



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

April 28, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

It has come to the attention of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF: [www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org](http://www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org)) that a number of National Day of Prayer (NDP) events being run by the National Day of Prayer Task Force (NDPTF) are scheduled to include highly visible public participation by members of the U.S. military (i.e., military color guards and military bands). These events are clearly listed on the official NDPTF website, meaning that the event coordinators have agreed to adhere to the NDPTF's stringent sectarian rules, which require making all NDPTF events exclusively Christian and completely prohibiting non-Christian participation. (See MRFF's letter of April 19, 2010 regarding Franklin Graham for the NDPTF's "Statement of Belief" and "Official Policy Statement on Participation of 'Non-Judeo-Christian' groups in the National Day of Prayer.")

Also cited in MRFF's letter of April 19, 2010 were the following DoD regulations prohibiting the military's endorsement of the NDPTF, a non-federal entity: Joint Ethics Regulation (DoD 5500.7-R) regarding the strictly prohibited endorsement of a non-federal entity (Section 3-209), and DoD Instruction 5410.19, which, likewise, prohibits the providing of a selective benefit or preferential treatment to any organization (Sections 6.7.1 and 6.7.2).

The currently scheduled participation by military personnel in other official NDPTF events across the country is not only in absolutely direct violation of the same specific DoD regulations cited above regarding non-federal entities, but also directly violate DoD and individual service branch regulations on uniform wear. Therefore, for the reasons cited above, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation hereby demands that United States military participation in any form at any NDPTF event be immediately and permanently prohibited forthwith.

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

CC:

President Barack Obama  
John M. McHugh – Secretary of the Army  
Ray Mabus – Secretary of the Navy  
Michael B. Donley – Secretary of the Air Force  
Admiral Michael Mullen - Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
General James E. Cartwright - Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
General George W. Casey, Jr. - Chief of Staff of the United States Army  
Admiral Gary Roughead - Chief of Naval Operations  
General Norton A. Schwartz - Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force  
General James T. Conway - Commandant of the Marine Corps