



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

Thursday, May 27, 2021

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20310

Re: Demand for Immediate Punishment of Military Chaplain (1LT Army Reserve)/United States Congressional Candidate (R-AZ) Alex Stovall

Dear Secretary Austin,

First, let me congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of Defense and convey to you how encouraging it is to have competence and experience restored to the leadership of the Department of Defense.

My name is Mikey Weinstein and I am the Founder and President of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF). MRFF is a large civil rights advocacy organization that currently represents over 73,000 Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard United States military personnel, as well as veterans, cadets and midshipmen at our service academies, in OCS/OTS and ROTC, and even Jr. ROTC. Our mission is to protect the constitutionally guaranteed wall separating church and state in our U.S. military.

I write you this day regarding a spectacularly blatant violation of DoD regulations and, inter alia, Articles 92 and 88 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) by a candidate for the United States Congress who is also a commissioned officer (1LT) and chaplain in the United States Army Reserve; to wit, Alex Stovall (R-AZ).

Keeping it very brief, U.S. Army Reserve Chaplain (1LT) Stovall is openly violating DoD regulations by flagrantly misusing photographs of himself in military uniform to enhance himself politically in his current campaign to become a United States Representative from Arizona.

Additionally, and possibly even more egregiously, 1LT Stovall has habitually and continues to use outrageously contemptuous words against the President of the United States, in clear violation and brazen disregard of Article 88 of the UCMJ. In fact, 1LT Stovall has made it abundantly clear that he does not even recognize President Biden as the legitimate President, recently and very publicly saying on a podcast:

"We saw the inauguration of this well, I don't think he's President but whoever you would call this sleepy guy in office"

Numerous social media posts on 1LT Stovall's congressional campaign Facebook and Twitter accounts express similar contempt for President Biden, and advance the delusion that the 2020 election was stolen from former president Donald Trump — the "big lie" that resulted in the January 6 Capitol insurrection.

Sir, you have admirably committed to root out both racial and religious extremism in our military, and that must include the religious extremism known as “Christian nationalism” that goes hand in hand with the violent political and ideological extremism that culminated in the events of January 6. Chaplain (1LT) Stovall’s repulsive, illicit, and constant use in his political campaign ads and public appearances of his position as a Christian military chaplain to bolster his partisan political campaign is emblematic of this extremely dangerous combination of political and religious ideology.

The following campaign video put out by Chaplain (1LT) Stovall — “Meet the 26-Year-Old Army Chaplain TAKING ON AOC” — perfectly elucidates the melding by this commissioned officer of his military position and uniform and his faction’s treacherous religio-political ideology, starting with its opening line — “Socialists like AOC hate two things — God and America.”

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=503579520788329>

For further details of the above-mentioned offenses of Chaplain (1LT) Stovall, please see the following link to the article which MRFF’s Senior Research Director, Ms. Chris Rodda, posted online yesterday at the Daily Kos:

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2021/5/26/2032249/-Army-Chaplain-Running-for-Congress-Denies-that-Biden-is-President-Vows-to-Take-on-AOC>

In response to this article, which was the #1 trending story on Daily Kos for most of the day yesterday 5/26/21, and subsequently spread widely to other websites, Chaplain (1LT) Stovall posted a wholly inadequate “disclaimer” on Twitter, which, as you can see at the following link, was met with numerous responses from people who believe, as MRFF does, that this U.S. Army Reserve officer must be swiftly and meaningfully punished.

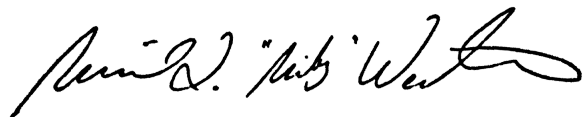
<https://twitter.com/Alexforarizona/status/1397710690073268224>

Given the sheer magnitude and audacity of these crystal clear violations being wantonly committed by Chaplain (1LT) Stovall, MRFF demands that official, criminal UCMJ charges be aggressively brought against him so that he faces a formal trial by general court-martial.

The message MUST be indelibly communicated by responsible Pentagon leadership that such outrageous and shocking hijacking of its regulatory and criminal compliance protocols by a U.S. military officer will NEVER be tolerated!

MRFF awaits your decision in this important matter soonest, Mr. Secretary.

Sincerely,



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CC: Kathleen H. Hicks, Deputy Secretary of Defense
General Mark A. Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
General John E. Hyten, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
John E. Whitley, Acting Secretary of the Army
General James C. McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army
Thomas W. Harker, Acting Secretary of the Navy
Admiral Michael M. Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations
John P. Roth, Acting Secretary of the Air Force
General Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Chief of Staff of the Air Force
General David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps
General John W. Raymond, Chief of Space Operations
General Daniel R. Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau
Lieutenant General Jody J. Daniels, Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General,
U.S. Army Reserve Command
Major General Thomas L. Solhjem, Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army