



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

## GOP SEN. TED "CRETIN" CRUZ FALSELY CONDEMNS MRFF IN PRESS RELEASE AND LETTER TO U.S. DoD SECRETARY MARK ESPER

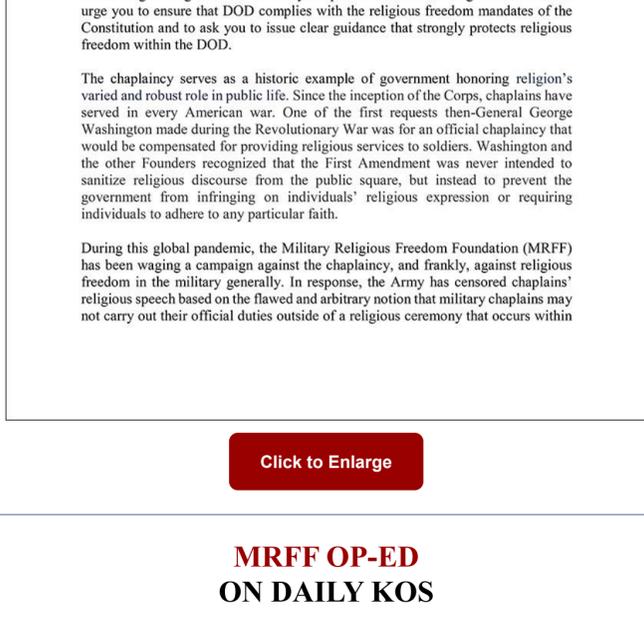
Excerpt from Cruz's Letter to Esper:

"During this global pandemic, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) has been waging a campaign against the chaplaincy, and frankly, against religious freedom in the military generally. [...]"



GOP Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and MRFF Founder & President Mikey Weinstein

### GOP Senator Ted Cruz's Letter to U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper

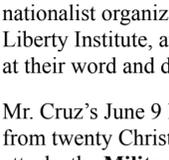


### MRFF OP-ED ON DAILY KOS

#### Factually-Challenged Ted Cruz Attacks the Military Religious Freedom Foundation

By: Chris Rodda, MRFF Senior Research Director

Wednesday, June 10, 2020



Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) has written a letter to Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper, urging him, according to a press release about the letter, "to protect religious freedom within the Department of Defense after reports that the Army has censored military chaplains and harmed their ability to provide religious services during the coronavirus pandemic."

Those reports referred to by Mr. Cruz came from fundamentalist Christian nationalist organizations such as the Family Research Council and First Liberty Institute, and Cruz obviously took these less-than-honest "Christians" at their word and didn't bother to check the facts for himself.

Mr. Cruz's June 9 letter, which follows a similar letter to Secretary Esper from twenty Christian nationalist members of the House of Representatives, attacks the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF)** for its efforts, and success, in stopping chaplains and other military member from taking advantage of the COVID-19 crisis to foist their religion on unwilling audiences.

[...]

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### GOP SEN. TED CRUZ'S PRESS RELEASE ATTACKING MRFF

(Excerpts from Sen. Cruz Press Release/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

UNITED STATES SENATE  
Sen. Ted Cruz Press Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 9, 2020

Sen. Cruz Urges Secretary of Defense to Protect Religious Freedom of  
Military Service Members

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) today sent a letter urging Secretary of Defense Mark Esper to protect religious freedom within the Department of Defense after reports that the Army has censored military chaplains and harmed their ability to provide religious services during the coronavirus pandemic – access that is not only essential for many service members, but also mandated by the Constitution.

[...]

"During this global pandemic, the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) has been waging a campaign against the chaplaincy , and frankly, against religious freedom in the military generally** . In response, the Army has censored chaplains' religious speech based on the flawed and arbitrary notion that military chaplains may not carry out their official duties outside of a religious ceremony that occurs within the four walls of a chapel.

[...]

[Click to Read Press Release and Letter](#)

[Click to Read New Army Chaplain Guidelines \(5/26/20\) resulting from MRFF's victories](#)

[Past MRFF Facebook Victories that led to new social media guidance from Army Chief of Chaplains](#)

### MRFF COVERED IN NNY360 OP-ED

#### The painful reality of life

By: Jerry Moore

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

(Excerpts from NNY360/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

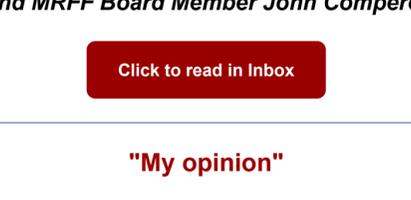
Offers of spiritual guidance to military personnel during the novel coronavirus pandemic recently landed two Fort Drum chaplains in a tad bit of hot water.

U.S. Army Maj. Scott Ingram and Capt. Amy Smith, ministers serving on the post, put videos on the Facebook of the 10th Mountain Division Sustainment Brigade. Eight soldiers stationed at Fort Drum objected to the videos being put on a social media site representing the post's leadership.

**Mikey Weinstein , founder and president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, called these Facebook posts "illicit proselytizing videos"; the Fort Drum chaplains have a Facebook page of their own and should have put the videos there, wrote MRFF senior research director Chris Rodda .** The civil liberties organization brought the soldiers' concerns to the attention of Fort Drum authorities, and commanders there had the videos removed.

[...]

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### "Read this and explain....."

Read this and explain where it states anything about s separation if church and state: AMENDMENT I Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. It means the government cannot be run by the church, not that it is not allowed in the hovernment.o

(name withheld)

To see responses from  
**MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein,:**

[Click to read in Inbox](#)

### "Just a thought"

I'd like to not be categorized as either a supporter or a hater. I'm just a woman with a couple of thoughts.

First, if there was really supposed to be a separation of Church and State, why has the military always had chaplains? And those chaplains (now anyways) are versed in all kinds of different religious services. So if we toss out the Christian stuff, we must toss out everything else. Just sayin.

Second, our country was founded by people escaping religious persecution. Just sayin.

Neither s supporter or a hater.

To see responses from  
**MRFF Advisory Board Member Mike Farrell,  
and MRFF Board Member John Compere:**

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### "My opinion"

First off, posting religious articles is also covered under the first amendment. It is called Freedom of Speech. Remember, there is an old saying, there are no atheists in a foxhole. The military has been around since this country started. They are not civilians and as such, the things they do are not exactly the as civilians.

God has always been part of the military and needs to remain that way. People love posting crap about Muslims and Allah. We have many religions in this country, Baptist, Protestant, Catholics, Jewish are just a few. Respect them and leave them alone.

(name withheld)

To see responses from  
**MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein,  
MRFF Advisory Board Member Mike Farrell,  
and MRFF Board Member John Compere:**

[Click to read in Inbox](#)



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(505) 250-7727

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