

Military Religious Freedom Group Wants General Behind Bars for Praying for the US

Several months ago, I was delivering a speech to a group of patriots in our nation's capital when I suddenly became ill and collapsed.

The following day, as I was recovering in the cardiac wing of a nearby hospital, I received a visitor—Col. John Teichert, then the commander at Joint Base Andrews.

I was a bit puzzled and surprised to see someone of Col. Teichert's stature standing in my hospital room—seeing how I did not know the man.

It turned out a mutual friend, a pastor in California, had summoned the colonel to my bedside. And for a little while he prayed for me and shared his testimony along with several encouraging passages from the Bible.

I was particularly moved by the colonel's kindness and his compassion—a brother in the Lord who took time out of his very busy schedule to pray at the bedside of a stranger.

So you can imagine my surprise when I received a press release from the Military Religious Freedom Foundation calling for the arrest of now Brigadier General Teichert—the new wing commander at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation is an organization that trolls military bases in search of any public display of the Christian faith. They are typically triggered by nativity scenes and Bibles placed on Missing Man tables.

MRFF founder Mikey Weinstein was especially angered to learn that Gen. Teichert owns a website called, **"Prayer at Lunchtime**

for the United States.”

The website encourages “Bible-believing Americans to take time to specifically pray for our nation at lunchtime every day.” **It also features a prayer list**—including among others President Trump, Vice President Pence, Congress and the military.

Weinstein demanded that Defense Secretary James Mattis launch an immediate investigation—calling Gen. Teichert a “fundamentalist Christian tyrant and religious extremist predator.”

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation claims to represent 41 personnel at Edwards AFB who are allegedly offended by the general’s personal website.

“Brigadier General Tiechert’s disgraceful, illegal and brazen promotion of his personal flavor of his weaponized version of Christianity represents one of the worst and most egregious cases MRFF has ever encountered in its 13 years of First Amendment civil rights advocacy,” Weinstein said in a prepared statement.

He went on to allege the general’s website violates the Uniform Code of Military Justice and demanded he must be investigated, prosecuted, convicted and punished.

“General Teichert should be doing time behind prison bars, not commanding a Wing wearing a general’s stars,” Weinstein said.

The Pentagon has not responded to my inquiries about Mr. Weinstein’s complaint, but the allegations are so outlandish they deserve no response.

“The Air Force appears to be doing exactly what it should upon receiving a complaint from Mikey Weinstein: ignoring him,” First Liberty Institute attorney Mike Berry told me. “Like so many complaints by the MRFF, this complaint is vindictive,

intolerant, and completely without merit.”

First Liberty Institute is one of the nation’s most respected law firms handling religious liberty cases. They are not representing Teichert.

“Bigoted demands that an officer be thrown in military prison because he prays for others should be rejected out of hand,” Berry said.

During the Obama administration, Weinstein once bragged about having a hot line to the Pentagon. It’s beyond time for the Trump administration to disconnect the number.

It’s time to put a stop to these vile and hateful attacks on Christian members of our military. Demanding that a general be imprisoned because he prays? Calling him an extremist predator? Outrageous!

It seems to me the only fundamentalist, extremist predator in this case is the Military Religious Freedom Foundation.