



Ron Crews, CH (COL) USAR Retired
Executive Director
Email: rcrews@chaplainalliance.org

July 30, 2014

Col. Brian Duffy
Base Commander
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
10480 Sogen Avenue
JBER, Alaska 99506

Re: Follow Up to "No Atheists in Foxholes" Essay

Dear Col. Duffy,

Chaplain Alliance For Religious Liberty exists to ensure that chaplains can defend and provide for the freedom of religion that the Constitution guarantees all chaplains and those whom they serve. Part of our mission is to serve as a common point of information for exposing the rising tide of threats to religious liberty. Because of our mission, we asked Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), a legal ministry, to send you a FOIA request for information relating to the "No Atheists in Foxholes" controversy. They reviewed the records you sent and reported to us. This letter is in response.

FIRST, WE WANT TO COMMEND YOU for correctly deciding that letting a chaplain post essays about religion and religious themes on the base website does not violate the Constitution. The records ADF received from you clearly indicate that you understood early on that Chaplain Reyes had done nothing wrong in writing his essay and that the base website had done nothing wrong in posting it. Our only criticism is that it took awhile for your decision in favor of the Chaplain to become public knowledge.

SECOND, WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU in the future to come down quickly and decisively on the side of your chaplains when Mikey Weinstein and Military Religious Freedom Foundation complain about them. As you well know, chaplains do tremendous good for the men and women in uniform. The fact that Mikey and his organization do not like the good they do does not change that fact. We therefore respectfully encourage you to quickly and loudly let everyone know that you stand with your chaplains if something like this happens again in the future. Otherwise, the public and those under your command may think you believe MRFF is right. This would be bad for morale.

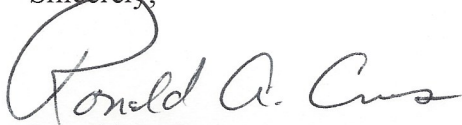
Pursuing a nation where all chaplains and those they serve freely exercise their religious liberties without fear of reprisal.

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Please accept this *Doing the Right Thing* DVD set as a token of appreciation for all you do for our nation and specifically for the military community at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Many chaplains and commanders are using this tool for officer professional development in their units. I commend it to you and to Chaplain Reyes.

Again, thank you Col. Duffy for doing the right thing for your chaplain and the men and women under your command and making sure that Chaplain Reyes' essay could remain on the base website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald A. Crews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Ronald A. Crews
CH (COL) USA Retired
Executive Director

CC: Ch Reyes
Lt Gen Christopher F. Burne