

Military Officer Under Fire for Sharing Health Benefits of Faith

A military officer encouraged readers to take advantage of their faith to improve their health, igniting a controversy with another military organization.

"If you desire to improve your health in this new year, just give yourself a little something to work with," Col. Thomas Hundley writes in a "Motivational Monday Message" on the official Military Health System website.

"During my grandfather's story he said, 'A person can't pray for a new job and expect to get it when they haven't even filled out an application. You have to give God a little something to work with,'" Hundley writes. "I challenge you to join the Operation Live Well team on the journey to attain a 'new you' in 2016. All we have to do is give God and ourselves a little something to work with. Happy New Year!"

But the Military Religious Freedom Foundation condemned Hundley's statements.

"Apparently, Colonel Thomas Hundley can't figure out whether he's an active duty senior Army officer or an evangelical Christian missionary," writes MRFF President Michael Weinstein. "Further, DoD can't seem to, likewise, decipher whether they are paying him to be one or the other. Where the (expletive) is the adult supervision for senior, active duty officer, Constitutional compliance at DoD?"

Weinstein says he has filed an official third-party complaint on behalf of 18 Army clients.