DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
15TH REGIMENTAL SIGNAL BRIGADE
606 BARNES AVENUE
FORT GORDON, GEORGIA 30905-5729

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATZH-TB

4 September 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Policy Letter #13: Accommodating Religious Practices

1. References:

a. AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 18 March 2008/RAR 4 August 2011.

b. TRADOC Regulation 350-6, Enlisted Initial Entry Training (IET) Policies and Administration, Chapter 3-13, 19 July 2012.

c. Memorandum, ATZH-TB, 30 August 2012, subject: Policy Letter #17: Privileges and Limitations for Soldiers in Training.

2. The purpose is to provide command guidance regarding accommodating religious practices for Soldiers in training assigned to the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade.

3. The Army places a high value on the rights of its Soldiers to observe tenets of their respective religious faiths. The Army will approve requests for accommodation of religious practices unless accommodation will have an adverse impact on unit readiness, individual readiness, unit cohesion, morale, discipline, safety, and/or health. As used in the regulation, these factors shall be referred to individually and collectively as "military necessity" unless otherwise stated. Accommodation of a Soldier's religious practices must be examined against military necessity and cannot be guaranteed at all times.

a. All Soldiers to the fullest possible extent should be allowed to practice their religious faith, IAW their mission requirements.

b. Military Occupational Specialty-Initial (MOS-I) Soldiers: Soldiers must request/coordinate with chain of command to attend worship services or religious events. If no other person of that faith group is within that battalion, the Soldier should coordinate with their chain of command to find a Battle Buddy within the Brigade of that same faith group to attend the same worship service or religious event. If no other person of that faith group is within the Brigade, the duty van and NCO can transport Soldier(s) to and from the religious event.

c. Phase V and V+ Soldiers are authorized to attend off-post worship events on special occasions, to include concerts, conferences, holy day celebrations. Events will not routinely cause a soldier to miss training

d. Local churches are not authorized to pick up Soldiers in Training in Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs). Soldiers are not authorized to ride in a POV in order to attend religious events/activities. If a local church or religious organization has its own vehicle (i.e. bus, van) that is considered its organizational property, Soldiers may ride with at least two Battle Buddies to that event.

4. The point of contact for this memorandum is the Brigade Chaplain at (706) 791-4321.

STEPHEN A. ELLE
COL, SC
Commanding