

MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

foundation

Military Religious Freedom Foundation

BREAKING NEWS December 11, 2006

Today's been a big day for the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. At a heavily attended press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, earlier this morning, Mikey Weinstein and Rev. Melinda Morton unveiled video footage of military officials violating both military regulations and the Constitution.

Scenes from the video, produced by the Christian Embassy for promotional purposes, include one of the most senior Pentagon officers bragging about sharing his faith with all who come through his office, presumably including junior officers and other personnel.

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Inquiry Sought Over Evangelical Video

The Washington Post

By Alan Cooperman Washington Post Staff Writer Monday, December 11, 2006; A03

A military watchdog group is asking the Defense Department to investigate whether seven Army and Air Force officers violated regulations by appearing in uniform in a promotional video for an evangelical Christian organization.

In the video, much of which was filmed inside the Pentagon, four generals and three colonels praise the Christian Embassy, a group that evangelizes among military leaders, politicians and diplomats in Washington. Some of the officers describe their efforts to spread their faith within the military.

"I found a wonderful opportunity as a director on the joint staff, as I meet the people that come into my directorate," Air Force Maj. Gen. Jack J. Catton Jr. says in the video. "And I tell them right up front who Jack Catton is, and I start with the fact that I'm an old-fashioned American, and my first priority is my faith in God, then my family and then country. I share my faith because it describes who I am."

Pete Geren, a former acting secretary of the Air Force who oversaw the service's response in 2005 to accusations that evangelical Christians were pressuring cadets at the Air Force Academy, also appears in the video. The Christian Embassy "has been a rock that I can rely on, been an organization that helped me in my walk with Christ, and I'm just thankful for the service they give," he says.

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MRFF Press Conference



Rev. MeLinda Morton of Chicago (R) speaks on behalf of the watchdog organization Military Religious Freedom Foundation during a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington December 11, 2006 to call on the Pentagon to launch an investigation into the appearance in a video of senior onduty U.S. military officers openly promoting their religious commitment while in uniform. REUTERS/Larry Downing (UNITED STATES)

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