

Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers, www.militaryatheists.org

Regarding the 2012 and 2014 versions of Air Force Instruction 1-1

2012 wording	2012 section	2014 section	2014 wording	Assessment
Government Neutrality Regarding Religion	2.11	2.12	Balance of Free Exercise of Religion and Establishment Clause.	Lost important concept
Leaders at all levels must balance constitutional protections for an individual's free exercise of religion or other personal beliefs and the constitutional prohibition against governmental establishment of religion.	2.11	2.12	Leaders at all levels must balance constitutional protections for their own free exercise of religion, including individual expressions of religious beliefs, and the constitutional prohibition against governmental establishment of religion.	additional focus on commanders
For example, they must avoid the actual or apparent use of their position to promote their personal religious beliefs to their subordinates or to extend preferential treatment for any religion.	2.11	2.12	They must ensure their words and actions cannot reasonably be construed to be officially endorsing or disapproving of, or extending preferential treatment for any faith, belief, or absence of belief.	greatly softened wording condoning for personal religious promotion.
Commanders or supervisors who engage in such behavior may cause members to doubt their impartiality and objectivity. The potential result is a degradation of the unit's morale, good order, and discipline.	2.11	deleted		lost explanation and importance of secular protections
Airmen, especially commanders and supervisors, must ensure that in exercising their right of religious free expression, they do not degrade morale, good order, and discipline in the Air Force or degrade the trust and confidence that the public has in the United States Air Force.	2.11	2.11	Every Airman also has the right to individual expressions of sincerely held beliefs, to include conscience, moral principles or religious beliefs, unless those expressions would have an adverse impact on military readiness, unit cohesion, good order, discipline, health and safety, or mission accomplishment.	improved secular wording; changed to rights rather than warnings
Free Exercise of Religion and Religious Accommodation.	2.12	2.11	(no change)	
Supporting the right of free exercise of religion relates directly to the Air Force core values and the ability to maintain an effective team.	2.12	deleted		lost connection to Air Force values
All Airmen are able to choose to practice their particular religion, or subscribe to no religious belief at all.	2.12.1	2.11	Every Airman is free to practice the religion of their choice or subscribe to no religious belief at all.	Improved wording
You should confidently practice your own beliefs while respecting others whose viewpoints differ from your own.	2.12.1	2.11	(no change)	
Your right to practice your religious beliefs does not excuse you from complying with directives, instructions, and lawful orders; however, you may request religious accommodation.	2.12.2	2.11.1	(no change)	
Requests can be denied based on military necessity.	2.12.2	2.11.2	If it is necessary to deny free exercise of religion or an accommodation request, the decision must be based on the facts presented, must directly relate to the compelling government interest of military readiness, unit cohesion, good order, discipline, health and safety, or mission accomplishment, and must be by the least restrictive means necessary to avoid the cited adverse impact.	Additional and very restrictive NDAA wording
Commanders and supervisors at all levels are expected to ensure that requests for religious accommodation are dealt with fairly.	2.12.2	2.11.1	Commanders and supervisors at all levels must fairly consider requests for religious accommodation.	stronger, clearer wording
	new in 2014	2.11.1	Airmen requesting accommodation will continue to comply with directives, instructions and lawful orders from which they are requesting accommodation unless and until the request is approved.	additional strong secular wording