



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

Sent via electronic and overnight mail

January 20, 2011

Lt. Gen Michael C. Gould
Superintendent, United States Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-5001

Lt. Gen. Gould,

On behalf of its 100-plus clients at the United States Air Force Academy who have expressed their grave concerns, shock, and disgust over the choice of former Marine Lt. Clebe McClary as the speaker for the Academy's upcoming National Prayer Luncheon, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) hereby demands that the Academy rescind its invitation forthwith to McClary and choose a more inclusive speaker for this event.

The email invitation to the Prayer Luncheon, sent on behalf of the Air Force Academy's 10th ABW Vice Commander, innocuously describes McClary as merely "an inspirational speaker, author and a highly decorated Vietnam War Veteran." Apparently, the person or persons who decided to invite this man to speak at the Prayer Luncheon neglected to do a simple internet search to find out more about him, and to see if he would be an appropriate and non-divisive speaker for an event to which Academy cadets and staff of all religions are being invited and, in some cases, "constructively ordered" to attend. As Grey's Law posits, any sufficiently advanced incompetence is completely indistinguishable from malice. Given the Academy's already indisputably dreadful record of unconstitutional religious abuses and its infamous reputation for same, it strains credulity to even presuppose that former Lt. McClary's selection by the Academy as its featured speaker was "erroneously" made out of mere ignorance.

According to former Lt. McClary's own website, "Clebe is what he likes to call a complete Marine. To him, USMC will always mean a U.S. Marine for Christ," a statement that prompted one of MRFF's many clients currently stationed at the Academy to write that they "can only conclude that anyone that doesn't share [McClary's] particular religious view must be an 'incomplete Marine,' (or soldier, or sailor, or airman) unworthy of the uniform."

Former Lt. McClary has also made statements such as: "I was a good person, playing the role people expected of me. I grew up in church and believed in the right things: the Bible, tithing, good morals and clean habits..." and "I almost went to hell with high morals"...(apparently because) "I never invited Jesus Christ into my heart as Savior or let Him become the Lord of my life." Thus, former Lt. McClary's self-admitted "message" makes it quite clear that the United States Air Force Academy's primary mission of pristine and peerless character and leadership development for its cadet population, and concomitantly cultivating excellence in integrity, courage, honor, trustworthiness, and responsibility amount to absolutely nothing at all in the eyes of his own version of fundamentalist Christianity. Notwithstanding achieving its own mission of preparing Academy cadets to be the very best United States Air Force officers possible, these very same Air Force Academy cadets and staff will still be consigned to hell unless they accept former Lt. McClary's own version of Christianity. Such statements are not only antithetical to the clear mission of the United States Air Force Academy, they are totally anathema to the purportedly globally inclusive purpose of this National Prayer Luncheon.



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

Egregiously sectarian statements like the foregoing from former Lt. McClary blatantly exclude not only non-Christians, but also the many Christians who do not subscribe to a particularly fundamentalist view of Christianity. Given the necessarily and comprehensively inclusive mandate of such an event as this one, it truly is an outrage of jovian proportion that the United States Air Force Academy has afforded an elite and coveted proselytizing forum to such a fundamentalist Christian and self-avowed member of the "Lord's Army." Indeed, it is precisely that incontrovertibly explicit and prestigious institutional approval of former Lt. McClary's non-inclusive religious "message" of fundamentalist Christian triumphalism, exceptionalism and supremacy which is the gravamen of the truly disgraceful decision by the Academy to honor him as the featured speaker at its National Prayer Luncheon event.

MRFF hereby formally demands the United States Air Force Academy immediately rescind its invitation to former Lt. McClary and choose a new speaker who can appropriately embody a message of inclusiveness for all Academy attendees.

Sincerely,

Michael L. "Mikey" Weinstein, Esq.
Founder & President
Military Religious Freedom Foundation
www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org

CC:

Dr. Robert M. Gates - U.S. Secretary of Defense
Michael B. Donley - Secretary of the Air Force
General Norton A. Schwartz - Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force