



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

6 June 2016

MG Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., Commander
First Infantry Division
Fort Riley, KS 66442

Sir:

It with sincere disappointment that I write concerning your decision to withdraw an invitation to LTG William (Gerry) Boykin, USA Retired, to speak at the division prayer breakfast that was to be held on 6 June, the anniversary of D-DAY.

First, I remind you that a prayer breakfast is a volunteer event. No soldier is required to come. Those who were reportedly reduced to tears when they heard of the invitation for LTG Boykin to speak simply did not have to come. They were not forced to listen to one of the most distinguished living Army officers to have served our nation.

Second, a prayer breakfast is an opportunity to demonstrate how we celebrate religious diversity in our nation. Chaplains support every soldier in their faith or non-faith. This prayer breakfast was to be a time and place for soldiers, families, and military civilian workers of faith to meet on common ground, to give thanks for blessings and ask for help in times of need.

Finally, just because Mr. Weinstein complained does not mean you have to capitulate to his demands. It is my understanding that there was never a formal complaint through proper chain of command. Instead, an outsider made a complaint and you responded. Mr. Weinstein has no legal grounds to complain to you nor does his complaint have any legal standing. Hosting a prayer breakfast is your prerogative as a commander. Your chaplains can act on your behalf to invite a speaker who will inspire and encourage those under your command.

I ask you to reconsider your decision and renew your invitation to LTG Boykin.

Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty is an organization of chaplain endorsers. I write on behalf of more than 2,700 military chaplains currently serving on active duty and in the reserve components.

I would love to have an office call with you to see if we can be of any help to you in dealing with these issues.

May the Lord be with you and bless you as you serve the men and women of the Big Red One.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald A. Crews". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ronald A Crews
CH (COL), USAR Retired
Executive Director