



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

Hon. Dr. Robert M. Gates  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

November 17, 2008

Secretary Gates,

Earlier this year, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF), <http://www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org>, discovered that a Navy chaplain, LCDR Brian K. Waite, has, for several years, been publicly endorsing a religious organization called Revival Fires Ministries. A photo of LCDR Waite in uniform, along with his letter of endorsement, appear on the websites of both Revival Fires Ministries, run by Dr. Cecil Todd, and Revival Fires International, the ministry of Cecil Todd's son, Tim Todd. LCDR Waite has also appeared, in uniform, as a featured speaker at the annual Revival Fires Ministries campmeetings in 2006, 2007, and 2008, as well as being pictured, again in uniform, on advertising materials for these events.

Further investigation of LCDR Waite revealed that, in 2002, as the pastor of a 3,600 member mega-church in Oklahoma and reserve chaplain, he published a virulently anti-Muslim book, titled *Islam Uncovered*. This book was quickly taken off the market after it was discovered that much of its content was plagiarized, and that Waite had fabricated two of the endorsements that appeared on its back cover. It was shortly after this plagiarism scandal became public that Waite abruptly left his church to return to active duty as a Navy chaplain.

Also uncovered in the investigation of LCDR Waite, who was using the title Dr. Waite, was the fact that much of his education, including his two doctorates, consisted of diploma-mill degrees, and that he had grossly exaggerated his qualifications in the field of "traumatology."

In 2005, LCDR Waite was appointed as director of a doctoral program for military chaplains at the Graduate Theological Foundation (GTF) in South Bend, Indiana, a program that, according to the GTF, was instituted at the request of the Department of the Navy. The GTF is an educational institution with a diverse faculty and student body encompassing a variety of religions, including Islam. In March 2008, when LCDR Waite's anti-Islamic writings were exposed by MRFF, Dr. John H. Morgan, president of the GTF, not only immediately dismissed Waite from the institution's faculty, but terminated the entire Military Ministries program, in an effort to, as Morgan stated, "distance ourselves profoundly from [Waite's] name and his ideas." In an email message to the GTF's Muslim faculty members, Dr. Morgan wrote, "Please know that we have dismissed [Waite] from our faculty and terminated our military ministries program," and "If anyone enquires of you regarding Brian Waite (a military chaplain serving in Iraq), please assure them that he was appointed to the faculty without our knowledge of his book or his feelings about Islam."

In his book, LCDR Waite contended that the Islamic faith itself was responsible for the attacks of 9-11, writing that there was enough "evidence to indict the faith of Islam as culpable in this attack." Regarding the distrust of Muslims, Waite wrote, "To them I would say, 'Deal with it!' The suspicion that you encounter is merely a consequence to your own belief system. Ultimately this distrust is never going to go away as long as you embrace a religion that is hostile to peace-loving Christians, Jews, and anybody that does not conform to your beliefs." The chapter containing these statements ended, "Should Islam be immune from attack because it calls itself a religion? If Adolf Hitler called Nazism a religion, would we be speaking German today? Evil is evil, no matter what nomenclature it hides under."

See [http://onlinejournal.com/artman/publish/article\\_3060.shtml](http://onlinejournal.com/artman/publish/article_3060.shtml) and [/article\\_3116.shtml](http://onlinejournal.com/artman/publish/article_3116.shtml) for further details on Waite's plagiarism scandal, dubious educational credentials, and dismissal from the GTF faculty. As noted in these articles, attempts by their author to get a comment from the Pentagon on the dismissal of LCDR Waite from the GTF were not answered. Additionally, it is impossible to believe that the Naval Chaplain Corps was unaware that the GTF had dismissed LCDR Waite and terminated its Military Ministries doctoral program, actions that should have raised serious questions about LCDR Waite's background and suitability for service in the U.S. military, yet LCDR Waite does not appear to have suffered any repercussions from the Navy, and continues unfettered to violate military regulations, speaking, in uniform, as recently as June 2008 at a Revival Fires campmeeting, an event that was not only religious, but blatantly anti-Islamic and political. See video at <http://www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org/newsletters/2008-11/video.html>.

Also at issue is the relationship between Revival Fires Ministries, an organization that espouses the same anti-Muslim views as LCDR Waite, and the Pentagon Chaplain's Office. According to a press release from this ministry, Revival Fires, "at the request of the Chief Chaplains of the Pentagon," has been shipping Bibles to Iraq, via military airlift, since 2003, describing the Bible as a "full Bible is designed and authorized by the Chief Chaplains of the Pentagon." In a recent news item posted on the Revival Fires website about the ministry's "Yellow-Ribbon Rallies," events to raise money for Bibles for our troops, ministry founder Cecil Todd described himself as being "on assignment from the Pentagon," and again states that the relationship between Revival Fires and the Pentagon was initiated by the Pentagon Chaplain's Office.

Cecil Todd's use of hate-filled, anti-Muslim rhetoric at these Yellow-Ribbon Rallies, rallies that he claims to hold "on assignment from the Pentagon," is completely unacceptable. Additionally, during the 2008 presidential campaign, these rallies were turned into anti-Obama political rallies, in violation of the relevant I.R.S. regulations. The following are some excerpts from "Who I Want In The White House!," one of the sermons delivered by Cecil Todd during the campaign.


"Now -- GOD FORBID -- We have one of our Presidential candidates who was raised a Muslim ... he was trained in a Muslim school -- he will rarely (if ever!) pledge to our flag if he can avoid it. He is never seen wearing an American Flag on his lapel -- and his middle name is 'Hussein!' And yet he wants to be President of these United States! I say, 'He doesn't qualify to be a dog-catcher!'"

"If Obama is not a Muslim, why are so many Muslims (some are even suspected terrorists!) supporting and backing Obama for President? If he is truly a Christian (as he claims!) would these Muslims be supporting him? You know the answer!

"Be informed ... a Muslim is taught it is alright to lie, if it will advance the Muslim agenda! Mark my words, 'The Muslims' will lie again and again to get their man (or woman) in a position of power and influence!

"Why is Obama pushing so hard to bring our troops home? Why is that so important to him and his supporters? I believe I know why ... the evidence is in, I believe OBAMA IS STILL A MUSLIM IN HIS HEART! He doesn't want his Muslim brothers and sisters killed! In my opinion -- Barack 'Hussein' Obama is posing as a Christian to get your vote!"

A download of this sermon was available on the same Revival Fires Ministries website that contains the photo and endorsement of LCDR Waite, as well as the press release stating that the ministry's Bibles for the troops program was initiated by the Pentagon Chaplain's Office.

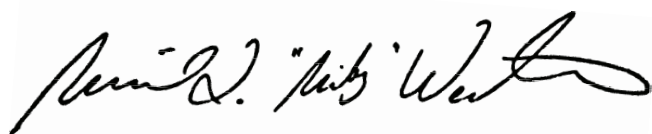


In a Memorial Day message on the Revival Fires International website, Cecil Todd's son, Tim Todd, urged his readers to "make an eternal investment into the lives of our U.S. Armed Forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan" by donating money to send Bibles to the troops, soliciting these donations by claiming, "Our government no longer provides Bibles for our troops! Because of the foolish 'separation of church and state' battle going on in this country, our military stopped this years ago. However, the U.S. military does give a copy of the Koran to all of our soldiers so they can 'know their enemy. I say we need to give our soldiers a copy of the Bible so they can 'know their savior!!!"

As of the date of this letter, the photo of LCDR Waite in uniform, Waite's letter endorsing Revival Fires Ministries, and a photo of a Bible with official DoD seals on its cover, appear on Tim Todd's website next to the following statement from the younger Todd: "We must let the Muslims, the Hare Krishna's, the Hindu's, the Buddhist's and all other cults and false religions know, 'You are welcome to live in America...but this is a Christian nation...this is God's country! If you don't like our emphasis on Christ, prayer and the Holy Bible, you are free to leave anytime!'"

LCDR Waite's habitual violations of the military regulations regarding the wearing of the uniform also include the use of his image in an advertisement for the American Bible Society (ABS), the publisher of the military Bibles promoted by Revival Fires. A full page advertisement that most recently appeared in the November 10, 2008 issues of *Newsweek*, *Time*, and *U.S. News* magazines, in eighteen of these magazines' regional advertising markets, shows LCDR Waite, in uniform with his name tag clearly visible, reading to an enlisted man from the ABS military Bible. In this photo, the official DoD seals on the Bible's cover are also clearly visible.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation demands that the DoD Inspector General promptly initiate an investigation into the background and activities of LCDR Waite, and that any existing association between the U.S. military and Revival Fires Ministries be immediately terminated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael L. 'Mikey' Weinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Weinstein" clearly legible, and the middle initial "L." and nickname "'Mikey'" in between.

Michael L. "Mikey" Weinstein, Esq.  
Founder & President  
Military Religious Freedom Foundation  
[www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org](http://www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org)

CC:

Hon. Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy

Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

