



# Religious Accommodation

TASK: Discuss the topic of Religious Accommodation

CONDITIONS: Given an environment that fosters learning, discuss the topic of religious accommodation

STANDARDS: Understand why religious accommodation is important to the Army profession.

REFERENCE(S): AR 600-20; DoDI 1300.17



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"Unless it could have an adverse impact on military readiness, unit cohesion, and good order and discipline, the Military Departments will accommodate individual expressions of sincerely held beliefs (conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs) of Service members in accordance with the policies and procedures in this instruction." (DoDI) 1300.17

## Categories of Religious Accommodation:

1. Worship practices
2. Dietary practices
3. Medical practices
4. Wear and appearance of the uniform
5. Grooming practices



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1. The Army values and supports the rights of Soldiers to freely worship according to the principles of one's faith unless it interferes with readiness, cohesion and good order and discipline.
  
2. Some religious accommodations that can typically be made in a garrison environment?
  - a. Time off work to attend a worship service
  - b. Wearing a religious article under one's uniform
  - c. Providing food options that do not include pork



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3. What are examples of religious accommodations that may not be able to be made? Why could there be solid grounds for denying these requests?

a. Wearing a turban could make it difficult to don combat gear.

b. A beard could prevent a gas mask from forming a protective seal with the wearer's face.

4. All requests for religious accommodation are to be handled on a case-by-case basis. Commanders will approve/disapprove requests for religious accommodation, AR 600-20, 5-6, f.