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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORATE FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND SECURITY REVIEW
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

23 MAY 2002

Ref: 02-F-1318

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of June 13, 2001, to the Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Army. Your request was referred to this Directorate from the Army and received on May 15, 2002.

The enclosed documents are provided as responsive to your request. There are no assessable fees for this response in this instance.

Sincerely,


H. J. McIntyre
Director

Enclosures:
As stated



RELIGIOUS CODE CHANGE BACKGROUND

A memorandum from DACH-PPZ, to Executive Director of the AFCB, 23 SEP 92, requested DOD Data Element Codes for Religious Denominations be updated (TAB 1). Last unified update was 1979. Services have been updating codes independently. DOD requires one set of codes. "The importance of having valid denominational data codes, and a system that allows the individual service member the opportunity to correctly identify and code his or her religious preference cannot be overstated." Efforts for standardization and revision have proved futile since 1981.

Efforts since 1992 involved a study group of representatives from all three services which produced a two digit revision of the codes. This revision placed certain religious denominations into categories, i.e. all Jewish denominations were classified as JJ, for Jewish.

When Kimberly Brown, a management analyst for the Defense Manpower Data Center, received the denomination/religion list she was tasked to marry it with a faith group list that she was given.

Sentiment on the APR 97 AFCB leaned toward showing no bias in coding. Faith grouping and limited alphabetic coding tend toward some form of bias. The data list once developed would require an exhaustive list of denominations/religions in order to help new personnel know what category that they were in. Even this would not allow an individual to correctly identify and code his or her religious preference since they were being grouped with others.

Code Authority: Title 10, Chapters 13 (exemption from serving combatant duty) and 45 (the wear of religious apparel in uniform) These references refer to the legal reasons for having religious codes and justify the need for more specific data coding.

Mike Monteleon, Functional Data Administrator, ⁷⁰²696-8710

To change coding **ALL** that is required is a one page memo explaining what we want. He said that no one in his office was willing to turn down the chaplains. 90-120 days for change to reach personnel departments. One day for random generation of numbers to denominations. Elaine Sellman at DMDC East, 696-6756, is the contact for the random generation. Monthly updates to the denomination list can be made by Mike's office.

If there is an acceptable source for getting the denominational/religion list then that source can be cited as the standard in the DOD regulations. Even better would be a list that was already numerically coded.

Summary:

Change the Standard Data Element Maximum Character Count Quantity from 2 to 4

Change the Domain Definition Text from ASCII characters A-Z to numeric 0-9.

Produce a random generation of number codes for denominations/religions with a range of 1000-9999. Update list periodically and review coding policy every five years.

MINUTES
OF THE
TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOURTH MEETING
OF THE ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD

April 17, 1997

D. REVIEW OF AFCB ADVISORY GROUPS MINUTES

1. Personnel Advisory Group (PAG)

d. Religious Denomination Code Conversion Project. The AFCB concurs with the PAG assessment and directs the PAG to accomplish the following:

- Identify and devise the ways/means to provide a listing of all religious denominations & faith groups, which will ensure at a minimum the following criteria:

- Comprehensive listing of all religious preferences.
- Allow for additions/deletions as necessary.
- Provide for "self-determination" of the individual Service member when surveyed as to faith preference.
- Ensure no construct is devised which would intentionally or unintentionally assign value or prominence among or within denominations and faith groups.

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MINUTES OF THE
PERSONNEL ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)
ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD (AFCB)

March 20, 1997

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION CODE CONVERSION PROJECT

e. Since 1990, a tasking has been worked in an effort to develop a uniform, comprehensive/inclusive system of classifying religious preference of military personnel. With denominational mergers and name changes, and a myriad of religious faith groups coming into existence, the current and prior systems of classification of officer/enlisted personnel of the military services proved inadequate. Therefore, the Defense Manpower Data Center has proposed a new codification system for review and approval.

Recommendation: Further work is required, especially in the following areas:

(1) The proposed system requires a glossary in order to place and/or locate an individual preference which may be subsumed under a "family" or "group" of religious/faith bodies, rather than specific denominational identification.

- The Air Force expressed the opinion that the proposed "family/group" designators, compared to religious denomination codes, will add little value and result in additional confusion. The religious denomination codes need to be "cleaned up" and uniformity added.

(2) An implementation strategy hasn't been formulated for incorporating the new system into the military services, e.g. directive/instruction, and the necessary training for its successful incorporation.

DISTRIBUTION ROOM/BOX NUMBER: DDRS

DEFENSE DATA REPOSITORY SYSTEM

DATE: 95/12/1

DOMAIN VALUES BY ELEMENT NAME REPORT

ELEMENT NAME: FAITH-GROUP CODE

DOMAIN VALUE ID	DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION TEXT
AC	Advent Christian Church
AJ	Jehovah's Witnesses
AN	Native American
AS	Seventh Day Adventist
AV	Adventist Churches
BA	American Baptist Churches in the USA
BB	Baptish Churches
BC	Southern Baptist Convention
BF	Free Will Baptist Churches
BG	General Association of General Baptists
BN	National Baptist Convention of America
BP	Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
BR	General Association of Regular Baptist Churches
BU	National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.
CC	Catholic Churches
CR	Roman Catholic Church
DD	Latter Day Saints
DL	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
DR	Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints
EA	Anglican Catholic Church
EC	Episcopal Church
EE	Episcopal Churches
ER	Reformed Episcopal Church
FB	Independent Fundamental Bible Churches
FC	Independent Fundamental Churches of America
FF	Fundamentalist Churches
FG	Associated Gospel Churches

GC	Christian Church and Churches of Christ
GE	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
GG	Restorationist Churches
GX	Church of Christ
HA	Church of God (Anderson, IN)
HC	Churches of Christ in Christian Union
HH	Holiness Churches
HN	Church of the Nazarene
HS	Salvation Army
II	Islam
JJ	Judaism
KB	Buddhism
KF	Baha'i Faith
KH	Hinduism
KK	Eastern Religions
LE	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
LL	Lutheran Churches
LM	Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
MC	Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
ME	African Methodist Episcopal Church
MM	Methodist Churches
MN	Free Methodist Church of North America
MR	Moravian Churches
MU	United Methodist Church
MW	Wesleyan Church
MZ	African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
OE	Eastern Orthodox Churches
OO	Orthodox Churches
PA	Assemblies of God
PC	Church of God in Christ
PD	Full Gospel
PF	International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
PG	Church of God of Prophecy
PH	Pentecostal Holiness Church, International
PJ	Pentecostal Church of God
PP	Pentecostal Churches
PT	Church of God (Cleveland, TN)
PU	United Pentecostal Church International

QB	Brethren Churches
QF	Friends
QQ	European-Free Churches
QS	Schwenkfelder Churches
RB	Cumberland Presbyterian Church
RC	Congregational Churches
RD	Christian Reformed Church in North America
RF	Reformed Church in America
RG	Churches of God, General Conference
RI	Presbyterian Church in America
RP	Presbyterian Church (USA)
RR	Reformed and Presbyterian Churches
RU	United Church of Christ
SC	First Church of Christ, Scientist
SS	Christian Science
UA	Unitarian Universalist Association
UU	Unitarian Churches
VB	Plymouth Brethren
VE	Evangelical Covenant Church
VF	Evangelical Free Church of America
VM	Christian and Missionary Alliance
VV	Evangelical Churches
XC	Iglesia Ni Christo
XJ	Churches of the New Jerusalem
XN	New Age Churches
XX	Unclassified Religions
YY	Magick and Spiritualist
ZA	Atheist
ZB	Agnostic

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MINUTES
OF THE
TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-SECOND MEETING
OF THE ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD

FEBRUARY 23, 1994

E. MINUTES/RECOMMENDATIONS OF AFCB ADVISORY GROUPS:

2. Personnel Advisory Group (PAG)

c. The AFCB accepted the recommendation that the religious codes be referred to DoD and implemented when DoD standardizes new personnel forms. The AFCB did not accept the recommendation that a copy of the codes be sent to the endorsers for comment or concurrence.

**MINUTES OF THE
PERSONNEL ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)
ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD (AFCB)**

14 February 1994

e. DoD Religious Code listing.

DISCUSSION:

PAG members reported that their services say implementation of the new data code listing is too expensive. There is consensus that it will be implemented only if and when directed by DoD.

RECOMMENDATION:

The PAG recommends that Chaplain Keizer refer the matter to DoD, and that a copy of the proposed list be sent to each endorser for review and concurrence or comment.



OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000



May 12, 1993

Mr. Ronald B. Precht
Director
Baha'i Office of Public Information
536 Sheridan Road
Wilmette, IL 60091


Dear Mr. Precht:

Thank you for your letter of April 28, 1993, reference the new Religious Denomination Data Code of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board.

Any classification of religious groups makes for difficulties. The committee which established the codes used as a basis for their work the Encyclopedia of American Religions by Dr. J. Gordon Melton. We used this work because Dr. Melton, in his compilation methods, dialogues extensively with the religious bodies listed. Dr. Melton lists Baha'i under the title Middle Eastern Family Part II. Islam is listed in that section. In Middle Eastern Family Part I, Dr. Melton lists Judaism.

We tried to remain as true to his categories as possible. I think that our efforts place you in the proper listing. Thanks for your interest in these codes.

Sincerely,


Herman Keizer, Jr.
Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army
Executive Director
Armed Forces Chaplains Board

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BAHA'I OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

556 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois 60091 • (708) 869-9039

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICE OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

April 28, 1993

Chaplain Herman Keizer, Jr.
Executive Director
Armed Forces Chaplains Board
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

Dear Chaplain Keizer:

Thank you for your letter of March 25 regarding the new Religious Denomination Data Code of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board. We are happy to learn that the Baha'i Faith will be given a specific code designation.

We are not aware of how other religions are classified under the new code. However, we are concerned about listing the Baha'i Faith under the major heading of Eastern Religions. The Baha'i Faith is a world religion which traces its theological heritage to Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. If it is to be classified as Eastern or Western, it should be considered in the Judeo-Christian-Islamic lineage.

We respectfully request that the Chaplains Board review the listing to ensure that the nature and character of the Baha'i Faith are not misunderstood by the U.S. Armed Forces.

Thank you for your efforts to accurately designate the Baha'i Faith and its adherents who serve in the Armed Forces.

Sincerely,



Ronald B. Precht
Director



THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

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March 25, 1993

FORCE MANAGEMENT
AND PERSONNEL

Mr. Ronald B. Precht
Director
Baha'i Office of Public Information
536 Sheridan Road
Wilmette, IL 60091

Dear Mr. Precht:

The Armed Forces Chaplains Board has approved a new Religious Denomination Data Code for use in the Department of Defense. The Department of Defense is in the process of reviewing code standardization. That review should be completed soon and the new codes will then be used by the services.

The Baha'i Faith will be listed under the major heading of Eastern Religions and will be designated by the letters KF.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herman Keizer, Jr.".

Herman Keizer, Jr.
Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army
Executive Director
Armed Forces Chaplains Board

BAHA'I OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois 60091 • (708) 869-9039

9A

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

18 March 1993

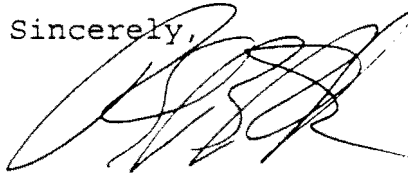
Executive Director
The Armed Forces Chaplains Board
OASD (FMP) MMPP-AFCB
Room 3D322, the Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-4000

Dear Sir:

We recently learned that a Department of Defense committee is working on a revision to faith group codings that will include the Baha'i Faith.

We are very interested in learning whether the new code identifier for the Baha'i Faith has been approved by the Department of Defense. If changes have not been made and you require additional information, please contact our office and we will provide whatever material you need.

Sincerely,



Ronald B. Precht
Director

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MINUTES
OF THE
TWO HUNDRED FIFTIETH MEETING
OF
THE ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD

OCTOBER 13, 1992

2. The Personnel Advisory Group (PAG)

b. Reference 3.a., Report on Denomination Data Codes, the DoD Denomination Data Codes have been forwarded.

MINUTES
OF THE
PERSONNEL ADVISORY GROUP
ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD

17 SEPTEMBER 1992

3. Old Business:

a. Report on Denomination Data Codes

Chaplain Keizer reported that the AFCB failed to see the utilization of these codes and deemed them too complicated. He also noted that there is a current study by DOD growing out of DS/DS concerning constructing a data retrieval system for rations growing out of specific religious needs.

RECOMMENDATION: To table the issue until more information can be established.

MINUTES
OF THE
TWO HUNDRED FORTY-NINTH MEETING
OF
THE ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD

SEPTEMBER 29, 1992

2. The Personnel Advisory Group (PAG)

Items of Discussion

4. Item 4 - The AFCB approved further staffing and implementation of the New Religious Data Codes by DoD.

MINUTES
OF THE
TWO HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING
OF
THE ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD

AUGUST 11, 1992

2. The Personnel Advisory Group (PAG)

Items for Discussion:

5. Proposed New Religious Codes. The proposed new religious codes recommended by the Personnel Advisory Group were reviewed by the AFCB. Ch Keizer informed the AFCB that DoD was in the process of redoing all the manuals dealing with standardization and codes and that Elaine Sellman, the responsible action officer, was going to discuss with him the new direction on August 17, 1992. The AFCB members raised several concerns about the codes: Why so complicated? What do we need the data for? Who other than chaplains may need the data? The AFCB directed Ch Keizer and the PAG to determine why we need more categories than Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, Islamic, and No Preference?

MINUTES
OF THE
PERSONNEL ADVISORY GROUP
ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD

22 MAY 1992

3. Old Business:

a. REVISION OF DOD RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONAL DATA CODES

DISCUSSION: The PAG reviewed the draft of the revised DOD Religious Denominational Data Code list prepared by Chaplain Withee. Several recommendations were offered for additional research and revision. A second draft, incorporating these new changes, will be reviewed at the PAG's next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: None at this time.

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MINUTES
OF THE
PERSONNEL ADVISORY GROUP
ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD

30 APRIL 1992

c. REPORT OF THE DENOMINATIONAL CODE STUDY GROUP

DISCUSSION: Chaplain Withee and members of his group studying the issue of a unified religious coding system for the military services provided an informal presentation on their work to the PAG. Their preliminary proposal is that two coding systems will be needed: 1) a general code for military personnel; and 2) a more specific code to identify the faith group of each chaplain. The study group will continue its work and will hope to produce a workable system within the next couple months.

RECOMMENDATION: None at this time.

MINUTES
OF THE
TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-THIRD MEETING
OF
THE ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD

JUNE 27, 1990

5. The Personnel Advisory Group (PAG)

g. The Board was delighted with the progress made by the working group on coding and standardization of religious faith groups. Efforts should be made to develop common data standards for the three Military Departments.

MINUTES
OF THE
PERSONNEL ADVISORY GROUP
ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS BOARD

13 March 1990

d. CODING AND STANDARDIZATION OF RELIGIOUS FAITH GROUPS.

DISCUSSION: A committee has been looking at Religious Denominational Data Standards for the past several months. Differences between the Services need to be resolved so that common data standards can be used. The committee feels that all codes ought to be alpha codes.

RECOMMENDATION: That the working group continue its efforts to develop and implement standard codes.