



Congressman Lee M. Zeldin
First Congressional District of New York

May 19, 2018

Major General Andrew P. Poppas
Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell
2574 23rd Street
Fort Campbell, Kentucky 42223

Dear Major General Poppas,

On April 28, 2018, the *Military Times* reported that an Army Regulation (AR) 15-6 investigation was opened at the 101st Airborne Division following allegations of discrimination against Jewish soldiers at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Jeanette Mize and her family were serving as lay leaders for the Fort Campbell Jewish community, where the closest Synagogue (in Nashville) is a 100 mile round trip from Fort Campbell. On March 5, 2018, Jeanette Mize and her family were summarily dismissed as the lay leaders or "Distinctive Religious Group Leaders" (DRGL) for the Fort Campbell Jewish community. In a memorandum, Chaplain (Colonel) John J. Murphy cited that a change in leadership was necessary to fulfill the vision and intent of the Commander's Master Religious Program. Ms. Mize and her family asked for the specific reasons as to why they were being fired and were told by the Christian chaplains who fired them that they did not need to provide any reason for this termination. Furthermore, two ranking Christian chaplains allegedly refused to support the Fort Campbell Jewish community's requirement to celebrate Passover on its actual date of observance (March 30) due to its interference with Good Friday observance and cost. Since then, to our knowledge, Shabbat services have still not been resumed for Jewish Soldiers and their families.

Ms. Mize and her family requested the civil rights advocacy representation and intervention of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) to right these alleged anti-Semitic wrongdoings. MRFF reached out to Colonels Brett Sylvia and Mark Faria and filed a formal complaint with the Fort Campbell leadership which has since resulted in the 15-6 investigation.

With regards to the 15-6 investigation, all of Ms. Mize's witnesses should be given the opportunity to provide their full testimony to the Investigating Officer. In the meantime, I ask that you immediately resume Friday night Shabbat services every Friday evening as before. Important Jewish holidays, such as Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and others should also be respected and observed on post on the proper Jewish calendar observance dates for individuals and families of the Jewish faith.

Finally, Jeanette and her husband Carl should be immediately reinstated to preserve the status quo pending the final results of the 15-6 investigation. Please also update Congress immediately as to what specific steps are being taken to punish, counsel or otherwise address any individuals found to be responsible for this problematic situation and to identify any anti-Semitic incidents across Fort Campbell to ensure fair treatment for all military personnel. With the rising tide of anti-Semitism across the world, it is critical our military upholds the highest standards and holds accountable any individual who discriminates against Jewish servicemembers.

Respectfully,



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress