



THROUGH A GLASS,  
DARKLY:

# HOW STRATEGIC AMBIGUITY DISTORTS SPIRITUAL READINESS

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# RESEARCH QUESTION & FINDINGS

- Vague Language...
- A Foggy View...
- Individualized Certification...
- Prioritizes Inputs Over Outputs...
- Ambitious Outcomes...
- Distorted Readiness...

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*“Spiritual readiness assessments are **subjective** and based on **self-selection** and **self-assessment**...” (FM 7-22)*



# CLEARING THE FOG

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## *A COMMON LANGUAGE*

- Army Core Values
- Establishment Clause
- Readiness
  - Structural Readiness
  - Operational Readiness
  - Warrior (Soldier) Readiness
- Spirituality
- Spiritual Disciplines
- Spiritual Fitness
- Spiritual Health
- Spiritual Readiness
- Spiritual Resilience
- Pluralism
- Religion
- Virtue



# CLEARING THE FOG

## *SPIRITUAL & RELIGIOUS LITERACY*

- Understanding Cultural Forces
- Religious Belief, Behavior, Belonging
- The Religious Typology
- Impacts on the Army
  - Officers More Religious than Enlisted Force
  - Officers More Likely to Identify Religious Affiliation
  - US Population More Religious than Enlisted Force
  - Projections:
    - Officer Religious Affiliation Projected Stable
    - Enlisted Will Decrease / No Affiliation Will Increase

### The Religious Typology: The highly religious, nonreligious and in between



Source: Survey conducted Dec. 4-18, 2017, among U.S. adults.  
"The Religious Typology"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# CLEARING THE FOG

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## *BUILDING & SUSTAINING SPIRITUAL HEALTH*

- *“Who is responsible?”*





# RECOMMENDATIONS

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## ■ PRACTITIONER:

- Establish clear, standardized readiness requirements, measures, indicators, and terminology.
- Develop spiritually literate leaders.
- Develop spiritually astute leaders.
- Reframe language from Spiritual Readiness to Spiritual Fitness/Spiritual Health.

## ■ POLICY:

- Assess future religious support requirements.
- Expand support for diverse spiritual needs.
- Certify religious leaders committed to religious pluralism.

## ■ FURTHER RESEARCH:

- Evidence-based spirituality programs for Army application.
- Protective factors between spirituality, religiosity, and surging loneliness.
- Protective factors between spirituality, religion, and depression.
- Protective factors between spirituality, religion, and deaths of despair.
- Spirituality, religion, and White, Christian, Nationalism





QUESTIONS

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DISCUSSION