

Military Chaplain Support

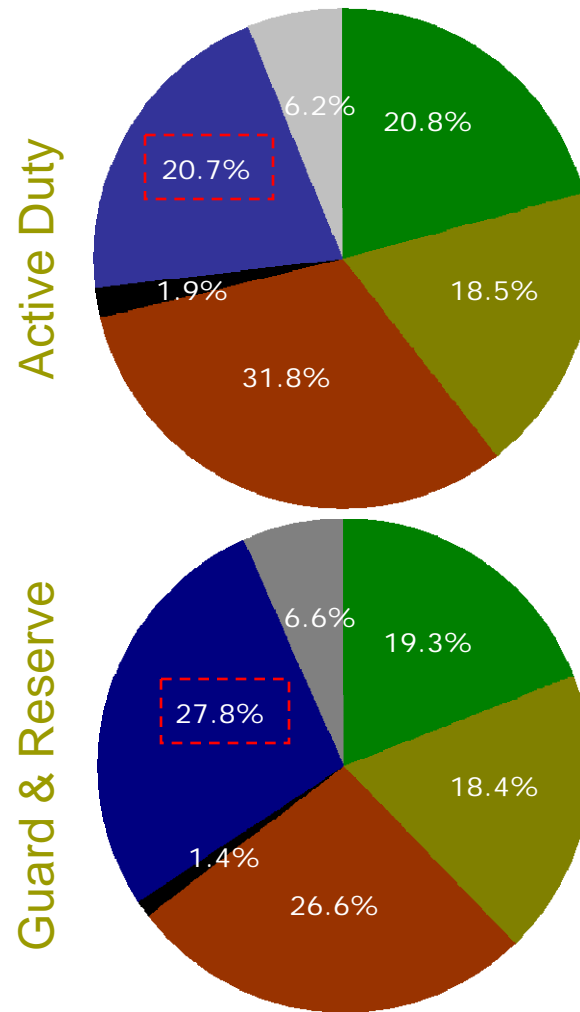
Demographics study of
Defense Manpower Data Agency data



Military Association of
Atheists & Freethinkers
February 2010

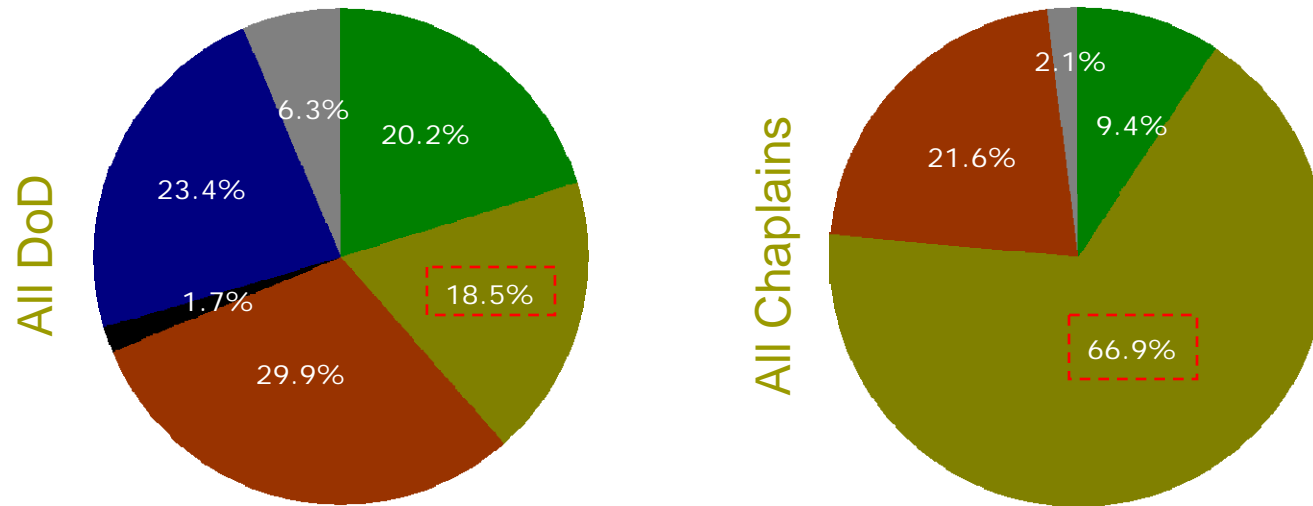
DoD data show nearly one-quarter of the military is nontheistic

- Nontheists are found throughout the military
- Military and Civilian leadership must recognize and support this significant demographic



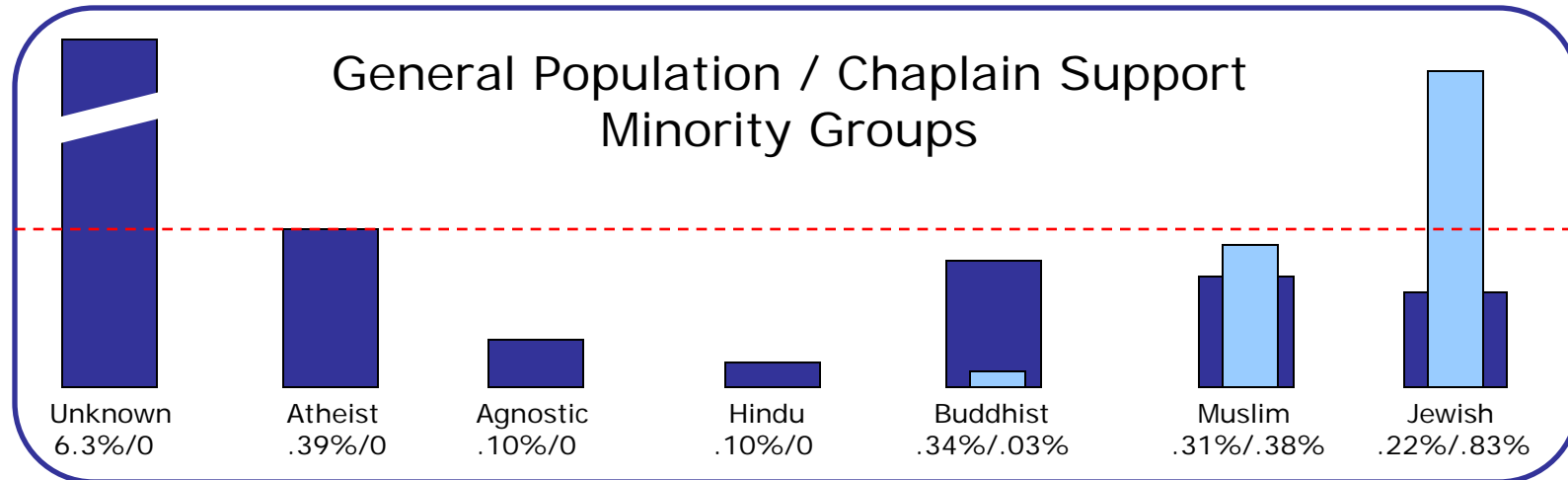
- Catholic – Roman Catholic**
- Other Christian – non-Catholic, non-evangelical Christian organizations.**
- Evangelistic – overtly evangelical Christian organizations such as 7th Day Adventists, Jehovah's witness, Baptist Churches, LDS, Pentacostals, and Charismatics**
- Other Religions – Baha'i, Eastern Religions and Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Jewish, Native American, New Age, Orthodox, UUA, and Wicca**
- None-Atheist – includes Atheist, Agnostic, and no preference**
- Unknown – listed as Unknown**

Chaplain staffing reflects evangelical efforts to proselytize the military



- ❑ **Evangelicals** are represented in the chaplain's corps at **over three times** the rate of the general population
- ❑ Protestant (non-Catholic, non-evangelicals) have representation approximately equal to the general population
- ❑ **Catholics** are represented in the chaplains corps at about **half the rate** of the general population
- ❑ Other faith groups are represented at rates approximating the general population in aggregate

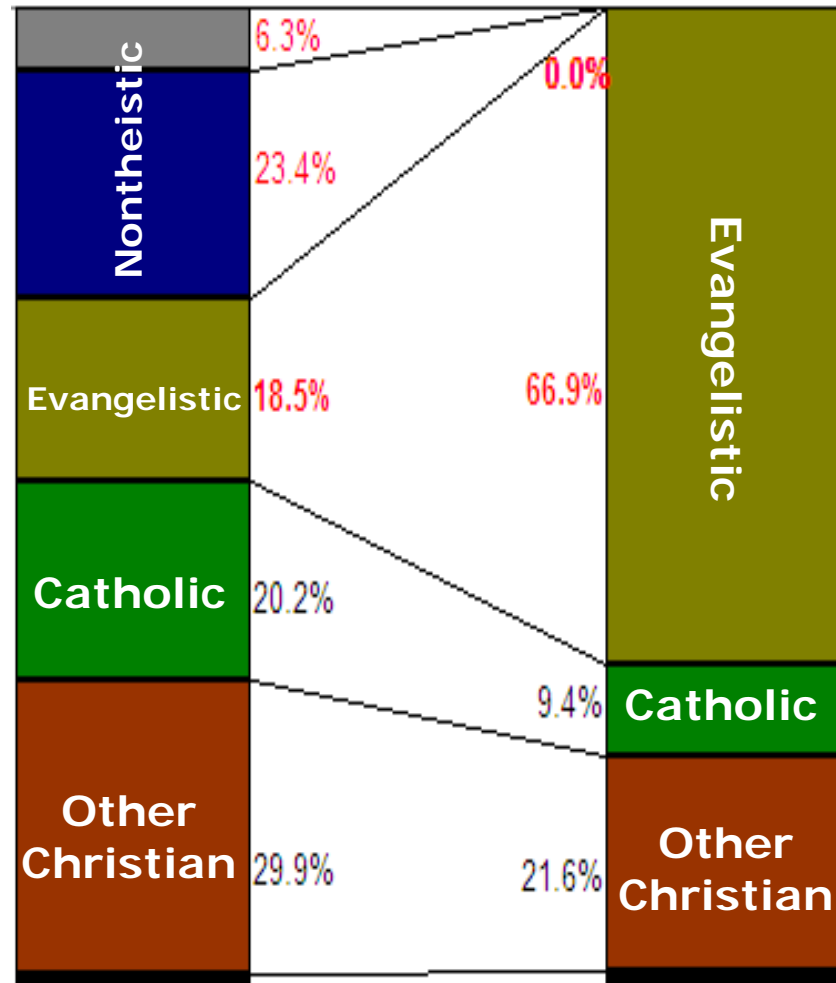
Even professed atheists outnumber many more well-supported religious groups



- ❑ **Even professed atheists outnumber many more well-supported religious groups**
- ❑ **6% of the population are listed as "unknown,"** and this designation may indicate a disinterest in religion or unwillingness to self-identify as a minority.
- ❑ **Nones and atheists**, those professing no specific faith interest or an interest inconsistent with traditional religions, range over **20% of the population with no chaplain support**
- ❑ **Evangelicals flood the chaplains corps** while service members need morale and welfare support that is not constrained by one faith tradition

Demographics show a systematic bias in the Chaplains' Corps

- Evangelicals flood the chaplains corps while service members need morale and welfare support that is not constrained by one faith tradition



MAAF envisions a minimum level of support from all chaplains

- ❑ Until all chaplains commit to support all service members equally and renounce proselytism and evangelism of any sort, we will have a military divided by religion.
- ❑ *Chaplains should pledge, "Nontheistic service members, including atheists, agnostics, humanists, freethinkers, and those holding other nontheistic designations, serve honorably within our nation's military. I pledge to support nontheistic service members as strongly as I support theistic service members. I further pledge not to use my position to influence individuals or the chain of command to adopt the principles or practices of my own personal religion. I concur that these statements are minimum standards of conduct to which all service members, especially chaplains and commanders, should adhere."*

Organizations like MAAF can help to educate chaplains and close the nontheist support gap

□ Chaplain Outreach

- www.maaf.info/chaplain.html

□ Policy Advice

- www.secular.org

□ Community Connections

- www.maaf.info/nontheistorgs.html

□ Advocacy

- www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org

MILITARY ASSOCIATION OF ATHEISTS & FREETHINKERS
WWW.MAAF.INFO
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PROJECT OF SEE