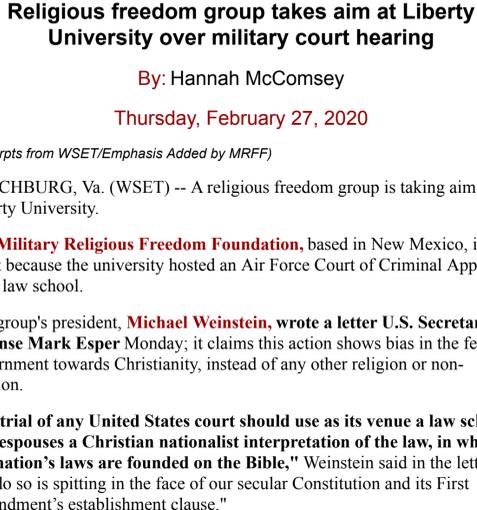




MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
FOUNDATION

MRFF CONTINUES TO EXPOSE OUTRAGE OF U.S. AIR FORCE TRIAL APPEAL HELD AT RABIDLY CHRISTIAN NATIONALIST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

“Our secular military and its secular military justice system have no business conducting secular military justice at an exclusive sectarian institution with an extreme sectarian reputation.”
– John Compere, MRFF Board Member, retired Army Brig. Gen., former Chief Judge of the U.S. Army Court of Military Review



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WSET (LYNCHBURG, VA ABC AFFILIATE) COVERS MRFF

Religious freedom group takes aim at Liberty University over military court hearing

By: Hannah McComsey

Thursday, February 27, 2020

(Excerpts from WSET/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

LYNCHBURG, Va. (WSET) -- A religious freedom group is taking aim at Liberty University.

The **Military Religious Freedom Foundation**, based in New Mexico, is upset because the university hosted an Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals at its law school.

The group's president, **Michael Weinstein**, wrote a letter U.S. Secretary of Defense **Mark Esper** Monday; it claims this action shows bias in the federal government towards Christianity, instead of any other religion or non-religion.

“No trial of any United States court should use as its venue a law school that espouses a Christian nationalist interpretation of the law, in which our nation’s laws are founded on the Bible,” Weinstein said in the letter, “To do so is spitting in the face of our secular Constitution and its First Amendment’s establishment clause.”

[...]

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THE (LYNCHBURG, VA) NEWS & ADVANCE COVERS MRFF

Military court hearing at Liberty University sparks outcry from religious freedom group

By: Richard Chumney

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

(Excerpts from The News & Advance/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

A watchdog group advocating for religious freedom in the armed forces has accused Pentagon officials of **“dropping a nuclear weapon on the Constitution”** after a military court held a special session at Liberty University last week.

In a strongly worded letter Monday to U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, the New Mexico-based **Military Religious Freedom Foundation** blasted military officials for allowing the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals to hold a secular criminal proceeding in the halls of a private college with a **“Christian worldview.”**

“To hold oral argument in a United States military justice case in a bastion of odious discrimination such as Liberty University sends a message that the Air Force continues its decades long malfeasance by unconstitutionally elevating the Christian faith over all [others’] faith and non-faith traditions,” **Michael “Mikey” Weinstein**, the group’s president, wrote in the letter.

In an emailed statement Monday, Liberty said the Military Religious Freedom Foundation’s accusation that military officials violated the law were **“erroneous.”**

[...]

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GLOBAL MILITARY JUSTICE REFORM COVERS MRFF

That Liberty Law hearing

By: Eugene R. Fidell

Thursday, February 27, 2020

(Excerpts from Global Military Justice Reform/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

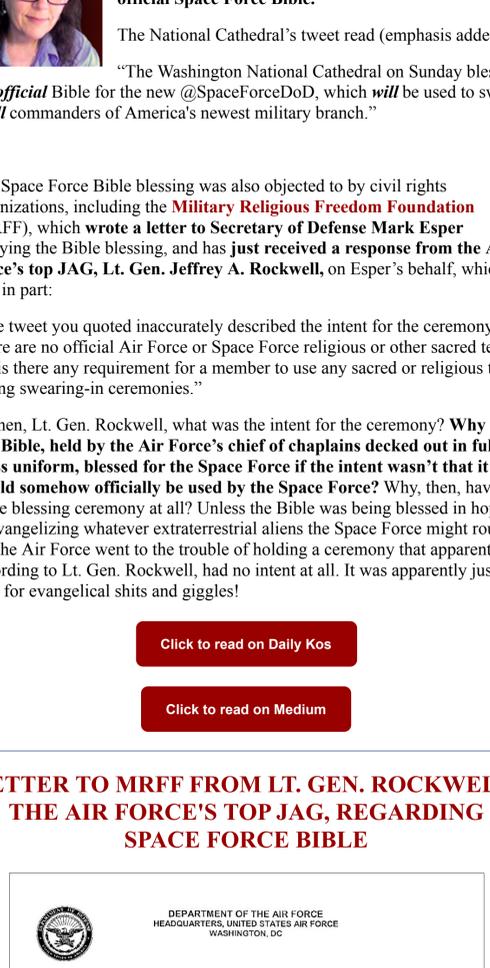
The **Military Religious Freedom Foundation** (MRFF) has objected to the recent hearing conducted by the **U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals at Liberty University School of Law**. Excerpt from this Lynchburg News & Advance report:

“Our secular military and its secular military justice system have no business conducting secular military justice at an exclusive sectarian institution with an extreme sectarian reputation,” MRFF board member and retired Army Brig. Gen. **John Compere** said in a statement. “It implies an endorsement of the sectarian institution & its sectarian education which clearly violates the United States Constitution and US Armed Forces regulations.”

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MRFF'S DEMAND LETTER TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MARK T. ESPER DECRYING PERVERSION OF U.S. AIR FORCE'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM

MRFF's letter on behalf of 16 outraged active and former military Judge Advocates (JAGs), 9 of whom are Christian



[Click to enlarge and read letter](#)

2018 – MRFF FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT MIKEY WEINSTEIN EVISCERATES LIBERTY UNIVERSITY'S ENDGAME GOAL: A HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF THE U.S. MILITARY BY LUNATIC FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIANS

PREVIOUS MRFF OP-ED ON DAILY KOS AND MEDIUM

On the Daily Kos Recommended List

WTF? Actual Air Force Criminal Trial Held at Christian Nationalist Liberty University Law School

By: MRFF Senior Research Director Chris Rodda

Monday, February 24, 2020



Liberty University Law School describes itself as having a “Christian worldview,” and teaches “that the Western legal tradition is firmly established upon a foundation of faith.” In contrast to Liberty University’s “Christian worldview,” any court of the United States should have only a Constitutional foundation, and a Christian tradition that is firmly established upon a foundation of law, not the legal faith. **No trial of any United States court should use as its venue a law school that espouses a Christian nationalist interpretation of the law, in which our nation’s laws are founded on the Bible. To do so is spitting in the face of our secular Constitution and its First Amendment’s establishment clause**

But this is exactly what happened on February 20, when the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals (AFCCA) **held an actual Air Force trial appeal at Liberty University Law School**, in the school’s “Supreme Courtroom” — a very real trial, deciding the fate of a very real airman, in which Liberty University’s law students were not only observers, but were permitted to actively participate by not only preparing but actually arguing amicus (Friend of the Court) briefs before the court. [...]

Not only does this travesty send the implicit message that the Air Force’s judicial system acknowledges and even endorses Liberty Universities “Christian worldview” of the law, it willfully violates Air Force Instruction 1-1, section 2.12 of which states:

“Leaders at all levels, including constitutional protections for their own free exercise of religion, must balance individual expressions of religious beliefs, and the constitutional prohibition against governmental establishment of religion. **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.”** (emphasis added)

The **Military Religious Freedom Foundation** (MRFF) sent a demand letter to Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper today decrying the perversion of the Air Force’s judicial system. MRFF’s letter, written on behalf of its clients, sixteen outraged active and former military Judge Advocates (JAGs), nine of whom are Christians, states:

“The AFCCA is a Federal Court, established by Congress in 10 U.S. Code § 866. Air Force military appellate judges are all active duty or active reserve Judge Advocates (military lawyers) who must be admitted to the Bar of some State or Territory. What confides the public have in the fairness and impartiality of military justice in the Air Force when AFCCA judges cannot even follow the basic Air Force doctrinal manual, AFI 1-1? The answer is simply, ‘none!’”

[...]

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MRFF OP-ED ON DAILY KOS AND MEDIUM

Air Force’s Top JAG Responds to MRFF Regarding “Official” Space Force Bible

By: MRFF Senior Research Director Chris Rodda

Friday, February 28, 2020

A tweet that sparked a viral story last month was that of the National Cathedral’s January 12 **blessing of the official Space Force Bible**.

The National Cathedral’s tweet read (emphasis added):

“The Washington National Cathedral on Sunday blessed the official Bible for the new @SpaceForceDoD, which will be used to swear in all commanders of America’s newest military branch.”

[...]

The Space Force Bible blessing was also objected to by civil rights organizations, including the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation** (MRFF), which wrote a letter to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper decrying the Bible blessing, and has just received a response from the Air Force’s top JAG, Lt. Gen. **Jeffrey A. Rockwell**, on Esper’s behalf, which said in part:

“The tweet you quoted inaccurately described the intent for the ceremony. There are no official Air Force or Space Force religious or other sacred texts, nor is there any requirement for a member to use any sacred or religious text during swearing-in ceremonies.”

So then, Lt. Gen. Rockwell, what was the intent for the ceremony? **Why was this Bible, held by the Air Force’s chief of chaplains decked out in full dress uniform, blessed for the Space Force if the intent wasn’t that it would somehow officially be used by the Space Force?** Why, then, have a Bible blessing ceremony at all? Unless the Bible was being blessed in hopes of evangelizing whatever extraterrestrial aliens the Space Force might round up, the Air Force went to the trouble of holding a ceremony that apparently, according to Lt. Gen. Rockwell, had no intent at all. It was apparently just held for evangelical shits and giggles!

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LETTER TO MRFF FROM LT. GEN. ROCKWELL, THE AIR FORCE'S TOP JAG, REGARDING SPACE FORCE BIBLE

[Click to enlarge and read letter](#)

BACKGROUND ON MRFF'S CONDEMNATION OF THE "OFFICIAL" SPACE FORCE BIBLE BLESSING

Being involved in higher education, my interest was piqued when I saw an article about the case recently heard at Liberty University. Your organizations stance... and particularly the unprofessional communication of such... surely isn’t representative of my forbears ideology. I come from a line of military members; a grandfather is interred at West Point (Heintz). My other grandfather has a building named after him at Keesler AFB (Allee), and a relative represents the Army in the Smithsonian (Allyn Capron). I doubt that the military would have created leaders like these men had it been dominated by individuals driven by social agendas. Folks like you are part of the reason the rifts in our country are so deep.

(name withheld)

To see responses from MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein and MRFF Advisory Board Members Mike Farrell and Marty France:

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INCOMING HATE MRFF'S INBOX

“Dog Tags”

Greetings Mr. Weinstein, I gather you don’t know very much about the true meaning of the word “Freedom” let alone American history!

Your assault on the military to have Biblical verses removed from those wishing to have personalized ‘dog tags’ is an affront to their character and integrity.

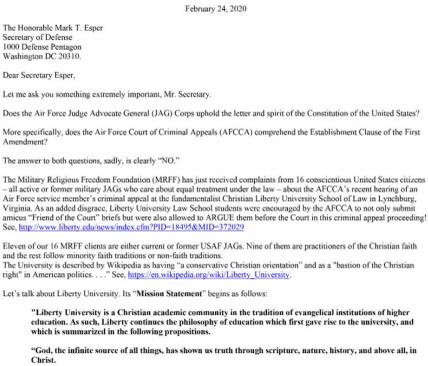
As soldiers in Christ Army, we will not remain silent but rather expose those individuals and organizations whose lies and prejudices are to subvert The Constitution and squash all references made to God in the name of freedom.

Albert Einstein’s quote rings true to this day:
“the fanatical atheists (Jewish privileged) are like slaves who are still feeling the weight of their chains which they have thrown off after a hard struggle. They are creatures who – in their struggle against traditional religion as the ‘opium of the masses cannot hear the music of the spheres’ (common sense and reason), ...without prejudice.

(name withheld)

To see response from MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein, MRFF Board Member John Compere, and MRFF Advisory Board Member Marty France:

[Click to read in Inbox](#)



MRFF Information/Contact: (505) 250-7727

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