

From: Mikey Weinstein <mikeyw4444@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 7:03 PM
To: JD
Subject: Re: U.S. Army Officer, Combat Vet, West Point Grad Speaks Out Against Religiou...

....."publishing" a religiously supremacist book and "managing" an equally putrescent exclusionary website are most certainly "actions", Jack.....and are most assuredly perceived as such by those below you in rank in your organization who are afraid of you and despise you.....shall we compare verbal SAT scores?.....in dealing with unconstitutional scum like you, I find it useful to always consider the source: thus, plz NEVER forget that you're a "double qualifier" as defined below in an earlier response to your bigoted screed.....lastly, "intimidating" an ignorant, prejudiced fool like you is child's play.....in fact, you're VERY intimidated right now!!.....and, sport, I'm not even TRYIN' yet at all.....just wait 'til we take your deposition.....THEN, tell me how well we're doin, champ.....all in the fullness of time, you pathetic poser.....

On Aug 20, 2009, at 5:35 PM, JD wrote:

Far be it from me to parse, but you said "actions," then listed two sources of "words." May want to try that again.

Then you make vague, generalized allusions to publicly available information? Nice, "sport."

At least now I know how little you know. For a man who admits making a living on intimidation, you're not doing so well.

JD
www.ChristianFighterPilot.com
www.ChristianFighterPilot.com/blog

From: Mikey Weinstein [<mailto:mikeyw4444@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 6:55 PM
To: JD
Subject: Re: U.S. Army Officer, Combat Vet, West Point Grad Speaks Out Against Religiou...

.....quite arrestingly numerous and boundlessly repugnant.....hey, stop for just a sec,sport, and try to imagine how it must feel to be a USAF airman in your organization subordinate to you in rank knowing FULL well that you're the "author" of a certain, ahem, religiously supremacist "book" and website/blog.....oh, that's right, we at MRFF do NOT need to imagine.....we're in touch with them.....you disgrace the oath you took to the United States Constitution every day and you inspire fear and loathing among those you are supposed to set an example for and lead.....

On Aug 20, 2009, at 4:18 PM, JD wrote:

And those actions would be...?

JD
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From: mikeyw4444@aol.com [<mailto:mikeyw4444@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 5:52 PM
To: JD
Subject: Re: U.S. Army Officer, Combat Vet, West Point Grad Speaks Out Against Religiou...

.....Actions speak louder than words....your actions veritably SCREAM!!

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: "JD"
Date: Thu, 20 Aug 2009 17:48:41 -0400
To: 'Mikey Weinstein' <Mikeyw4444@aol.com>
Subject: RE: U.S. Army Officer, Combat Vet, West Point Grad Speaks Out Against Religiou...
"a "human being" ...does NOT judge the total value...of another fellow being solely [sic] by whether or not that being "appropriately" accepts one specific religious tradition or doctrine."

Given your summary accusations of me, based on little more than my "specific religious tradition," irony abounds.

JD
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www.ChristianFighterPilot.com/blog

From: Mikey Weinstein [<mailto:Mikeyw4444@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 3:15 PM
To: JD
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: U.S. Army Officer, Combat Vet, West Point Grad Speaks Out Against Religiou...

.....Ed can well be excused from his assumptive error for, you see, Ed is a what we call a "human being"..... among other things, a "human being" is a homo sapien that does NOT judge the total value, integrity, worth, character, courage, intelligence and eternal disposition of another fellow being solely by whether or not that being "appropriately" accepts one specific religious tradition or doctrine.....thus, you do not qualify to be excused as Ed does.....you're not remotely fit to wash his underwear....."consistency"??.....indeed, it is YOU who would win that award for "consistently" levying, directly or indirectly, a draconian weaponized religiosity known as dominionism upon all who have contact with you.....your unconstitutional metaphysics are a theological cancer that appeal only to the hearts of the mindless and the minds of the heartless; in your case, **you're a double qualifier.....**
On Aug 20, 2009, at 12:12 PM, JD wrote:

Ed Brayton said:

"Mikey Weinstein asked me to pass along this statement from an Army officer and West Point graduate about the constant problems he has faced in the military from aggressive Christian superiors who have badgered him relentlessly about his own religious views..."

I won't hold my breath waiting for you to take Brayton to task for using the same pronoun I did. I've learned not to expect consistency in principle from you.

JD
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www.ChristianFighterPilot.com/blog

From: Mikey Weinstein [<mailto:Mikeyw4444@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 11:49 AM
To: JD
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: U.S. Army Officer, Combat Vet, West Point Grad Speaks Out Against Religiou...

Bravo Sierra. Might want to have that Constitution looked at.

On Aug 20, 2009, at 9:36 AM, JD wrote:

Gender is irrelevant. Nothing in either the complaint or the response relies on it. (It's worth noting, however, that statistically very few males are accused of anorexia.)

Your only response is about the choice of pronoun for a person whose identity is unknown? Makes sense that your rebuttal would have nothing to do with the complaint at hand.

It indicates a lack of substance.

What was that you once said? Ah yes: "you seem to be quite brave in your constant ad hominem attacks..." You attack the messenger because you cannot refute the message.

Bravo. Might want to have that plank looked at.

JD
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From: Mikey Weinstein [<mailto:Mikeyw4444@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 10:35 AM
To: JD
Subject: Re: U.S. Army Officer, Combat Vet, West Point Grad Speaks Out Against Religiou...

..... *****CONFIDENTIAL: FOR YOUR EYES ONLY, RICK:** most fascinating how this asshole ASSUMES that the Captain is male.....how VERY typical of a chauvinistic, misogynisticDominionist.....(not for anyone else to know but you right now: our MRFF client here is FEMALE!!)

On Aug 20, 2009, at 12:13 AM, JD wrote:

Rick,

He wasn't the only one "there," who "lived it." To assert a connection between a prayer at a meeting and the "injuring and killing" of "our brave military members" is to demonstrate a disconnect from reality. And before you jump on it, you're right. He doesn't say that. Instead, he makes the leap without any connection whatsoever. Thanks to some vocabulary from the MRFF, he's already decided what his forest looks like. Now he's making sure his trees fit neatly into it.

As a cadet, he "stood his ground" and won. Twice. As an officer, he did so again. Thanks to an assertive personality and an apparently positive leadership history, it appears he's been pretty successful. How, then, is he "utterly powerless...to stand up for [his] rights"? Seems he's done exactly that, despite his own claim that he's a "victim."

"I finally understood the message...the Army has no place for people like me: dissidents who stray from...conservative fundamentalist Christianity."

Funny how he draws that conclusion based on (reported) events that have nothing to do with Christianity. Being told (incorrectly) that he had to say "so help me God," being harassed about being Jewish, and being told that "the Army is not in the business of catering to people like you," which is a phrase repeated to probably every basic trainee in the military, all have nothing to do with Christianity—nor does he assert that the people responsible were Christians.

The captain chooses to tell his stories in such a way as to emphasize the religious aspect, which ignores the fact that there is sometimes an entirely valid underlying secular issue:

"my Squad Leaders and I were ordered to attend a mission briefing...I was standing at the edge of the formation, and chose to quietly walk away."

He leaves a combat mission briefing without being dismissed and is *surprised* when someone accuses him of endangering his troops? Protest if you must, but walking away from such a briefing is probably not the way to win friends and influence people.

Remember how Klingenschmitt has been mocked for claiming religious persecution when his court martial was for the secular issue of disobeying orders? Your Captain is doing the same thing, claiming "religious" persecution and leaving out the "secular" details.

"I later contacted the Equal Opportunity Office to make an official anonymous report..."

There's no such thing as an "official anonymous" equal opportunity complaint in the Army. Official reports are, by definition, not anonymous. See the AR.

"the NCO...[violated] privacy regulations and guarantees of protective anonymity attendant to such hyper-sensitive filings."

There is not only NOT a guarantee of "privacy...and protective anonymity," there is the explanation of how there ISN'T any, since EO complaints are reported to the chain of command. He makes it sound pretty unjust and pathetic, but based on what little he says in the missive, it sounds like it happened by the book, not in violation of it. For a self-proclaimed "great leader/soldier," he's awfully naïve...or ignorant.

"The first day I met my current [superior] he was playing Christian gospel music in his office...Perhaps it was an innocent oversight on his part..."

Oversight of what? There's no standing military regulation that prohibits playing music in an office, though local units may have their own restrictions. The Captain seems to assume that some degree of special deference was due him. He was wrong.

"Army leaders send the message out that prayer is voluntary, and that Soldiers do not have to participate."

Ah, so where's the problem again?

JD

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The story of this young officer is representative of the thousands of complaints received by MRFF from lower four grade, NCO and Officer personnel who have run afoul of the stringent, coercive and illegal Christian Proselytizing now rampant in the Armed Forces and Service Academies.

What must not happen is total control of ordinance and equipment that would enable Christian led military members, at the behest of Dominionist supervisors, to deploy weapons of immense destructive power in the name of their God. Armageddon may only be a prayer and an order away.

Rick

Subj: U.S. Army Officer Combat Vet West Point Grad Speaks Out Against Religious Persecution

<image001.jpg>

**"U.S. Army Officer,
Combat Vet, West Point Grad
Speaks Out
Against Religious Persecution"**

August 19, 2009

I am a United States Army Captain. On a spring day at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York several years ago, I took a solemn oath to support and defend the United States Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic as an officer in the United States Army. I took a legally altered oath which omitted the words "So Help Me G-d." When I submitted my first signed copy, with those words neatly crossed out and initialed, I was informed that it was not valid. When threatened with the prospect of not graduating and being refused a Commission, I stood by my refusal to sign the Oath as it read. I could not in good conscience do so because I was deeply disturbed by fusion of religion and military service. I could not reconcile the suspicion that the Oath itself was establishing religion in a way which

contradicted the spirit of the Constitution with the intensity of my commitment to defend same. **I believed, and still believe, that my personal metaphysical experience of the universe must be separate from my role as a military professional.** In the passing years, I have come to the unsettling conclusion that the sentiment in the Oath which so disturbed me is a practical reality in my United States Army.

Based on my alteration of The Oath, you may be tempted to label me “non-religious.” I find this odd, because **religion has broadly influenced my life and values.** I was born into a mixed Jewish and Catholic family. The family I belong to now is mixed Buddhist and Agnostic. **I attended Catholic high school where I excelled in my religious studies.** I was one of a literal fistful of non-Christian students voluntarily attending a religious institution, and I never once felt pressure to conform. In our mandatory religious classes we studied Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, and Quaker, Mormon, Jewish, Protestant, Wiccan, and other religions and we were taught that mere "tolerance" was abhorrent and basic "acceptance" was the absolute minimum standard. I learned during my second semester as a Plebe (freshman) at West Point that even lowly tolerance is a privilege not to be bestowed on all Soldiers in the United States Army.

During my second year at the West Point, my Squad Leader for summer training expressed disapproval on numerous occasions with my being Jewish, and, during one mission, he grabbed my MRE (a military meal) as we sat down for lunch and handed me another. He ordered me to eat the pork chop and I reminded him that I refrain from pork for religious reasons. He told me that I could eat the pork or eat nothing. One of his peers, a female Jewish cadet, urged me to obey him and not to make him angry; I declined. The next day, my cadet Platoon Leader presented me with a written counseling statement detailing my signs of “anorexia” and a “troubling” refusal to eat which was detrimental to my health and indicative of “incapacity for leadership.” I was filled with righteous indignation. I went through the Cadet and Commissioned Chain of Command and my rebuttal culminated with a conversation with the Active Duty Major in command of the summer training. When I explained the events in detail, he told me that my Cadet Chain of Command was right to be concerned, and spoke words I will never forget: **“the Army is not in the business of catering to people like you.”** Those words have haunted me throughout my career as an Officer. They were the turning point for me—when I finally understood the message several of my leaders had been expressing to me all along: **the Army has no place for people like me: dissidents who stray from the unofficially mandated military religion; conservative fundamentalist Christianity.**

Throughout my service, I have been inundated by reminders of the tenacity of this "Army Religion". On a regular basis, I am confronted with being forced/coerced to partake in involuntary prayer. At change of command ceremonies, promotions, retirements, banquets, mandatory Officer/NCO call, the list goes on. What do I do when this happens? I see no reason why I should have to bow my head to participate in this involuntary prayer. But if I stand at attention, I am still showing that I am subject to religion in my professional duties. I have discovered that any other movements or fidgeting are viewed as

disrespectful to those who wish to pray. Army leaders send the message out that prayer is voluntary, and that Soldiers do not have to participate. As a Platoon Leader serving in Iraq, my Squad Leaders and I were ordered to attend a mission briefing with the Battalion Command Team's security squad. The briefing concluded with a Soldier being ordered to lead the group in prayer. I was disturbed because I knew that there were Soldiers on this team who did not share the specific, sectarian Christian religious beliefs being expressed. I was standing at the edge of the formation, and chose to quietly walk away. I was later counseled by my Commander and informed that the Battalion Command Team had heard of the incident and recommended I be relieved from my duties as Platoon Leader. **My Commander explained that, by not bowing my head in blatantly Christian prayer with the others, I was sending a message that I "want my Soldiers to die." These words penetrated my core.** What leader can imagine a worse accusation? Who wouldn't doubt herself or himself when confronted with this message? The threat of being relieved was completely overshadowed and, again, I was an outsider, incapable of leadership because I refused this unconstitutional perversion of Christianity synonymous with the Command. **Could I not, would I not be an effective combat ready officer/leader/warrior without first very publicly and repeatedly demonstrating my singular loyalty to Jesus Christ? Could I not lead brave military women and men into combat for my country without being an avowed fundamentalist Christian?** I stopped practicing my own religion; I disassociated myself from Soldiers who were similarly persecuted; I lost hope.

Who can you talk to about something like this? Certainly not my Chain of Command- my immediate supervisor/rater and senior supervisor/rater had threatened to relieve me. Obviously my counseling statement wouldn't address mandatory prayer, but what did it matter what it said if both my rater and senior rater agreed I was "unfit" and there were no other Officers who I worked with or around? I later contacted the Equal Opportunity Office to make an official anonymous report about the noxious, compulsive Christian, command climate. Shockingly, the NCO I filed the report with wasted no time in contacting my Battalion Commander directly, in complete violation of the privacy regulations and guarantees of protective anonymity attendant to such hyper-sensitive filings. I later became a member of an Installation Inspector General Team and observed firsthand the impotent, incapacity of the IG to affect any meaningful change. **The difference between lower enlisted Soldiers and myself is this: they suspect that they have nowhere to turn in order to escape this unbearable religious persecution—in contrast, as an officer, I do not suspect. I know.**

Looking back over all my time in the Army and at the United States Military Academy at West Point, I know that there were so many good memories, so many wonderful opportunities, and so many outstanding leaders of character I met along the way. Yet, the time is painfully tainted for me by a long shadow of bitter religious persecution by zealously righteous Christians essentially universally extant throughout the United States Army command structure. **What has most surprised me about this struggle is how utterly powerless I am as a Captain- a Command level Officer- to stand up for my rights and for the Constitution and Country I love. I**

am a great Soldier, a great leader, and a great person, and I am a victim. It is not comfortable to admit one is a victim; I believe that admitting it takes a certain type of personal strength. The first day I met my current military superior/rater, he was playing Christian gospel music in his office while he called me in to talk. Perhaps it was an innocent oversight on his part, or perhaps it is another hint of the sinister nature of the current "Army Religion". There is no safe way to find out. My experiences have shown that the inundation of invitations for fundamentalist Christian prayer and fellowship, "spiritual growth" and "moral development" that target fellow Soldiers tends to thinly mask an undeniable and comprehensive underlying propensity for aggression, hatred, and ambition to subjugate the United States Army to an official religion; fundamentalist Christianity. **The result for the American military is a total destruction of esprit de corps, teamwork, morale, good order and discipline. The result for the fundamentalist Islamic enemies we fight is an immeasurable bonanza of emboldenment for their recruitment, propoganda and insurgency efforts to maim and kill our soldiers down range in Iraq and Afghanistan. I was there. I saw it. I lived it. I am still living it.**

When Mikey Weinstein and the Military Religious Freedom Foundation describe this catastrophe of fundamentalist Christian usurpation of the command and control of our armed forces as a "national security threat of the gravest magnitude", they are precisely correct. It is injuring and killing our brave military members, specifically. It is desecrating the magnificent Constitution we swore an oath to, generally. And it is destroying our military's solidarity of purpose and ability to accomplish The Mission, completely.

(name, military position, military unit, military installation withheld)

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in the U.S. military has collapsed.**

**MRFF desperately needs you to
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<image002.jpg>

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