



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

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**MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOUNDATION
DENOUNCES NEW U.S. NAVY GUIDELINES ON RELIGION**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM - President and founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, Mikey Weinstein, who is fighting to end unconstitutional proselytizing and evangelizing throughout the United States Armed Forces, today released the following statement in response to the "guidelines on religious ministry" recently issued by the United States Navy:

"The guidelines on religion released by the U.S. Navy are deceiving. Buried just below the surface, under the cover of well-crafted language, are provisions that blatantly breach the Constitutional guarantee of the separation of church and state.

The Navy has demonstrated a clear disregard for the Establishment Clause of our Constitution. Instead of prohibiting naval commanders and chaplains from engaging in activities that could imply the establishment of religion, the guidelines merely encourage them to 'strive to avoid' this behavior. Additionally, the guidelines, which make Concessions for chaplains, fail to protect naval officers, enlisted personnel and midshipmen from coercive proselytizing and evangelizing by their superiors.

It is extremely disappointing that yet another branch of our nation's armed forces has failed to draft guidelines on religion that meet Constitutional muster. It is because of these continued, now institutionalized offenses that the Military Religious Freedom Foundation will continue to fight for the preservation of religious freedom."

A copy of the guidelines is attached.

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The Military Religious Freedom Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that all members of the United States Armed Forces fully receive the Constitutional guarantees of religious freedom to which they and all Americans are entitled by virtue of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

