

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 28, 2013

The Honorable John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Secretary McHugh,

Recently we were made aware of some very disheartening news regarding a briefing that was given at Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg, Mississippi. During a presentation being given to several dozen soldiers, a slide was presented that indicated the American Family Association, a group based on Christian principles and family values, could be classified as a "domestic hate group." We have since received an explanation from First Army explaining that it was an isolated incident brought on by faulty research and without approval from any commanders or Judge Advocate personnel. They further explained that this does not reflect official Army doctrine.

Still, this matter is of great concern to us. As we are sure you are aware, this is not the first time a presentation similar to this one has been given labeling groups with traditional Christian principles as hate groups. Since there have now been multiple briefs providing misinformation to our troops, we are requesting a list of actions to be taken to correct this problem so it will not happen again. We will not stand by and allow for this defamation, either intentional or unintentional, to continue unchecked.

Many people, including many of our colleagues in Congress believe that recent actions taken by the Department of Defense with regard to traditional marriage, the rights of conscience of Christian chaplains, and the allowing of openly-gay military members to serve in the Armed Forces continue to show a pattern of social engineering being forced upon one of our nation's greatest institutions, our military. Accordingly, we will continue to carefully monitor these patterns and future actions by the Department of Defense or any individual service branch to silence traditional Christian values. It is our sincere hope that the Department and the services will take actions necessary to ensure that future incidences do not occur.

As always, thank you for your service to our country and your ongoing support of our men and women in uniform.

Regards,



Congressman Steven Palazzo



Senator Thad Cochran



Senator Roger Wicker



Congressman Gregg Harper



Congressman Alan Nunnelee