

Tuesday Evening, January 12, 2021



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

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY, MRFF TOLD YOU SO; YOUR RADICAL RIGHT-WING BREEDING GROUND WOULD REAP WHAT YOU SOW

USAFA Graduate, Class of '89, Larry R. Brock, USAF Lt. Col./pilot (Ret.), has been arrested for criminally breaching the U.S. Senate chamber during the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol building.

(Photo of Lt. Col. Brock holding zip ties and wearing combat helmet on U.S. Senate floor during insurrection on 1/6/21)



Photo credit Win McNamee / Getty. Usage paid for by Military Religious Freedom Foundation.

Military Religious Freedom Foundation's Open Letter to the United States Air Force Academy : "MRFF Told You So"

Published on LA Progressive & Daily Kos
Trending #1 on Daily Kos

By: Michael L. "Mikey" Weinstein, Esq.
Founder and President, Military Religious Freedom Foundation,
Honor Graduate, USAF Academy Class of 1977

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

For over 15 years, the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF)** has fought the **shockingly systemic** and unconstitutional influence and spread of fundamentalist Christian power and supremacy within the US military. While defending over 71,000 MRFF clients in that period in all services and hundreds of armed forces units worldwide, no single institution has more consistently produced odious cases and complaints than my alma mater (and the alma mater of 4 of my kids), the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA).

Sadly and most tellingly, MRFF still has hundreds of faculty, cadet, staff, active duty, Air National Guard, Reserve, and graduate clients derivative from and with the Academy.

From some of the **scandals that led to the founding of the MRFF**, like the antisemitic flyers and associated promotion of "The Passion of the Christ" in the Academy's cavernous Mitchell Hall dining facility as far back as 2004 to basic cadets marching in "Heathen Flight" in the early 2000s, we've progressed to warnings about "Special Programs in Religious Education" (SPIRE) groups that coerced misogynistic behavior and encouragement of discrimination against female cadets ("**Cadets for Christ**") through role indoctrination, and sought to transform cadets into "**government-paid missionaries**." But there is much more; quasi-mandatory Bible studies, uneven off-base privileges to attend fundamentalist churches, off-base organizations led by retired colonels recruiting Christian cadets and forming closed-door clubs that self-select Cadet Wing leadership, causing some cadets to resort to **pretending to be fundamentalist Christians** to fit in and succeed, pressure to participate in **fundamentalist Christian proselytizing projects**, professorial **coded messages** in the classrooms, tacit encouragement of homophobia and **gay conversion therapy**, and nearly unanimous displays of **exclusivist Christian public prayer in the Falcon Stadium end-zone**. The shameful list is both ignominious and almost endless.

We warned you that this radical, right-wing influence found not only at USAFA, but tolerated or even endorsed by senior officers throughout the Air Force, caused a toxic leadership environment and eroded unit cohesion, good order, morale, and discipline. We constantly worried and warned that these seemingly (to some) innocuous events would lead to embarrassment for our Air Force Academy or worse — and that's exactly what's happened.

Mr. Larry R. Brock, Class of '89 and a retired USAF Lt. Col./pilot presumptively drawing full military retirement pay and benefits, has now been arrested for his well-publicized participation in one of the darkest chapters of our nation's history—identified as a USAFA graduate in virtually every major media outlet in America and around the world. The simplest search of his social media presence shows him to be an adherent of exactly the kind of religious/political extremism mentioned above. Indeed, the avatar for his now-deleted Twitter handle was a Christian Crusader warrior.

Moreover, we know of at least three other graduates, all members of one of the USAFA Classes in the 1990s (one being a former Cadet Wing Commander), who attended the failed coup d'etat, posing for smiling selfies in Air Force Academy garb. While we may not know the religious affiliation of all three at this time, we do know that one was widely known among his/her classmates as an overt, evangelizing Christian during his/her cadet days and after.

The MRFF now calls on the Air Force Academy to not only clearly and publicly condemn the actions of its graduate, Mr. Brock, in the harshest manner, but also to call on all other USAFA graduates who attended the insurrection to identify themselves and either turn themselves in to police if they broke the law or disavow the violence and storming of the Capitol—if they, themselves, behaved in an otherwise peaceful manner.

We know that one graduate, a newly elected Republican member of Congress from Texas, **August Pfluger**, embarrassed a multitude of fellow USAFA graduates by objecting to the results of the largest and most scandal-free election in American history—and for that he is complicit in encouraging this mob and should be held responsible for the physical and moral damage caused to our Capitol and the Republic.

The USAFA must address its decades old, complicit role in developing fundamentalist Christian religious/political extremists who are now widely serving in our military. It must, as well, hold itself responsible for creating horrors like Mr. Brock in the same way it does USAFA graduate heroes whom we praise on the other end of the patriotic spectrum.

We told you this was happening.

We told you the consequences.

It happened.

Now condemn it on the public record and work with us to fix it.

Michael L. "Mikey" Weinstein, Esq.
Founder and President, Military Religious Freedom Foundation
Honor Graduate, USAF Academy Class of 1977

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COLORADO SPRINGS INDY COVERS MRFF

Air Force Academy criticized for grad pictured at Jan. 6 assault on Capitol

By: Pam Zubeck

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

(Excerpts from Colorado Springs Indy/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

In an open letter to the Air Force Academy, the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation blasted the officer school for its "toxic leadership environment" that allegedly helped produce a graduate seen participating in the Jan. 6 storming of the U.S. Capitol, termed by MRFF as one of the "darkest chapters of our nation's history."**

[...]
"The simplest search of his social media presence shows him to be an adherent of exactly the kind of religious/political extremism [MRFF has warned of for 15 years at the Academy]," the letter said. "Indeed, the avatar for his now-deleted Twitter handle was a Christian Crusader warrior."
[...]

[Click to read on Colorado Springs Indy](#)

Top military leaders remind service members that they took an oath to support and defend the Constitution. MRFF has been reminding the military of this for over 15 years.

CNN POLITICS

Top military officials condemn "sedition and insurrection" at US Capitol

By: Oren Liebermann and Barbara Starr

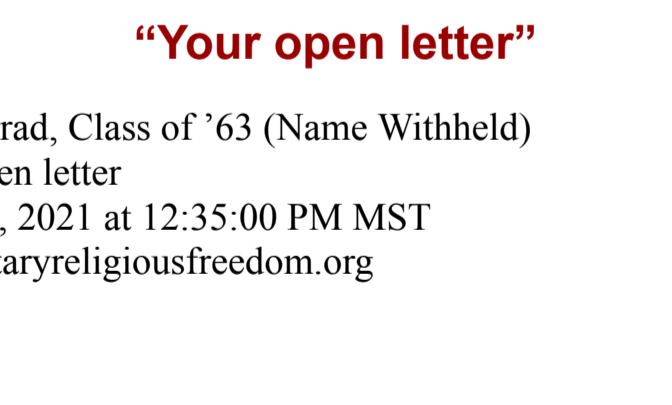
Tuesday, January 12, 2021

(Excerpts from CNN Politics/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

Gen. Mark Milley and the entire Joint Chiefs of Staff, which comprise the chiefs of staff of each military branch, issued a statement to the military force Wednesday condemning the invasion of the US Capitol last week and **reminding service members of their obligation to support and defend the Constitution and reject extremism.**

"We witnessed actions inside the Capitol building that were inconsistent with the rule of law. The rights of freedom of speech and assembly do not give anyone the right to resort to violence, sedition and insurrection," the wrote in the statement.
[...]

[Click to read on CNN](#)



"Your open letter"

From: USAFA Grad, Class of '63 (Name Withheld)
Subject: Your open letter
Date: January 12, 2021 at 12:35:00 PM MST
To: mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org

Mikey

I am a USAFA grad class of 1963. I greatly appreciated your open letter, which mentioned USAFA grads who were part of Trump's riot on Capitol Hill.

The new Superintendent is having a conference call on Thursday. If you did not get an email, you can sign up here:
<https://alumlc.org/usafa/5103>

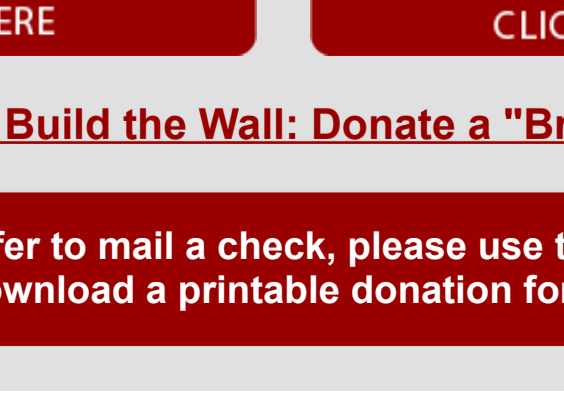
The Supe invited grads to submit a question. Here's what I wrote: "I was greatly disturbed to hear that a USAFA graduate was among the rioters at the U.S. Capitol on January 6. Does the Academy intend to sanction this individual to demonstrate that graduates who have sworn to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States must live up to that solemn promise?"

If the airlines can put rioters on No Fly lists, it seems to me the least the Academy should do is prohibit those grads who broke into the Capitol from ever participating in a reunion or other event at USAFA or under the auspices of a USAFA-affiliated organization.

I asked the question but did not want to suggest an answer. I want to hear what the Supe will do.

USAFA Grad, Class of '63 (Name Withheld)

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