

GROUP 1

WORKSHOP OUTPUT AMI GENERAL ASSEMBLY & CONFERENCE 2011

DAY 3

GUIDE QUESTIONS

- Does your Armed Forces have programs that promote interfaith dialogue and mutual respect?
- What problems does your armed forces encounter in promoting interfaith dialogue and how are these addressed?*
- In what ways are your militaries engaged in promoting respect and tolerance among all faiths in your larger societies?

ARMED FORCES PROGRAM THAT PROMOTES INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND MUTUAL RESPECT

- In Europe, emphasis is more on cultural awareness and understanding
- Programs for interfaith dialogue are initiated by the chaplains and not by the armed forces (also in preparation for peacekeeping missions)
 - In Austria: (1) Chaplaincy for all religious denominations (e.g. Muslims, Jews) (2) Distributed in other parts of the country (3) Provide seminars, but no official programs in the armed forces. Cultural awareness programs for soldiers, especially those to be deployed abroad

ARMED FORCES PROGRAM THAT PROMOTES INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND MUTUAL RESPECT

- In Belgium: No specific program for different faiths, but organize cultural awareness activities, such as for Muslims. Public discussion to remove all holidays with religious background.
- In the Netherlands: Education center that provides courses and programs for religious and cultural understanding (open to all military personnel)
- In Germany: Monthly training on ethical and moral aspects; celebration of non-religious feasts
- In Slovenia: education on faith and religion a concern more of the chaplains.

*ARMED FORCES PROGRAM THAT PROMOTES
INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND MUTUAL RESPECT*

- To illustrate, in Europe, Christmas is celebrated as a feast for the family and thanksgiving rather than celebration of Christ's birth (in Slovenia); referred to as Holy Night/Weinachten (in Germany)

ARMED FORCES PROGRAM THAT PROMOTES INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND MUTUAL RESPECT

- **Philippines/AFP**
 - Programs and practices that respects all religions (e.g. ecumenical prayer in gatherings and programs)
 - Bishop-Ulama Conference as a venue for interfaith dialogue, AFP and PNP have been invited to attend such conferences.
 - Cultural festivals and activities that are rooted in religion (e.g. Pahiyas, Sinulog, etc.)
 - Observe celebrations/ holidays of various religions (e.g. Christmas, Ramadan)
 - Majority are Christians/ Catholics, but there are areas in the country that practice different religions and cultures. For instance, Mindanao.

MILITARY WAYS IN PROMOTING RESPECT AND TOLERANCE AMONG ALL FAITHS

- Issuance of doctrines, guidelines, manuals, regulations that promote
 - Cultural awareness and sensitivity
 - Respect and acceptance of each other's religious beliefs and practices

Thank you very much!