

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

May 2013

'Open hostility' to Christians in U.S. military and to you and me

by Bill Johnson



"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."
II Timothy 2:3

This verse isn't addressing war on the battlefields with guns and bombs, but the spiritual battles we fight in daily life. Right now warfare – spiritual warfare style - is being fought behind closed doors as those in power surreptitiously create policies against Christianity.

Note this prophetic warning written in 1990 from Christian leader Dr. James Dobson:

"Bloody battles are being fought on a thousand fronts, both inside and outside of government. Open any daily newspaper

and you'll find accounts of the latest Gettysburg, Waterloo, Normandy, or Stalingrad.

Instead of fighting for territory or military conquest, however, the struggle now is for the hearts and minds of the people. It is a war over ideas. ... For now, the outcome is very much in doubt. ..."

This war is one that significantly targets the heart and soul of the U.S. military and, congruently, each and every one of us.

Rear Admiral William Lee stated at a National Day of Prayer event: *"Leaders like myself are feeling the constraints of rules and regulations and guidance issued by lawyers that put us in a tighter and tighter box regarding our constitutional right to express our religious faith."*

There are many recent examples of the military targeting Christians, as commentator Todd Starnes reports:

•An Army briefing labeled Evangelical Christians and Catholics as examples

of religious extremism – linking them to Al Qaeda and Hamas. In another incident, an Army officer warned that the Family Research Council and American Family Association were domestic hate groups.

•A War Games scenario at Fort Leavenworth identified Christian groups and Evangelical groups as being potential threats;

•A 2009 Dept. of Homeland Security memorandum identified future threats to national security coming from Evangelicals and pro-life groups;

•A West Point study released by the U.S. Military Academy's Combating Terrorism Center that linked pro-lifers to terrorism;

•Bibles were banned at Walter Reed Army Medical Center – a decision that was later rescinded;

•Catholic chaplains were told not to read a letter to parishioners from their archbishop related

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to Obamacare mandates. The Secretary of the Army feared the letter could be viewed as a call for civil disobedience.

And the most recent, quoting from Worldnet Daily:

Last month, Pentagon officials met with an activist committed to removing Christianity from the U.S. military.

Michael "Mikey" Weinstein, the head of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, has called the practice of Christians in the service sharing their faith "spiritual rape." ...

Now Weinstein's wants the Pentagon to vigorously enforce an existing policy against proselytizing in the military. The Pentagon's responded by issuing this

written statement:

"Religious proselytization is not permitted within the Department of Defense," the Pentagon statement read in part. "Court-martials and non-judicial punishments are decided on a case-by-case basis."

A firestorm then erupted amid fears of court-martials for service members who share their Christian faith, and the Pentagon was forced to backtrack in an effort to quiet the protests.

"Service members can share their faith (evangelize), but must not force attempts to convert others of any faith or no faith to one's beliefs (proselytization)," Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen said in a written statement.

That's not good enough for retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Jerry Boykin, who is now executive vice president at the Family Research Council.

"We'd like to get a statement saying exactly what assurances Mikey Weinstein did get from the Air Force," Boykin told WND. ...

Activists like Weinstein argue any Christian witnessing should be off limits, while others say it should only mean service members cannot pressure or coerce others to convert.

"If they will tell us that and give us the assurance that living their faith and sharing their faith is a protected right then we'll be satisfied," said Boykin. ...

If the pattern of religious hostility persists, Boykin says young people and their families will simply decide military service is not worth the assault on their values. ...

Come and hear Lieutenant General (Ret) Jerry Boykin, one of the nation's most significant leaders in our day - **Thursday, June 6 at 7:00 PM** at Matthews Auditorium, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 3000 Leonard N.E. Grand Rapids MI

Also: Lieutenant General (Ret.) Jerry Boykin - **Friday, June 7 at 7:30 PM** at First Assembly of God, 5650 S. Telegraph Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI 48125

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