

GROUP 4

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

- Asian Program/s:
 - Ecumenical/ Multi- Faith Chapels in camps/ bases.
 - Inter-faith Recollection
 - Inter-faith Prayer Rally
 - Ecumenical prayer in selected activities
 - Inter-faith Value Formation (Religious character and culture)

- European/African Program/s:
 - No European answer but only national answers due to various denominations and systems.
 - Intercultural understanding between Christians, Islamic, and other denominations is a major concern during the instruction for mission abroad.
 - In Nigeria, every first Friday of the month will have an hour of interfaith/combined interaction and worship

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE ARMED FORCES IN PROMOTING INTERFAITH AND HOW IT IS ADDRESSED

- Problems Encountered:
 - Filipino:
 - Stereotyping
 - Inadequate understanding of other religious beliefs
 - No specific inter-faith activities being programmed

- European/African:
 - In Netherlands, Chaplains are not commissioned by the Queen but are wearing the insignia of ranks without power
 - In Germany, they don't even wear ranks
 - In Nigeria, some commanders are providing selective support to the chaplaincy based on their own denomination.

- Recommendation/s:
 - Filipino views:
 - Conduct symposium
 - Hold dialogues with various religious leaders
 - Proposed programs that promote inter-faith activities
 - European views: Leave things just as they are.
 - Nigerian views:
 - Interact with the people of various religion.
 - Commanders should give free-hand to the chaplains/Imams.

MILITARY WAYS IN PROMOTING RESPECT AND TOLERANCE AMONG ALL FAITHS

- In Germany, there is no conflict between the two Christian denomination in promoting respect. The conflict between Moslems and Christians exist only outside the armed forces.
- In Netherlands, it's not a problem on religion but mostly on economical reasons (unemployment?).
- In Nigeria, there is no conflict in religion but only outside the organization/armed forces.

- In the Philippines, equal access and representation to promote religion.