

Saturday, December 15, 2018



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
f o u n d a t i o n

NO GRAND FORKS AFB, DUTY HOURS ARE NOT FOR RELIGIOUS VOLUNTEERING



Photo Credit: U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Ashley Taylo

Pulitzer Prize Winning GRAND FORKS HERALD COVERS MRFF

Air Force volunteer work with Salvation Army raises questions

By: Tess Williams

Friday, December 14, 2018

"**Mikey Weinstein**, founder of **Military Religious Freedom Foundation**, said about 40 military members contacted him because **they said they felt the base was showing religious favoritism**. He alleged the offer violated their constitutional rights by merging church and state and is in violation of the Air Force Standards."**[...]**

"'There's no problem with the Salvation Army,' Weinstein said. **'The problem is with the Air Force singling it out and endorsing a nonfederal entity**, but more importantly, this is a **direct violation of the no-establishment clause of the First Amendment**.'"**[...]**

"**Military members felt pressure to volunteer because the email was sent to them from higher-ranked members**, Weinstein said. Service members declined to comment directly, fearing retaliation.

Weinstein said many of the members are of Christian faith but felt the favoritism was wrong.

It's not an anti-Christian thing, but it is a pro-

[Click to Read Full Article on Grand Forks Herald](#)

Email Chain From Senior Ranking NCO's at Grand Forks AFB North Dakota to "Voluntell" Subordinates to Help the Salvation Army "During Duty Hours"

From: [Name Withheld] SMSgt USAF
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 3:17 PM
To: 69 MXS ALL
Cc: [Name Withheld] CMSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] ; [Name Withheld] ; [Name Withheld] ; [Name Withheld]
Subject: FW: Volunteers for the Salvation Army (17 & 18 Dec)

Hawks,
Great opportunity to volunteer and help out the local community.
*Make sure to check with your supervision first, since this will occur during duty hours.
See below...

[Name Withheld], SMSgt, USAF
<>First Sergeant
Grand Forks AFB, ND

From: [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 1:41 PM
To: [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] SMSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] SMSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] SMSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] SA USAF ; [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] SMSgt ; [Name Withheld] JR MSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] SMSgt USAF ; [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF
Cc: [Name Withheld] SSgt USAF
Subject: FW: Volunteers for the Salvation Army

Shirts,

Please pass this on to your units as you see fit. SSgt [Name Withheld] (Cc'd) is organizing an opportunity to volunteer at the Salvation Army in town. Please see the details and her contact information below.

V/R,
[Name Withheld], MSgt, USAF
First Sergeant
Grand Forks AFB, ND 58205

From: [Name Withheld] SSgt USAF
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 11:36 AM
To: [Name Withheld] MSgt USAF
Subject: Volunteers for the Salvation Army

Greetings Sir,
I'm looking for 25-30 volunteers for the Salvation Army @ 1600 University Ave, 58203, for 17 and 18 Dec from 0830- 1530. It will be a fun-filled day of handing out food baskets and gifts to families in the Grand Forks community. Anyone interested can just e-mail me for details! It's a great way to give back to our community and get involved in serving others.

Thank you for your help.

v/r
[Name Withheld], SSgt, USAF
Grand Forks AFB, ND

MRFF's Initial Email to the 25th Air Force Questioning Mass Email Volunteering Military Members to Help the Salvation Army "During Duty Hours"

From: Michael L Weinstein
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 10:20 AM
To: [Name Withheld] GG-12 USAF
Cc: Information Weinstein
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Volunteers for the Salvation Army (17 & 18 Dec)

Volunteering for the Salvation Army "during duty hours"? [See above]

Sonja Coderre's Email to MRFF Stating the Matter Will Be Looked Into:

From: "CODERRE, SONJA S CIV USAF ACC 25 AF/PA"
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Volunteers for the Salvation Army (17 & 18 Dec)
Date: December 12, 2018 at 10:50:32 AM MST
To: Michael L Weinstein
Cc: Information Weinstein

Mr. Weinstein,
Thank you for bringing your concern to our attention.
We will look into it.

v/r,

SONJA S. CODERRE, GG-14, DAF
Director of Public Affairs, 25th Air Force

MRFF's Email to the 25th Air Force Director of Public Affairs Requesting **Corrective Action:**

From: Michael L Weinstein
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 11:53 AM
To: CODERRE, SONJA S CIV USAF ACC 25 AF/PA
Cc: michael L Weinstein
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Volunteers for the Salvation Army (17 & 18 Dec)

copy that....plz let me know asap what corrective action is being taken, Ms. Coderre...will stand by....appreciate...Mikey Weinstein [phone number withheld]

Typically Pathetic Response to MRFF from the 25th Air Force Director of Public Affairs:

From: "CODERRE, SONJA S CIV USAF ACC 25 AF/PA"
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Volunteers for the Salvation Army (17 & 18 Dec)
Date: December 12, 2018 at 11:55 AM MST
To: Michael L Weinstein
Cc: Information Weinstein

Mr. Weinstein,
We hold in highest regard our partnerships with communities around the world. Airmen of 25th Air Force are thankful for the opportunity to give back to the communities which support them throughout the year.

25th Air Force Airmen have donated thousands of hours in community service across a wide array of charities, to include the United Way, Humane Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Wounded Warrior Project, just to name a few.

In each and every case, we seek to do so in a way that upholds our Air Force core values, governing guidance, and applicable law.

v/r,
Sonja
SONJA S. CODERRE, GG-14, DAF
Director of Public Affairs, 25th Air Force

MRFF Demands Corrective Action to fix "Unconstitutional Mess**" in Email to the 25th Air Force Director of Public Affairs**

From: Michael L Weinstein
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Volunteers for the Salvation Army (17 & 18 Dec)
Date: December 14, 2018 at 12:05:16 PM MST
To: "CODERRE, SONJA S CIV USAF ACC 25 AF/PA"
Cc: Information Weinstein

...Ms. Corderre, the Military Religious Freedom foundation (MRFF) demands to know what the USAF command chain at Grand Forks AFB is going to do to fix this blatantly unconstitutional mess below...perhaps you can understand that the Salvation Army is a tad different from Big Brothers and Big Sisters and other secular charitable organizations?...if not, perhaps you need to take a GOOD LOOK at the Salvation Army's website and mission statements?!.....are you aware of the separation of church and state in this country?....are you aware of the DoD regulations on prohibiting the provision of a selective benefit on Non-Federal entities??

...look, ma'am, we've waited on behalf of our nearly 40 USAF officer, NCO, civilian and civilian contractor clients at this USAF base for several days now and are hearing NOTHING at all...your disingenuous at best and dishonest at worst silence is intolerable and only exacerbates the humiliation and oppression felt by our MRFF clients at this AFB in North Dakota

....incidentally, most of our aforementioned clients in this sordid matter happen to be Protestant or Roman Catholic...but we also have other clients who practice the Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and Native American Spiritualist faiths...we also have among our aggrieved clients on this matter, USAF members who follow atheist, agnostic, theist

and secular humanist traditions...
.....MRFF demands that you reply NOW to address this disgraceful civil rights violation below....I am standing by at [phone number withheld]...Mikey Weinstein...Founder and President, MRFF [phone number withheld]

**MRFF's Email to the 25th Air Force
Director of Public Affairs
"this matter is NOT over!!"**

From: Michael L Weinstein
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Volunteers for the Salvation Army (17 & 18 Dec)
Date: December 14, 2018 at 12:07:32 PM MST
To: "CODERRE, SONJA S CIV USAF ACC 25 AF/PA"

...see the e-mail I just sent you.....your e-mail is completely non-responsive to the illegalities at hand...typically pathetic.....you should be thoroughly ASHAMED of yourselves.....!!!...this matter is NOT over.....!!...Mikey Weinstein

MRFF Information/Contact:
(505) 250-7727

SUPPORT MRFF!

Your Generous Support Allows us to Continue
our Fight in the Courts and in the Media

[Make a Donation](#)

[Join MRFF's Constitution Society \(Recurring Donation\)](#)

[Help Build the Wall : Donate a "Brick"!](#)

