilate (absorb) the group. Share power with the group. Promote pluralism with this group.*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(2) How is this group viewed? Religious group. Secret society. Protest movement. Political party.*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(3) Does the group have a distinct subculture or communal life?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(4) How does the group seek to influence society?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(5) How do they use media resources?*

Answer:

*Issues?*



## **Organization**

*(1) What cell-like groups are present?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(2) What is the nature of hierarchy within the movement?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(3) What are the centers of learning?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

## **Doctrine/Myths**

*(1) What is/are the sources of doctrinal authority?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(2) What is/are the sources of ethics?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(3) What are their concepts of justice?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(4) What are their concepts of reward?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(5) Who are the heroes and villains? Rivalries (past, present, future)?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

### **History/Background**

*(1) What larger group is the group related to?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(2) What makes this group distinctive from the larger group?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

*(3) When did this group come into the area?*

Answer:

*Issues?*

### **References:**

Religious Ministry Support for Joint Operations, Joint Publication 1-05  
Religious Ministry Team Handbook, MCRP 6-12A