



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC-MCB CAMP BUTLER
UNIT 35001
FPO AP 96373-5001

5800
CO

Ms. Tobanna Barker
Legal Affairs Coordinator
Military Religious Freedom Foundation
13170-B Central Avenue SE
Suite 255
Albuquerque, NM 87123

Dear Ms. Barker:

SUBJECT: POW/MIA TABLE AT CAMP HANSEN CHOW HALL

This letter is to acknowledge that I received your e-mail of 12 July 2016. Prompted by your request, I personally viewed the POW/MIA table and have determined the display will remain in place. The POW/MIA display is a small, round table that is always set but never occupied, it is located in a nonpublic forum, and has the secular purpose of honoring prisoners of war and our missing comrades in arms. The co-located poster bearing the "The Marine Prayer" also has a secular purpose to encourage Marines in the performance of their duties and adherence to our core values. Although, the prayer references "almighty father", neither the poster nor the table has the specific purpose of furthering any specific religion.

In your e-mail you allege that photographs of the Camp Hansen chain of command are positioned near the POW/MIA display as an official endorsement of Christianity. This assertion is objectively false.

POW/MIA displays have been standard practice in military dining facilities and other such locations since the Vietnam War. We will continue to honor those who have sacrificed their freedom in defense of our country while remaining aware of the family members and friends who may never know the ultimate fate of their loved ones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. M. Howlett", is written over a horizontal line.

B. M. HOWLETT
Colonel, USMC
Camp Commander, Camp Hansen