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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

14 November 2014

David J. Hluska
Acting Director, Communications and Information
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
USAF Academy CO 80840-5001

John Greenewald Jr.
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald

This is our final response to your 25 October 2013 Freedom of Information Act request in which you requested a copy all documents, electronic or otherwise, that pertain to the change to the Air Force Honor Oath, wherein cadets no longer say "so help me God.". We received your request on 29 October 2013. Your case has been assigned case number 2014-00484-F.

This information was reviewed by the Office of Primary responsibility, the Staff Judge Advocate and my staff in accordance with The Privacy Act of 1974 (as supplemented by Air Force Instruction 33-332, *Privacy Act Program*) and the Freedom of Information Act, United States Code, Title 5 (as supplemented by DoDR 5400.7-R, *DoD Freedom of Information Act Program*). We found 334 page of information responsive to your request. We have withheld the information from release in part as it contains information that if disclosed, would result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy as well as inter and intra agency records that could be withheld under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in civil litigation under the pre-decisional, deliberative process privilege. This privilege is asserted when necessary to protect the quality of the agency pre-decisional/deliberative process. The authority for these exemptions are United States Code, Title 5, Section 552 (b5) and (b)(6) (reference a) of the Freedom of Information Act.


You may appeal this decision by writing to the Secretary of the Air Force within 60 days of the date of this letter. Include in your appeal your reasons for reconsideration and attach a copy of this letter. Address your letter as follows:

Office of the Secretary of the Air Force
Thru: USAFA/A6 (FOIA)
5136 Community Center Drive
USAF Academy CO 80840-4200

The FOIA Reform Act of 1986 requires that we review each request to determine a requester's assessment of fee category. Based on your request, we have placed you in the "Other" fee category. In this case, no were assessed.

Sincerely

11/14/2014

 David J. Hluska

Signed by: HLUSKA.DAVID.J.1024062909

DAVID J. HLUSKA, Civ, DAF
Acting Director, Communications and Information

(b)(6)

DENVER CO 802

24 OCT 2013 PM 11 L



At General Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent USAFA
2304 CHARTER Drive Suite 3300
USAF Academy, 80804-5001

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10/24/2013

...

(b)(6)

Lt. General Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent
USAFA
2304 Cadet Drive Suite 3300
USAF Academy, Co 80804-5001

Honor Oath

Madam:

I am not a person who typically writes when I am angered by an issue, but this issue, I felt needed my direct attention.

First, let me state, that my family combined, former and currently serving, has over 100 years of duty to the United States Air Force and this great country!

I must make clear, that the issue before you and the Cadets to remove "so help me God" from the Honor Oath, is one that should not be taken lightly. It should also be noted that this is a long standing history with all of the Academies. The fact that a liberal newspaper and Anti-Christian Foundation, is pressuring the Academy to remove this is insane and unjust. What about our rights as Christians?

It is people such as Mr. (b)(6) and liberalism that is destroying this great country. Do not bow to their demands! I am proud to be an Air Force daughter, wife and Mom! I was raised in the Air Force and was taught to respect those who serve and did serve. I was there at Hickam AFB when the POW's came home. Every day we would leave school to greet them. What a beautiful sight!

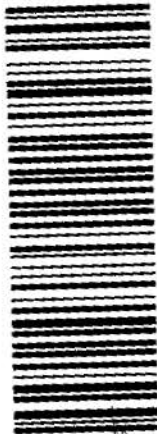
Do not disgrace our service members and those who have fought and died for this great country by removing or changing anything. Do not bow to those who do not understand tradition, Honor, Duty, Country and most importantly GOD! If they oppose seeing the word "God", tell them not to visit the Academy!

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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CERTIFIED MILK

Don't lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those who
 commandments, Then God delivered all
 "I will not steal", "You shall not bear false
 commandments are a set of biblical principles
 in Judaism and Christianity on which our

us Freedom Foundation, is one person
the end of the Honor Code Oath. Have
Grandparents and the American taxpayers
to help me God" at the end of the oath?

repeating the entire honor oath including the

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Lt. General Michèle Johnson-Supernitendesi

United States Air Force Academy Sup

4700 Henderson Drive

[Illegible handwritten text]

cc: Lt. General Michelle Johnson, Superintendent

October 25, 2013

(b)(6)

Brig. General Gregory Lengyel
Commandant of Cadets
United States Air Force Academy
4700 Ponderosa Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80840

Dear Sir:

This evening on the NBC Nightly News we heard the announcement that the Air Force Academy is considering dropping the phrase "so help me God" from the Honor Code Oath. We were aghast!

The oath the 4400 cadets swear to.... "they won't lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those who do, so help me God. Exodus 20 - "The Ten Commandments, Then God delivered all these commandments" which include "You shall not steal", "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." The Commandments are a set of biblical principles relating to ethics which play a fundamental role in Judaism and Christianity on which our country was founded.

The Protestant Chapel at the Air Force Academy with the beautiful spires rising to the heavens symbolize and honor faith in God.

(b)(6) founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, is one person who objects to the phrase "so help me God" at the end of the Honor Code Oath. Have you considered that the cadets, their parents, grandparents and the American taxpayers support the Honor Code Oath and the phrase "so help me God" at the end of the oath?

Should (b)(6) be a passenger on an airplane about to crash, I wonder if he would pray to God?

We strongly recommend that you reconsider keeping the entire honor oath including the phrase "so help me God."

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

cc: Lt. General Michelle Johnson, Superintendent

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

United States Air Force Academy
Lieutenant General Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

, Fox News Contributor,
-force-academy-may-drop-god-from-oath/

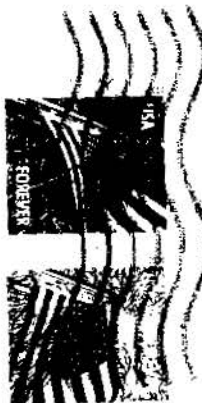
that each Cadet Makes, and Every Officer

disturbing and am not a particularly religious
which is akin to our pledge of allegiance to our flag,
the principles for which our nation stands. God
states Supreme Court. The promise not to lie,
statement affirming the strength of integrity and
nation it is. To lessen the commitment for
would irreparably diminish its purpose and
allow it.

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Although I am not a commissioned officer, the commitments we make and keep are the
same in our efforts to carry out the mission of the Air Force. I can tell you that when I was
deployed to Thailand during the Viet Nam conflict and again when I deployed to Saudi Arabia in

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Page 2 of 2

support of Desert Shield/Storm, the privilege I had to carry a pocket size bible was forever with me. I do not believe in proselytization, I do believe that a promise, an path, or an affirmation made under God coveys a substantial conviction toward carrying the intent of the promise made. The United States Air Force is built on the integrity, honor and commitment of both commissioned and enlisted members who also promise to give their life in defense of our nation.

Again, I hope you will recognize and carefully consider the weight of your decision as it will have a profound effect on all who come before you and will follow you in your mission to prepare the very finest cadets to become officers. Further, honor and integrity are not peculiar to officers but the enlisted are required to follow all legal orders of the officers appointed over them and all serve our nation under the same "God." It is not peculiar to the Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Protestant, Jewish, or other faith though this nation was built on the Judeo-Christian belief for which there should never be an apology.

Like voting, the military encourages you to vote because that is your privilege, and our leaders stop there because they do not want to know if or how you voted, just that the privilege is there and you defend it daily.

Under "God" is much the same because you have the privilege to believe in your chosen faith or not, so long as it does not conflict with the laws of our government. I managed quite successfully to have my dog tags reflect "no religious preference" though that does not mean I don't believe in God. On the other hand, I also defended the right of any person to hold a view as an agnostic, or an atheist. My point being that all have the same basis for having the belief system that is uniquely theirs and no one particular view should be preferred over another view, nor should "under God" be viewed for only a select audience. It served our country well since its inception and should continue to do so.

Thank you for allowing me to express my deeply held belief system "under God" and for giving consideration to its removal before deliberating over this vital decision. I ask this of you as our newest leader of the cadets coming forward.

On a final note, Congratulations on your recent selection as the United States Air Force's newest Superintendent. Godspeed!

Respectfully Submitted,

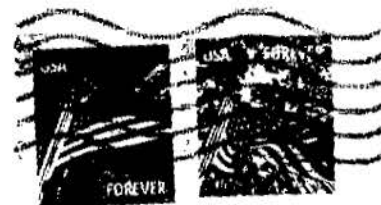
(b)(6)

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact the signature of the sender. The text "(b)(6)" is written in the top left corner of the box.

(b)(6)

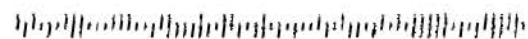
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United States Air Force Academy
Lieutenant General Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

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(b)(6)

October 23, 2013

United States Air Force Academy

Superintendent

Lieutenant General Michelle D. Johnson

2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300

USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

RE: Opinion Piece, written by Mr. Todd Starnes , Fox News Contributor,
<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/10/23/air-force-academy-may-drop-god-from-oath/>

Regarding the removal of "God" from the Oath that each Cadet Makes, and Every Officer Reaffirms

Dear General Johnson,

Suffice it to say, I find this matter deeply disturbing and am not a particularly religious person. The oath, as written is a promise, and much akin to our pledge of allegiance to our flag, the oath is the same sworn oath to defend the same principles for which our nation stands. God is on the United States currency, and our United States Supreme Court. The promise not to lie, cheat, or steal, or accept anyone who does is a statement affirming the strength of integrity and honor, traits which our country stands as the great nation it is. To lessen the commitment for which the oath is taken by removing under God would irreparably diminish its purpose and message to all who hear it and are required to follow it.

I hope you will carefully, willfully, and with premeditation, reach a well thought-out and deliberate decision with a justification which cannot be challenged in court or by administrative hearing.

Though I am not a commissioned officer, the commitments we make and keep are the same in our efforts to carry out the mission of the Air Force. I can tell you that when I was deployed to Thailand during the Viet Nam conflict and again when I deployed to Saudi Arabia in

Page 2 of 2

support of Desert Shield/Storm, the privilege I had to carry a pocket size bible was forever with me. I do not believe in proselytization, I do believe that a promise, an oath, or an affirmation made under God conveys a substantial conviction toward carrying the intent of the promise made. The United States Air Force is built on the integrity, honor and commitment of both commissioned and enlisted members who also promise to give their life in defense of our nation.

Again, I hope you will recognize and carefully consider the weight of your decision as it will have a profound effect on all who come before you and will follow you in your mission to prepare the very finest cadets to become officers. Further, honor and integrity are not peculiar to officers but the enlisted are required to follow all legal orders of the officers appointed over them and all serve our nation under the same "God." It is not peculiar to the Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Protestant, Jewish, or other faith though this nation was built on the Judeo-Christian belief for which there should never be an apology.

Like voting, the military encourages you to vote because that is your privilege, and our leaders stop there because they do not want to know if or how you voted, just that the privilege is there and you defend it daily.

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On a final note, Congratulations on your recent selection as the United States Air Force's newest Superintendent. Godspeed!

Respectfully Submitted,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DENVER CO 802

[illegible]

DEBATE

FOREVER

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Lieutenant General Michelle D. Johnson
United States Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
Colorado Springs, Colorado
80840-5001
October 26, 2013

RE: possible deletion from Oath:
So Help Me God

Dear Lieutenant General Johnson,

Reportedly, Academy officials are considering the removal of the above phrase because a few people do not want to be "offended". They express their beliefs where'er and where'er they want without good reason, gleefully observing capitulation in the name of political correctness. Most of us are Christian. We are the majority who will be anguished, if the God of our Fathers is removed from our heritage.

Our wonderful United States of America was founded as a nation based on Judeo-Christian principles. Those who deny this need to brush up on American history. A few people resenting this and wishing to erase all mention of God, does not negate this fact.

We have forgotten how to support and defend the rights and liberties bought for us by our founders with blood, suffering, tears, and family and property loss. We caved at the first words of criticism rather than defending our birthright and adopting the strength of our illustrious Founders.

It is important that cadets know their leaders at the Academy exhibit good example and strength of character by remaining strong in their defense of the beliefs that brought about this most magnificent America. It is also important that you resist the incessant demands of a minority who in their arrogance, injustice and love of power, have nothing else to qualify their demands.

The backbone of our nation is God and if we continue to deny him, God will finally prefer to let us be lost rather than interfere with our choices. If we continue to push God away, our nation is lost.

Have we forgotten what it is to be American?

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

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DALLAS TX 750
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St. Lawrence, Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent USAF Academy
2034 Cedar Dr. Sta 3300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

8084039999



(b)(6)

October 24, 2013

**Lt. General Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent USAF Academy
2034 Cadet Dr, Ste 3300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001**

Dear General Johnson:

Once again I awaken to find an attack by someone against God or Christianity and I am very upset. I find the charge to remove "so help me God" from the cadet oath another attack from the minority who are determined to reverse the years of our founding principles. I think most of these charges are urged and financed by George Soros who is determined to make this an open society, a secular society to the detriment of our core values.

Since the phrase "so help me God" is at the end of the oath, a person who did not want to say it could just stop before the end. They should not be able to have their way over all others.

I am 80 years of age and never thought I would see the things that are happening in this country. I am the widow of a CMSGT of 21 years service, a mother of a retired MAJ, Space Command and the descendant of many ancestors who arrived on our shores as early as 1642. They fought in the Rev. War and some have been in every war since. I think it important to remember why all those people crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the little ships in the first place before we think about taking God out of the equation.. I hope you will consider carefully.

Thank you for reading and congratulations on a stellar career.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

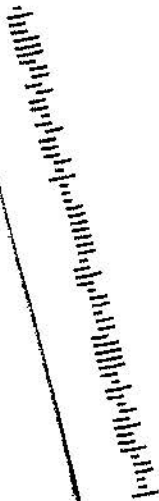


(b)(6)

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LTC Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-5001

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REC'D GRAND DISTRICT
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Justice
FOREIGN

(b)(6)

Attorney at Law

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

October 25, 2013

LTG Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent
United States Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-5001

Dear General Johnson:

I am a West Point classmate of (b)(6) who was Commandant of the Air Force Academy from 1973 to 1975.

Yesterday evening, I heard (b)(6) on Megan Kelly's program on Fox News discuss (b)(6) complaint against the Air Force Academy about the phrase, "so help me God." I would like to express my opinion.

The "No Religious Test" provision in the Constitution (last provision in Article VI) states clearly in plain English that no religious test is required as a qualification to any office under the United States. In other words, a person does not have to prove he or she is a Protestant, Catholic or member of a religion in order to hold an office. (b)(6) himself, an atheist, is the living proof that he was not given a religious test as a qualification to hold the office of Cadet at the United States Air Force Academy, no matter what he said at the end of the Academy's honor oath.

God bless America and the service academies.

Yours very truly,

(b)(6)

First Amendment Decisions Can Bite Back

The 1947 US Supreme Court case of *Everson v. Board of Education*, unnecessarily mentioned Thomas Jefferson's personal letter to the Baptists of Connecticut assuring them that the protection of their individual right to free exercise of religion would not be meddled with by government because there was a "wall of separation between church and state." In the 1960s, the members of the US Supreme Court used the "Wall" metaphor to destroy individual religious rights, the very opposite of Jefferson's intent. However, Muslims and atheists should now be forced to abide by those same decisions.

At the Joint Forces Staff College last year, an elective course which had been taught since 2004 on the possible courses of action to be taken in the event of a near total war by Muslim jihadists was protested by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). The Department of Defense canceled the course. The instructor, Lieutenant Colonel (b)(6) had his career ruined. Thus, Muslims have caused US military officers to be forbidden to study or plan for a possible war with Muslim jihadists. *That's not right.*

(b)(6) a US Air Force Academy graduate and former Air Force JAG officer, founded the "Military Religious Freedom Foundation" which is an anti-Christian organization. Recently, after (b)(6) met with Obama Pentagon appointees regarding court martial procedures to punish Christians, the Pentagon announced, "Religious proselytization is not permitted within the Department of Defense." *That's not right.*

"Proselyte" means to advocate or promote a religion. Who, what, when, where and how is that advocacy made? The possibilities are endless. There is no boundary. Yet, the Air Force has paid \$4,800 for an advertisement to recruit Muslim chaplains in *Islamic Horizons*, the magazine of the Islamic Society of North America. ISNA is considered to be a front of the Muslim Brotherhood. *That's not right.*

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, a religious belief (i.e. religion) can be a faith to which all else is subordinate, a place parallel to that filled with God. *U.S. v. Seeger*, 380 U.S. 163, 176 (1965); also see footnote 11 in *Torcaso v. Watkins*, 367 U.S. 488 (1961). Thus, atheism or anti-Christianism is a "religion." Muslim is obviously a religion. Now, those who believe in God need protection from Muslims and atheists.

CAIR and (b)(6) are advocating and proselytizing their "religion." They have "shackled men's tongues to make them speak only the religious thoughts that government wanted them to speak." *Engle v. Vitale*, 370 U.S. 421, 435 (1962). Thus, CAIR and (b)(6) are willfully and deliberately violating the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and should be prosecuted.

(b)(6)

Published May 30, 2013 in the Georgetown Advocate.

Current editorials can be found at this website:
<www.WilcoOnline.com>, Editorials: "The Missing Link"

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(b)(6)



SUPERINTENDENT
U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY
COLORADO 80840

24 OCT 2013 PM 9 L

DENVER CO 802



Superintendent
United States Air Force Academy

22 October, 2013

Dear Superintendent:

We are distressed to read that the Academy is considering dropping "...so help me God" from the oath of office, as proposed by professional atheist and all-around busybody (b)(6). This is, in our opinion, just part of a broader and disturbing trend we are seeing within the military services to shove Christianity into the shadows, if not to marginalize it so completely it dare not show itself in public. In fact, it's doubtful that, if the Academy were being built today, the cadet chapel would remain the centerpiece of the campus.

We are the parents of three military service members, including two USAFA graduates, all three now serving on active duty, and members of the Sabre Society. Our respect for the Academy and its core values is such that we have also made arrangements in our wills to bequeath a portion of our assets to the Academy on our deaths.

Sadly, we will have to seriously reconsider these arrangements if the Academy elects to modify this oath of office simply to satisfy another overly aggressive minority interest.

We urge you, as the Academy's newest Superintendent, to stand firm against these continuing assaults.

Truly yours,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

October 24, 2013

808403999

St. Leon, Michelle D. Johnson
 Superintendent USAF Academy
 2034 Cadet Dr. Ste 3300
 USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

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 DALLAS TX 7520
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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

October 24, 2013

**Lt. General Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent USAF Academy
2034 Cadet Dr, Ste 3300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001**

Dear General Johnson:

Once again I awaken to find an attack by someone against God or Christianity and I am very upset. I find the charge to remove "so help me God" from the cadet oath another attack from the minority who are determined to reverse the years of our founding principles. I think most of these charges are urged and financed by George Soros who is determined to make this an open society, a secular society to the detriment of our core values.

Since the phrase "so help me God" is at the end of the oath, a person who did not want to say it could just stop before the end. They should not be able to have their way over all others.

I am 80 years of age and never thought I would see the things that are happening in this country. I am the widow of a CMSGT of 21 years service, a mother of a retired MAJ, Space Command and the descendant of many ancestors who arrived on our shores as early as 1642. They fought in the Rev. War and some have been in every war since. I think it important to remember why all those people crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the little ships in the first place before we think about taking God out of the equation.. I hope you will consider carefully.

Thank you for reading and congratulations on a stellar career.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Lieutenant General Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent, US Air Force Academy
4700 Ponderosa Drive
Air Force Academy, Colorado 80840

From the Desk of

(b)(6)

24 October 2013

Lieutenant General Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent, United States Air Force Academy
4700 Ponderosa Drive
Air Force Academy CO 80840

(b)(6)

Dear General Johnson

I understand that at the behest of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, your Honor Review Committee is reconsidering the Air Force Academy's honor oath. I encourage you to protect and maintain this oath without altering the portion that states, "so help me God."

As an Air Force veteran and civil servant, I keenly recognize that I could not have served my country faithfully – in strange locations and through many a challenge – without the help of God. Furthermore, I appreciate the impact deployed chaplains and chapel services have on the lives of men and women serving in foreign lands. Yet what strikes me most is the importance of God in education and training environments. At formative junctures in their lives, young recruits ask the question, "What does my Air Force believe?" When our cadets ponder this, whatever is printed in books or on a poster must provide them the guideposts necessary to help them embark on a just and ethical career, supported with physical, mental, and also spiritual resilience.

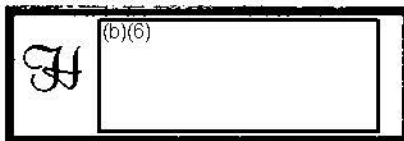
As a longtime instructor of Air Force PME, I value greatly the importance of teaching religious inclusion and religious respect. The nation I serve is one that recognizes that all men and women should feel free to express their decision to believe or not to believe in a higher power. Our founding traditions may recognize that there is a God, but God is not the same for everyone. We must acknowledge and respect that Air Force members have diverse ideas on who this God is and what they should call him or her.

I have no doubt that some members of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation have good intentions. Yet in this instance they have erred in judgment. To ask an institution such as the Air Force Academy to abandon its values, in light of all you and your academy have done for our nation with the help of God, is a mistake.

I wish you the very best as you and your committee craft a response to this issue.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)



Lt. General Michelle Johnson
 Superintendent, USAFA
 2304 Cadet Drive, 3300suite
 USAFA Colorado 80840-5001

Oct. 26, 2013

Dear General Johnson:

As a graduate (class of 1967), a long time Physician, an Episcopal priest, and a long-time student of Bowen Family systems theory, I was flummoxed by the Academy's decision to make optional the phrase "so help me God" in the Honor Code (Oath?). Almost all elected officials in this country, even the President, is required to say it. It is part of our Commissioning oath as well.

I am sure you are aware that almost all of the founding fathers recognized the necessity of a moral compass based on Jewish and Christain (and even Muslim) principles. Many Presidents from Washington on recognized the importance of religious thought and espoused the freedom to place in public comment and debate those thoughts on public policy. Freedom to speak is part and parcel of our society; listening, disputing, or accepting is always optional. As a society, we ignore our spiritual beliefs at our peril.

Individual integrity is clearly at the core of effective and respected leaders, but in order for the integrity to be manifested in society at large, it must be founded in some form of transcendent communal vision. The attempt to somehow make the individual an island in a sea by eliminating societal's compelling interest is one more step toward failure of the grand experiment we call the United States. Giving in to "political correctness" is both foolish and dangerous. In fact this decision is a reflection of the moral crises that this country seems to be facing more and more.

I hope (and pray) that you are well and I know you are up to the new challenges as Superintendent.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

which I enclosed
 ✓

*P.S. After I wrote the letter, I found a chapter in
 a Book by Jean Paul Lederach (Moral Imagination)
 Perhaps your leadership school would benefit
 Peace*

(b)(6)

3

On This Moment

Turning Points

Do not remember the former things,
Or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

—Isaiah 43:18–19

In the first decade of the new century and millennium, we face a turning point, a unique moment with the potential to affect and redefine the ways we organize and shape our global family. The turn of centuries—and, much more, the turn of millennia—provide unique times to reflect about the grand journey of humanity. We have traversed a century filled with extraordinary changes, one that has left us even greater challenges. Through numerous decades, expectations were raised, then dashed, that we were finding our way toward a world defined less by our divisions than by our cooperation, more by our ability to meet fundamental human needs than by the outright denigration of human dignity and rights. If nothing else, the twentieth century created within us a keener understanding that humanity has the potential for constructive change within our political, economic, and technological reach and, an equal dose of realism, that we have fallen short and shown ourselves incapable of realizing our potential. If we take seriously this realizable potential and our incapacity to reach it, we are left with a singularly perplexing question that seems especially appropriate in the timeframe of the first decade of the new millennium: What collective and global legacy are we leaving for our great-great-grandchildren this century?

This is not just a challenge posed generally, or reserved for political leaders or policy makers. This is a challenge I wish to place before the burgeoning fields of conflict transformation and peacebuilding broadly defined with all of their professional applications. I count myself a practitioner within these disciplines and I believe we need a dose of realism. Ours are professions afflicted with a proclivity toward the promise of great change. It is true. Our rhetoric comes easy. If constructive social change rolled forward as easily as our words and promises pour out, world justice and peace would have surely been attained by now.

Some argue that we suffer from an exaggerated rhetoric coupled with an overly optimistic, and therefore unrealistic, understanding of how the world really works and how change can or cannot take place. Following the events of 9/11, I heard that a perplexed member serving on the board of a major foundation which had contributed to a variety of initiatives in the field of conflict resolution asked the question: "Have our investments not made any significant difference in the big picture of things?" While I do not believe in the remotest sense that blame can be laid at the feet of a particular field nor its effectiveness determined by what transpired on September 11, 2001, there is a wake-up call inherent in the events that have been transpiring in the first few years of this millennium.

The start of the 1990s was filled with hope that as a global community we were witnesses to a new era. The ideas of our field, of finding whole new ways for individuals, communities, and even nations to respond to violence and build a justpeace¹ appeared as the great dawn of this new era. Now, nearly fifteen years later, we must ask ourselves a daunting set of questions. These are not posed in reaction to doubts about our potential, doubts that frequently arise from different sources, particularly from *realpolitik* advocates. These questions beg something more important. They plead for critical reflection at the core of our professions as justice, peace, and conflict practitioners.

How does constructive social change happen? How can we be more strategic in the pursuit of this change? What carries us closer to the promise of our words? How do turning points that make a difference happen? Are we capable of participating in a turning point that will affect the whole of the human community?

Thinking about and understanding the nature of a turning point requires a capacity to locate ourselves in an expansive, not a narrow view of time. Elise Boulding suggested that such a view of time must take place within what we touch and know but never be limited to a fleeting moment that passes us by. In a provocative twist of terms she created an intriguing image: We live in a "two-hundred-year present" (Boulding, 1990:3). Her idea is not hard to calculate. Let me give a personal example to illustrate it.

I well remember conversations with my great-grandmother Lydia Miller whose hand I held in the first decade of my life. She was born in the 1860s.

The newest members of my extended family are Nona Lisa, Eliza Jane, Grace, and Garrison, all four only a few months or years into the adventure. If they enjoy a full life, I will have held the hands of people who in old age will perhaps live to see the celebrations of 2100. Boulding suggests we calculate "the present" by subtracting the date of birth of the oldest person we have known in our lives from the projected passing-on date of the youngest person in our family. In my case, the hands that held mine date back into the nineteenth century and those I now touch will live forward into the twenty-second. This is my 200-year present. It is made up of the lives that touched me and of those I will touch. The 200-year present represents my lived history. It is in this sense of "the present" that we need to locate ourselves in order to understand the nature of the turning point.

The convergence of events in the first few years of the new century, perhaps best symbolized in the tragedy of September 11, 2001, appears to me to represent such a moment, a crystallization of a singular opportunity. The turning point in our 200-year present is pregnant with enormous potential to constructively impact affect the fundamental well-being of the human community. However, contrary to the range of scientific and political projections, this turn in humanity's journey does not rotate on which specific forms of governing political, economic, or social structures we devise. It does not spin primarily around finding answers to ever-present and pressing issues of population growth, environmental degradation, use of natural resources, or poverty. It does not find its essence in the search to understand the roots of violence, war, or terrorism, or in solutions to the same. It does not develop on the basis of learning a few good communication skills, new facilitation methodologies, or teachable techniques for resolving conflicts. Each of these is important, and many represent the core challenges we face. But they do not constitute the capacity to create a turning point that orients us toward a new and more humane horizon. The turning point of human history in this decade of the 200-year present lies with the capacity of the human community to generate and sustain the one thing uniquely gifted to our species, but which we have only on rare occasions understood or mobilized: *our moral imagination*.

At the midway point of the last century, a critical essay appeared that created a stir in the evolution of the social sciences. C. Wright Mills (1959) suggested that the endeavor taken up by the scientific community needed to embrace a deeper challenge than had been fully comprehended by his fellow scientists. Exposing the false tensions of ideologies that wished to govern political and intellectual debate and stripping bare the verbose layers of grand social theory that obscured rather than clarified, Mills made a simple argument: Structural history and personal biography are connected. He admonished academics, in particular social scientists, to take up their proper vocation. That vocation is lost, he argued, when it is distracted by the narrowness of discipline-based technical applications or becomes drunk with esoteric verbi-

age that avoids critical assessment of the social world. The antidote, he penned in an unforgettable phrase, is only found in those willing to engage and build "the sociological imagination."

I recognize the intellectual and cultural debt this book owes to Mills's insights and formulation of the problem. My interest is not to further develop his critique of the state of affairs within the scientific community. Nor am I oriented toward an exploration into what became of this sociological imagination, though anyone reading his book fifty years since its writing cannot help but be struck by its extraordinary relevance to contemporary academic and scientific debates and quandaries. My interest emerges initially from my own sense of vocation and the need to reflect more intentionally on the experiences I have been afforded in the past twenty-five years of international peacebuilding. Obviously, one's circle of experience influences what one observes and writes. My vocation and my circle of experience have taken me into and around the geography of violent human conflict. In those contexts I have been witness to the best and worst sides of humanity.

In other writings, I have intentionally referred several times to *vocation*. Though conflict resolution and peacebuilding have come into their own rights as professions and though I consider myself a professional working in these fields, I have always understood my entry and sustained work at the level of a vocation. Beyond profession, my concern has been to find and follow a calling, a deeper voice. In the truest sense of the word, *vocation* is that which stirs inside, calling out to be heard, calling out to be followed. Vocation is not what I do. It finds its roots in who I am and a sense of purpose I have on earth.

To follow the voice and develop work as "craftsmanship" in the social scientific sphere, argued Mills (1959), requires a sociological imagination. For those of us in the justice, peace, and conflict professions, vocation calls us back to the road that winds beyond the rest stops of techniques and day-to-day practice. It beckons us to search for our deeper purpose and possibility, found more in *who we are* than in *what we do*. For our human community to find this deeper sense of who we are, where we are situated, and where we are going requires that we locate our bearings, our compass. A compass needle functions by finding its north. The north of peacebuilding is best articulated as finding our way toward becoming and being local and global human communities characterized by respect, dignity, fairness, cooperation, and the nonviolent resolution of conflict. To understand this north, to read such a compass, requires that we recognize and develop our moral imagination far more intentionally.

This kind of imagination has a parallel with Old Testament theologian Walter Brueggemann's proposals, which are captured in the title of his book *The Prophetic Imagination*. For all intents and purposes, finding the voice of truth, ways to turn toward humanity in the fullest sense, and faithfulness to live in God the Creator's sustenance were the mainstay of the prophets' vocation. Intriguingly, Brueggemann provides a keen sense that this work is both

moral and requires connection to the act's, particularly the poet's, voice. Brueggemann describes the role of the prophet as bringing "to public expression those very hopes and yearnings that have been denied" (2001:65). It seems noteworthy that an Old Testament theologian and a midcentury sociologist dipped into the realm of imagination to describe the capacity for both connection to reality and transcendence. In both cases, it leads us to something that lies beyond yet is rooted in people's day-to-day lives and struggles.

Somewhere midstream in writing this book I gave a lecture on the topic of the moral imagination to a young seminary audience in Yangon, Burma. In attendance that evening was my colleague Ron Kraybill, who expressed enthusiasm for the ideas and added that he was not sure where exactly but he thought he had seen a book with the title *The Moral Imagination*. My dreams of originality met the age-old adage "there is nothing new under the sun."

Since September 11, 2001, I had been calling on religious leaders and politicians alike to exercise a greater moral imagination in response to the unprovoked violence released that day. It seemed to me then and even more so as I write two years later that we, as Americans, have difficulty envisioning ourselves embroiled in a cycle of violence. The acts of 9/11 were viewed as unwarranted provocation that came out of the blue. And indeed they were. But it is also true that these acts can be equally situated not as isolated events but as part of a cycle with a history of actions, reactions, and counteractions. Only when understood in the context of a broader pattern, which in the short term can be very difficult to visualize, is it possible to see that how we choose to respond has consequences and implications in terms of a wider, historic pattern. Through our response, we choose to transcend or enter and sustain the cycle of violence. For the most part since 9/11 the leaders of the United States have chosen the route of perpetuation. In less than two years as a nation we have engaged ourselves in two land-based wars costing billions of dollars. And by all current accounts, the route of choosing violent response has not increased domestic or international security. It has succeeded in fostering the cycle.

In the late fall of 2001, I argued that we seriously consider the implications of falling prey to the cycle of violence and should pursue to our utmost the development of responses that transcend the cycle. In several essays and numerous editorials in local newspapers, I argued that this required unleashing our moral imagination and pursuing the unexpected (Lederach, 2001). I later saw the phrase emerging in a few religious magazines. But it had not occurred to me that this phrase, *the moral imagination*, had already been used as a book title. Research soon confirmed Ron's intuition and more: There was not a book with this title—there were dozens.

I soon found myself engrossed in a community of authors linked by the choice of *the moral imagination* as the title or subtitle of their books.² I found it a fascinating journey to read through the range of disciplines and perspec-

tives. Although I have sketched and even read a chapter on Sherlock Holmes as an agent of moral imagination (Clausen, 1986), I have not been able to discover who may have first used this phrase or in what context. My best guess is Edmund Burke's essay on the French Revolution in which he laments the loss of elements that would "beautify and soften private society" furnished "from the wardrobe of a moral imagination, which the heart owns, and the understanding ratifies, as necessary to cover the defects of her naked shivering nature" (Burke, 1864:515-516). Brown (1999) in his excellent *The Ethos of the Cosmos* suggests in his subtitle that the genesis of the moral imagination is found in creation itself. By virtue of such a view we could, without stretching the truth or the metaphor, propose that the capacity of the moral imagination dates to time immemorial.

Relevant to our exploration however, is the inquiry of why such a range of authors and disciplines converged in using *the moral imagination* as part of the title of their books. At a first level, several categories emerge. The largest set of volumes is oriented toward the concerns and approaches of ethics and decisionmaking, primarily in the spheres of business and public policy (Clausen, 1986; McCollough, 1991; Johnson, 1993; Tivnan, 1995; Stevens, 1998; Williams, 1998; Werhane, 1999; Brown, 1999; Fesmire, 2003). A second category explores the moral imagination in literature and the arts, drawing principally on story and narrative as providing guidance for the character development of both adults and children (Price, 1983; Clausen, 1986; Kirk, 1988; Bruce, 1998; Guroian, 1998). Still others draw on the term to promote a particular way of critiquing, provoking, and encouraging their professional disciplines to a greater sense of purpose or developing moral standards within a religious tradition (Babbitt, 1996; Stevens, 1998; Allison, 1999; Fernandez and Huber, 2001; Newsom, 2003). A fourth group of authors suggested that this phrase captured the essence of extraordinary, ground-breaking individuals (Clausen, 1986; Kirk, 1988; Johnson, 1993; Babbitt, 1996; Bruce, 1998; Fesmire, 2003). Many were well-recognized writers and visionaries like T. S. Eliot, W. H. Auden, Toni Morrison, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Some were renowned philosophers like Immanuel Kant, Søren Kierkegaard, Hannah Arendt, and John Dewey. Other authors pointed to traditional understandings as found in Kaguru thinking (Beidelman, 1993) or the efforts against significant structural impediments to feminist Cuban writers to find their place and voice (Babbitt, 1996).

Looking across these categories we can begin to locate several points of convergence. Though I was well along in my own writing and conceptualization, I suddenly found myself very much at home in the essence of what linked this set of diverse authors to the phrase *the moral imagination*. I found three keys.

First, the authors concurred that the moral imagination develops a capacity to perceive things beyond and at a deeper level than what initially meets the

eye. Perhaps best captured in Guroian's term, *awakening*, the authors spoke of attentiveness to more than is immediately visible. In her discussion of George MacDonald's *The Princess and the Goblin*, Guroian described this quality of imagination as "a power of perception, a light that illuminates the mystery that is hidden beneath a visible reality: It is the power to 'see' into the very nature of things" (1998:141).

Second, no matter the particular disciplinary field, the authors landed on the term *imagination* in order to emphasize the necessity of the creative act. The subtitle of Brown's book, *The Genesis of Moral Imagination in the Bible* (1999), suggests that this kind of imagination has its essence in the very act of original creation. More frequent however were the authors who explored the "arts" not as the domain of professional artists, but rather as a frame of reference for understanding a defining characteristic of the moral imagination: the capacity to give birth to something new that in its very birthing changes our world and the way we see things. Johnson explored this most intentionally in the chapter that carried the title of his book, "Moral Imagination," commenting that though art is often perceived as having the liberty to break the rules of morality, in fact art makes moral reasoning possible. "Everyone recognizes," he writes, "that imagination is the key to these artistic acts by which new things come into existence, old things are reshaped, and our ways of seeing, hearing, feeling, thinking and so forth are transformed" (1993:212).

Third, while expressed in different ways for a variety of purposes, the authors converged in the idea that the moral imagination has a quality of transcendence. It breaks out of what appear to be narrow, shortsighted, or structurally determined dead-ends. Whether this is the capacity of a character in a fairy tale to transcend what appears as predetermined disaster or the need to open a wider range of possible actions in decisions facing the NASA space program, or a car manufacturer, or an anthropological method of study, the exercise of the moral imagination, these authors argue, breaks out into new territory and refuses to be bound by what existing views of perceived reality suggest or what prescriptive answers determine is possible. Babbitt in her intriguing exploration of rationality, *Impossible Dreams*, suggested that the role of the moral imagination is to set in motion the "bringing about of possibilities that are not imaginable in current terms" (1996:174). Rather than set aside my initial attraction to the phrase, I felt reinforced by much of what I was reading in the application of the moral imagination to peacebuilding. I chose to stay with it as my title.

Some readers may feel unsettled with the use of the word *moral* in approaching the topic of conflict and peace. Contrary to the word *imagination*, it seems to carry a strong bias toward narrowing and confining boundaries. The word is not without its negative connotations and certainly has less than desirable affiliations and misuses. However, *moral*, like *recreation*, *moral* is a thing great. As Guroian (1998:141) writes, "The moral imagination is the power to see into the very nature of things."

things that are immediately apparent and visible. The quality of this phrase I most wish to embrace reverberates in this potential to find a way to transcend, to move beyond what exists while still living in it.

However, the term clearly merits a discussion on what I do not wish to convey with the word *moral*. We typically connect moral with morality and then relegate morality to the sphere of religion. Though I come from a religious community, the moral imagination is not the commodity or exclusive realm of a particular religious belief, much less religious establishments or systems. Moreover, those religious communities, from one persuasion to another, who wish to corral and pen up morality by providing rigid boundaries that can and cannot be crossed often create the antithesis of the moral imagination: dogmas. While pretending to give life, dogmas are little more than static ideological structures. They stare at us like ossified bones in an archaeological dig, attesting to something that once was alive and gave life. Modern religious moralizing has too often translated into rigid ideas, unresponsive and ill adapted to our most pressing challenges. We fall significantly short of our God-given potential when morality becomes prescriptive dogma, creating moral stasis. The moral imagination of which I speak has little in common with such morality.

Ironically, the moral imagination does not build itself around nor is it primarily about ethics. Noble and necessary as it is in the human community, the ethical inquiry remains somewhat reductionist and analytical by its very nature. The purpose, the *raison d'être* of imagination, on the other hand, moves in a different sphere for it seeks and creates a space beyond the pieces that exist. Not confined by what is, or what is known, imagination is the art of creating what does not exist.

Centuries ago the apostle Paul described our world as a community wracked with unrelenting pain. "The whole creation groans," he wrote, "with labor pains until now" (Romans 8:22). The metaphor suggests that humanity lives in a time of great pain and great potential. Birth is simultaneously pain and potential, the arriving of that which could be but is not yet. I believe the human community still groans with such pain today. We seek a birth of something new, a creation that can break us out of the expected. We seek the creative act of the unexpected. This is the potential and the aspect of the moral imagination I wish to explore.

In accordance with these understandings we must not relegate the term *moral* exclusively to a religious inquiry. Our challenges require that we link its fundamental energy as practical and relevant to the political affairs and issues we face today. Politics, economics, and global structures have become so inauthentic that few of us truly believe in them. We live in this paradox: The things most omnipresent that govern our lives are the very things from which we feel distant. We hold fast to myths that what we have created to govern our lives is responsive to whom we are as human beings and to our communities. Yet at the same time these creations appear to have lives of their own indepen-

dent of us, foreign to us, and distant from us. An inquiry that seeks to understand how cycles of violence can be broken and transcended is precisely one that must rehearse politics, political discourse, and governing structures with a capacity for responsiveness to our human community.

In this book, I suggest and will explore the moral imagination as the capacity to imagine something rooted in the challenges of the real world yet capable of giving birth to that which does not yet exist. In reference to peacebuilding, this is the capacity to imagine and generate constructive responses and initiatives that, while rooted in the day-to-day challenges of violence, transcend and ultimately break the grips of those destructive patterns and cycles.

This exploration does not push toward finding the answer to our problems in a single overarching solution, like some miraculous new political, social, or economic system. It does push us toward understanding the nature of turning points and how destructive patterns are transcended. Turning points are moments pregnant with new life, which rise from what appear to be the barren grounds of destructive violence and relationships. This unexpected new life makes possible processes of constructive change in human affairs and constitutes the moral imagination without which peacebuilding cannot be understood or practiced. However, such pregnant moments do not emerge through the rote application of a technique or a recipe. They must be explored and understood in the context of something that approximates the artistic process, imbued as it is with creativity, skill, serendipity, and craftsmanship.

Turning points suggest that violence and the moral imagination point in opposite directions. As Vicenç Fisas paraphrased philosopher Bruno Bettelheim: "[V]iolence is the behavior of someone incapable of imagining other solutions to the problem at hand" (Fisas, 2002:58). Headed in the inverse direction, I will argue that the moral imagination rises with the capacity to imagine ourselves in relationship, the willingness to embrace complexity without reliance on dualistic polarity, the belief in the creative act, and acceptance of the inherent risk required to break violence and to venture on unknown paths that build constructive change. The moral imagination proposes that turning points and a journey toward a new horizon are possible, though based on perplexing paradoxes. The turning points must find a way to transcend the cycles of destructive violence while living with and being relevant to the context that produces those cycles. A horizon, though visible, is permanently just out of touch, suggesting an epic journey, the pursuit of which in peacebuilding is the forging of new ways to approach human affairs with an enemy. For our field this kind of journey is not built with a technician's manual. It requires us to explore the art and soul of social change and it starts with the need to explore the essence of peacebuilding and the heart of on-the-ground realities where violent patterns have dominated human affairs.

Honor Code
SD277
San Diego at night.
"Under God"

27 Page 30 of 52

2013

USA 33

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POST CARD



OMG, never saw
such weakness at
Acad. as your recent
decision. Caving in to
minority group with
a "wuss" compromise.
Rest of US overwhelm-
ingly against this.
What's happening to our
military leaders ???

(b)(6)

They're becoming like
weak sheep !!!

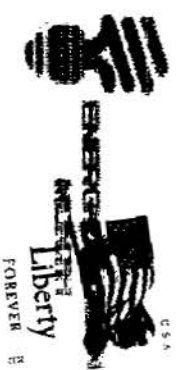
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You should be
ashamed. — "Grandma in San Diego"

(b)(6)

Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent USASA
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
USAS Academy, CO
80804-5001

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(b)(6)

Lt. General Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent
USAFA
2304 Cadet Drive Suite 3300
USAF Academy, Co 80804-5001

RE: Honor Oath

Madam:

I am not a person who typically writes when I am angered by an issue, but this issue, I felt it needed my direct attention.

First, let me state, that my family and my in laws, combined, former and currently serving, has over 100 years of duty to the United States Air Force, Army, and Navy of this great country!

I must make clear, that the issue before you and the Cadets to remove "so help me God" from the Honor Oath, is one that should not be taken lightly. It should also be noted that this is a long standing history with all of the Academies. The fact that a liberal newspaper and Anti-Christian Foundation, is pressuring the Academies to remove this is insane and unjust. What about our rights as Christians and Americans? Did we not establish the United States for freedom? Especially religious freedom?

It is people such as Mr. (b)(6) and liberalism that is destroying this great country. Do not bow to their demands! I am proud to be an military daughter and wife! I was raised in the Air Force and was taught to respect those who serve and did serve. I was there at Hickam AFB when the POW's came home. Every day my family would greet them. What a beautiful sight!

Do not disgrace our service members and those who have fought and died for this great country by removing or changing anything. Do not bow to those who do not understand tradition, Honor, Duty, Country and most importantly GOD! If they oppose seeing the word "God", tell them not to visit any of the Academies! They should just recognize that they are not the only ones who have a belief!

Most Sincerely,

(b)(6)

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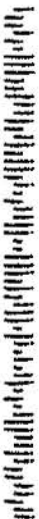
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St. Bernard Michelle D. Johnson
2304 Cedar St. Suite 3300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

80840500075



(b)(6)

October 24, 2013

Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson
2304 Cadet Drive Suite 3300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

Dear Lt. General Johnson:

I am a parent of a 2011 graduate from the Air Force Academy. I have always been proud of my country and was very pleased to have my son attend here for his education. I believe our country was founded by fine military and civilian citizens who were seeking religious freedoms from European countries.

Our military is here to defend our country and our country is guided by the Constitution of the United States. The Constitution was created and signed by men of God. Therefore, what are the current administrators thinking who feel they know more than our founding fathers and should take the name of God out of our USAFA Cadet Oath. I am quite honestly beyond disappointed.

In allowing all religions to exist, we do not have to erase the Christian basis for the formation of our country. I implore you and all your contemporaries who have a say in this matter rethink their position as to how it affects the majority of current students and a bigger majority of alumni who claim a relationship to God. Don't be a part of reverse discrimination.

I would like to continue supporting the Academy with my money, attendance at football games and other events. However, I will not be able to support you or our Academy if you take God out of the cadet oath, which is in essence a symbol of taking God out of the entire Academy. I also want to warn you that throughout history, God has been a fair but wrathful God and things may not go very well for the Academy if you disown Him.

Thank you for considering this plea to keep our Cadet Oath at the United States Academy in accordance with the Constitution of the United States which we strive to defend and protect.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Parent of 2011 Graduate, USAFA

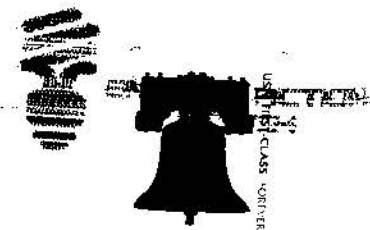
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(b)(6)

Association of Graduates

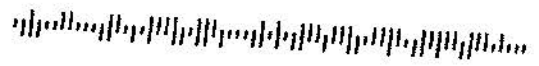


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Lt. Gen Michelle Johnson
Superintendent
Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive
Suite 3300
Colorado Springs, CO 80840

80840500099



October 28, 2013

(b)(7)(A)

Lt. Gen Michelle Johnson
Superintendent
Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive
Suite 3300
Colorado Springs, CO 80840

re: Cadet Oath without God

Dear Superintendent Johnson:

It has come to my attention on this date that you have taken God out of the cadet oath. This tells me that you reject the concept of a higher power. By inference, this connotes the fact that you are the "highst power". This is a sad state of affairs but truly expected by what appears to be a Marxist commander-in-chief.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

USS Wainwright, 72-76

(b)(6)

NORTH TEXAS TX P&EDC
DALLAS TX 750
28 OCT 2013 PM 7 L



St. General Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent USAF Academy
2034 Cadet Dr. Ste. 3300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

808403553



(b)(6)

October 27, 2013

**Lt. General Michelle D. Johnson
Superintendent USAF Academy
2034 Cadet Dr, Ste 3300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001**

Dear General Johnson:

I am writing you again on the same matter of the cadet oath and want you to know that I have changed my mind. It should not be optional. I want to tell you why I now feel this way. Going through some of my husband's papers, I found a lecture he delivered. At the time he was Director of Training at the USAF NCO Academy and had taught Leadership along with the other disciplines.

He was speaking of the old USSR and the lack of God in their country and what it had done to the people. The quote that caught my eye was this: "I quote from the AF Speakers Guide under the subject 'We Believe' and we find this statement. We cannot afford to dissipate our spiritual and moral strength between peaks of enthusiasm and determination and valleys of gloom and indecision. The only way to be consistently strong is to be consistently resolute."

I therefore change my opinion that one could just choose not to say "so help me God" at the end of the oath. Our strength as a country depends on our internal personal strength and this is just another way to grind it down. Please keep it the same. I have seen your ruling but I still think it should remain the same. These people will not stop until they take all references to God from our public lives. This is not the way we became a strong country and I fear we are headed for a severe decline if this continues.

Thank you again for reading my thoughts.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

TZ

United States Air Force Academy
ATTN: Lt. Gen. Johnson
4700 Ponderosa Dr
Usaf Academy CO 80840-1262

of the Second World War, the
very other armed conflict to

at Mitchell Air Force Base,
in 1955. I Served At Ladd
var, and at that time we were
to donate to the building
were proud to do it.



though this day and age,
protect in my years of service
it into battle over the world,



that were protected by us
feel like we are getting a
ids of the people we helped

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

October 25, 2013

USAFA
Air Force Academy, CO

Dear General Johnson

I am 78 years of age, I have memories of the Second World War, the (so called) Korea police actions, and every other armed conflict to date,

I billeted the first group of young people at Mitchell Air Force Base, Hempfield NY. that went to the Academy, in 1955. I Served At Ladd AFB in Fairbanks, AK. during the cold war, and at that time we were asked (made to) when receiving our pay to donate to the building fund for the Air Force Academy, and we were proud to do it.

It now makes me sick, to even hear the though this day and age, from the children of the adults I helped protect in my years of service to my country, and every soldier that went into battle over the world, and survived, must fell the same way.

The religious freedom people's parents that were protected by us service people in those past years, must feel like we are getting a slap in the face from so few God hating kids of the people we helped protect. What a shame.

Take care, enjoy the day.

Regards

(b)(6)



SEPTEMBER 17 4 10 05 PM '99
29 OCT 2012 PM 2 L



LT. General MICHAEL JOHNSON
SUBCOMBAT, USAF Academy
2304 CADET DRIVE, SUITE 3300
USAF Academy CO 80840-5001

80840500099



October 25, 2013

Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Superintendent
US Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
USAF Academy CO 80840-5001

RE: Cadets Oath

Dear Superintendent Johnson,

I understand that you recently received a letter from a (b)(6) founder of Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) regarding his disapproval of the word "God" in the oath taken by cadets at the Academy. As I understand it, a local paper that sent the picture of the "offensive" poster to Mr. (b)(6) started this situation.

I am writing to offer my support of the current oath "We will not lie, steal or cheat nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably, so help me God."

I feel my show of support for the current oath is just as valid as Mr. (b)(6) disapproval. I hope you are not in any way going to change the oath because of one atheist. There are always going to be anti-religious Americans and that is their right. However, their right does not supercede anyone else's right. Where is Mr. (b)(6) tolerance?

In closing, I know many more American's are in support of the oath than are against it. I encourage you to leave the oath as it stands and remain strong against the few who may come against the Academy.

Sincerely

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

LT. GEN. MICHELLE JOHNSON
2304 GARDEN DR. SUITE 3000
USAFPA, CO
80840



31 Oct 13

Lt.Gen Michelle Johnson
Superintendent, US Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Dr. Suite 3000
US Air Force Academy, CO 80840

Gen. Johnson,

Congratulations on your assignment as the Academy's nineteenth superintendent. You are certain to find rewards and challenges along the way, but will be more than up to the tasks.

There are three issues that I wish to bring to your attention. The first did not occur on your watch. Your predecessor announced that American History would once again become part of the core curriculum. I was surprised it had been removed some years earlier. Am I to understand that American History is not a mandatory core course for all cadets? Further galling was your predecessor's comments announcing that decision. He wished to assure his audience that the course content would have the appropriate racial and gender emphasis. Why was that necessary except to genuflect to the altar of political correctness? Is this now the direction of the Academy?

The second issue is an observation. After watching the disappointing football loss to Navy, I stayed tuned for the Alma Maters following the game. As the camera panned our team during the Air Force Alma Mater, not a lip moved. The team stood as statues. Then the Mids had their turn. Nearly every man joined in The Navy Blue and Gold. Does it bother me that our football team doesn't know their school song? Not unless it is an extension of something else. Is the team, and by extension, the Cadet Wing fully invested in the Academy and the Air Force? I found the contrast of that postgame tradition troubling. Surely others made the same observation.

The final issue is the decision to make a phrase of the Honor Oath optional. It seems that decision just formalized what was likely already in place; if any cadet objected to the "so help me God" phrase, he or she could just remain silent. But I am most concerned that this is just another incremental assault on religion and religious values that now seem to be pervasive in today's military.

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)

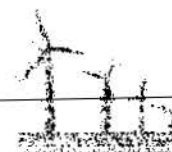
Col. USAF, Ret
Class of 1965 and AOC 1970-1973

A [redacted]
(b)(6)

CORR20131105-1320/mw

CLEVELAND OH 44103

30 OCT 2013 PM 3:11



Equality

Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Superintendent
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

80840500199



(b)(6)

Senior Professional in Human Resources • Certified Administrative Manager

(b)(6)

October 26, 2013

Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Superintendent
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

Dear Gen. Johnson:

As a graduate of the Air Force Academy, I have survived the several cheating scandals and held my head high; I have survived the several sex scandals and held my head high; however this recent scandal of making God optional in the Cadet Oath is one that I cannot hold my head high. You have waved the White Flag of Surrender to Atheists, a minority of our population, and have, thus, denied our national history.

This nation, thanks to a few old white men in wigs, was founded on Judeo-Christian principles, principles that recognized there is a higher power than we mortal Men. Throughout our history (yes, I double-majorred at the Academy in both History and Military Arts & Sciences) our leaders have recognized our subservience to that higher divine power we call God. The first of our Founding Documents, the Declaration of Independence, recognized the existence of God, our Creator who endowed us with a variety of unalienable rights. The Constitutions of the several states all stated a reverence for God, some even requiring their political leaders be Christian. My own state, Ohio, has the motto "With God all things are possible". Five other states have similar beliefs codified in their mottos. The motto of the US is "In God We Trust". Our money contains that phrase. "Under God" was added to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954 to differentiate the God-fearing United States from the Godless Soviet Union.

Our Military is no place for social engineering. Our Military serves but one purpose – to clean up the mess left by failed politicians, to kill people and break things, to keep the United States as the superior nation in the world, a nation based on the principles our Founders gave us, the last bastion of Freedom and reverence for God. Our military institutions like the Air Force Academy once trained brave warriors. It is sad to see those institutions now training generations of politically correct cowards.

This morning, when I awakened, I took off my 1971 Air Force Academy Class Ring, a ring I have worn proudly for over 43 years and tossed it into a drawer, never to be worn again until God is restored to His rightful place, no longer an option. I am no longer proud to be an Air Force Academy graduate. The Air Force Academy has become a School of Surrender to Political Correctness. In the words of President Ronald Reagan, "If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be one nation gone under." It is sad to see a once-proud military institution wave the White Flag of Surrender to Minority Tyranny.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)



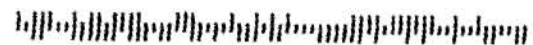
ORLANDO, FL 328

04 NOV 2013 PM 5 L



Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson
U. S. Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO
80840-5001

80840500099



(b)(6)

Nov. 2, 2013

Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson
U. S. Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO
80840-5001

Gen. Johnson;

I have been proud of the Academy from the time that I and every member of the Air Force were strongly suggested by rank, how much we would donate for the construction of the Chapel.

That was until last week, that's when I discovered that the oath of commission NO longer required a cadet to swear their allegiance with the words So Help Me God. You and every officer completed the swearing in ceremony with these words. Words that are more than just words, they are a sacred pledge. A pledge to God, Country and Self, A pledge honoring fallen comrades, Comrades who gave their all in the American Revolution and every conflict in which we have committed personnel in harms way.

Now you are saying that because a few do not wish to honor a time honored tradition and privilege. That they are allowed to not honor and respect the motto that states "In God We Trust." They will be allowed to be commissioned as second lieutenants without a Pledge to God and the United States, for when you allow them the gold bars, that is exactly what you are saying. These people are to become leaders of young men and women without having committed to the oath.

You and every senior officer should hang your head in shame. You have shown utter disregard for God and Country.

Best regards,

(b)(6)



BILLINGS MT 591

04 NOV 2013 PM 1 L

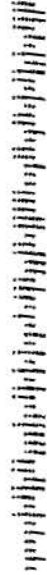
SUPERINTENDANT USAFA

Lt. Col. MICHELLE JOHNSON

2304 CADET DRIVE SUITE 3300

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, CO 80840-5001

8084055000



(b)(6)

November 4, 2013

Superintendent USAFA
 Lt. Col. Michelle Johnson
 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
 U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-5001

Lt. Col. Michelle Johnson,

I am writing you today on behalf of my brother (b)(6) and the concern he would have in recent events of the military's top down directives in regards to one's faith, especially when responding to complaints by anti-Christian groups.

I am praying for you to have strength & perseverance to uphold the Christian precepts our great country was founded on, and upon which, every cadet must draw during their time of training & education of Honor, Duty, and Faith while at the Air Force Academy and for their future life...even if that should mean serving others unto death.

I'm reminded of the commentaries I've read in regards to the Academy's pulling of the AF Chaplain Reye's article citing Father Cummings observations serving as a civilian missionary Catholic priest in the Philippines and the phrase was coined during the Japanese attack at Corregidor, "During the siege, Cummings had noticed non-Catholics were attending his services. Some he knew were not Catholic, some were not religious and some were even known atheists. "Life-and-death experiences prompt a reality check. Even the strongest of beliefs can change, and, I may add, can go both ways – people can be drawn to or away from 'faith.' With the pending surrender of allied forces to the Japanese, Cummings uttered the famous phrase 'There is no such thing as an atheist in a fox hole.'"

Commentaries cited it was only right the academy pull Chaplain Reye's article to be respectful and balanced. I hope those people calling for "respect & balance" always have a life so easy. Never called to come outside themselves. Not having to give selflessly, as so many having served in the military, or fire and police departments do.

Lt. Col. Johnson, I wonder if you had had the occasion to know my brother (b)(6). He graduated the Academy with the class of 1983, and I see from your posted biography on the USAFA website, that you trained at Williams AFB the same time he did. I still remember the beautiful morning he earned his wings & promptly broke them in two, asking me to keep the other half while he kept half. An Air Force tradition, to keep those wings parted...now which I treasure each and every day.

I had asked my brother (b)(6) if it wouldn't be hard decision while flying, if he knew he could save his own life, but knowing he could potentially be taking someone else's life, what to do in that instant. Without hesitation, (b)(6) answered, there would be no question, he would take out his own life. (b)(6) was secure that he would be given life anew in Christ. I believe it strengthened him when he encountered wake turbulence that drove his Cessna 310 up like a kite into a backward roll heading him straight into the Reno airport full of people after the busy Labor Day weekend in 1994. Not one person, besides (b)(6)'s life, was taken that day, and (b)(6) experienced the ultimate "High Flight." The ideals & traditions of living a life of honor, duty & faith guided (b)(6). Those principles were, in part, instilled in him at his impressionable time at the Academy, after being born the first child to a fire fighter and a Montana rancher's daughter.

(b)(6) there at the Academy. I hope to visit it next year 20 years after his death.

There are those, who pressure America every day to leave behind those sacred ideals that have guided our country since before it's inception, that would like to see the Cross and John 3:16 removed from my brother's headstone, as it is in a U.S. military cemetery, but they'll have to do it over my brother's dead body, with his little sister defending her brother's Country's faith in God.

I encourage & continue to pray for you, in your challenging new appointment as Superintendent of the United States Air Force Academy, Lt. Col. Michelle Johnson.

With Sincere Respect,

(b)(6)



Flight to Heaven

The desert sunset casts a soft
orange glow on his wings;

The warm southwest winds glide

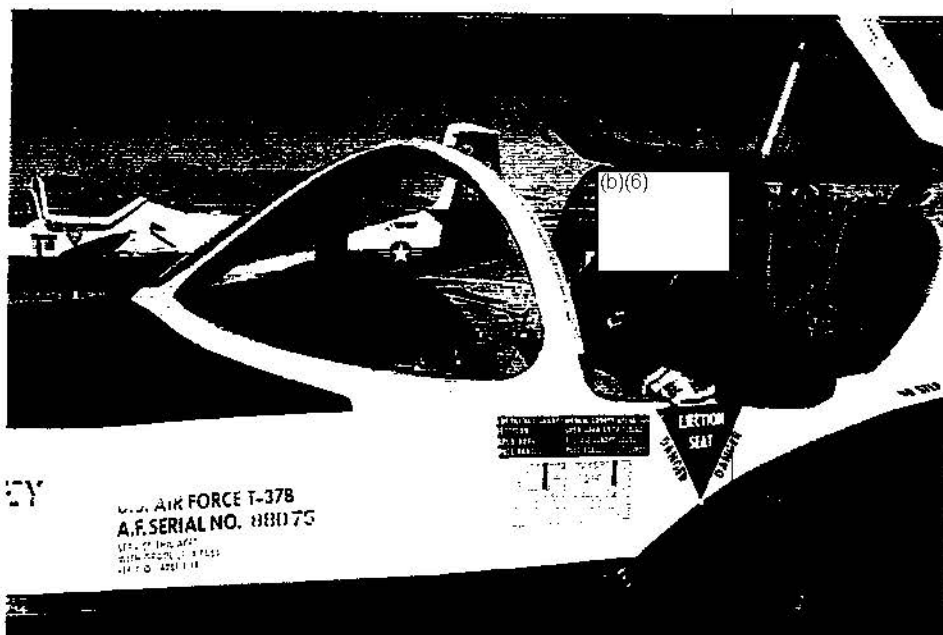
(b)(6) upwardly Home.

It's the final destination and
The ETA is now.

(b)(6) soft blue eyes see the
ground, the sun, clouds and sky,
and the Light that guides his way.
(b)(6) heart is full of joy and
love and peace.

His firm, steady hands guide the
plane to Heaven, and there is no fear
because God is his co-pilot.

(b)(6)



(b)(6)



(b)(6)



(b)(6)



(b)(6)



USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 4:35 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV
Cc: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC;
(b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) K GS 15 USAF USAFA
USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/PL; (b)(6)
Maj USAF USAFA USAFA ACADEMY DU/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
ACADEMY DU/CCE
Subject: Zubek blog
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Good Afternoon Sir/USAFA Leaders,

Pam Zubek posted her blog entry about the Honor Code photo. She shapes the narrative around the MRFF's belief that there is 'a lack of understanding about the separation of church and state' here and posted Lt Gen Johnson's e-mail to the MRFF in its entirety. That did not come from us, we believe he shared his e-mail comms w/the Supt to Pam.

(b)(6) told me Lt Gen Johnson has an e-mail w/the blog in her inbox, so for your SA here is the link and the post is pasted below.

<http://www.csindy.com/IndyBlog/archives/2013/10/21/afa-honor-code-so-help-me-god>

V/R (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
Director, Public Affairs
United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and our nation."

AFA honor code: 'So help me God'

Posted by Pam Zubeck on Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 3:25 PM

Despite an Air Force investigation in years past and continuing efforts to set up religious sensitivity training at the Air Force Academy, it appears the officer school north of Colorado Springs continues to couch its mission in terms of a divine being.

Last week, in response to a request for photos of its preparatory school,

the academy sent the Independent 13 images featuring quotes from famous people, such as George Washington, President Ronald Reagan, Gen. George Patton and German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. Generally they revolved around the concept of building character.

One of those photos featured most of a poster of the academy's famous honor code, with a second sentence we'd never seen before:

To be clear, that's: "Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably so help me God."

So we sent the photo to Mikey Weinstein, the 1977 academy grad who's been fighting for religious neutrality in the military since 2004 through his nonprofit, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. The foundation got its start with efforts aimed at the academy, where Weinstein alleges fundamental Christianity is given priority, based on cadets' and staff's complaints to him that those espousing such a belief system receive favorable treatment.

After receiving the photo late Friday afternoon, Weinstein immediately contacted the academy about it. Ironically, he had met with Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson on Thursday morning and told her of several instances in the last month or so that he says demonstrate a lack of understanding about the separation of church and state.

First, he says, an academy grad and active-duty officer wrote on a classroom board the "only formula needed to get through this course," which was "1 cross, plus 3 nails equals 4 given."

Second, a female master sergeant recently told seniors that when they're commissioned as officers, they must end the oath with, "So help me God." Weinstein says a staff judge advocate advised the academy this was wrong, and the message was revoked.

When Weinstein contacted Johnson's vice superintendent on Friday about the prep-school poster, he says, Johnson herself got back to him 68 minutes later. She wrote via e-mail:

Thanks for taking the time to talk with my Vice about this matter. This Honor Oath is one of the new things since my graduation, evidently in about 1984. Col Miller was able to bring together the Prep School and other entities on base to put together a way ahead. We've already directed the Honor Review Committee to fix this next week when they meet. The Prep School poster has been taken down.

We tried to find out more about what Johnson meant by "a way ahead," and by the word "fix," but she wasn't available. However, the academy did release this statement:

We are assessing the situation and have many mission elements, to include Prep School leadership, the Honor Review Committee and other entities on

base, working to put together a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 1:02 PM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE

Cc: JOHNSON, MICHELLE D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA; Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/-Q USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; Dominguez, Brian E BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/MA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) GS-12 USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/IGQ; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/IG; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA COMMANDANT/CADETS UT/CWC; (b)(6) GS 14 USAF AF A1 U S AIR FORCE HQ/pentagon; LENGUEL, GREGORY J Brig Gen USAF USAFA COMMANDANT/CADETS UT/CW; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWV; (b)(6) Col USAF HQs COMMANDANT/CADETS UT; ARMACOST, ANDREW P Brig Gen USAF USAFA DEAN OF FACULTY UT/DF; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA DEAN OF FACULTY UT/DF; (b)(6) AD-26 USAF USAFA DIRCT OF ATHLETICS UT/AD; Mueh, Hans J Dr USAF USAFA USAFA/AD; Weiss, (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/AD; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/PL; (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/P. V.; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA 10 ABW/CC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA 10 ABW/CV; (b)(6) CMSgt USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CCC; (b)(6) GS 12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM; (b)(6) GS 11 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM; (b)(6) MSgt USAF USAFA USAFA PA/PA

Subject: Updated talking points/messages on Honor Oath and Rosebush

Attachments: Honor Oath and Rosebush messages and talking points as of 21 Nov 13.docx

Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Importance: High

Good Afternoon Senior Leaders,

Attached and pasted below is an updated message/talking point roll-up WRT the Cadet Honor Oath and our Dr. (b)(6) situation, for your reference/use/and to ensure we are all speaking with one voice. Have a fantastic afternoon!

V/R (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
Director, Public Affairs
United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)
Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

Key Messages:

The foundation of the Air Force is our core values of Integrity, Service, and Excellence: we will build on that foundation at the Air Force's Academy by reinforcing and fostering a culture of dignity, respect and inclusion for all

At the Air Force's Academy, we respect the rights of all people and remain committed to protecting individuals' right to practice any religion they choose, or no religion, provided their practices do not violate policy or law, or impede mission accomplishment, military readiness, unit cohesion, standards or discipline

The Academy prides itself on its inclusive environment and is absolutely a safe and validating place to be LGBTQ

Talking Points:

The foundation of the Air Force is our core values of Integrity, Service, and Excellence: we will build on that foundation at the Air Force's Academy by reinforcing and fostering a culture of dignity, respect and inclusion for all

In the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy decided to make the final clause in the Cadet Honor Oath optional

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, Cadet Honor Oath and Oath of Office (Allegiance) are not the same; the Oath of Office is legislated by law and pertains to all active duty service members

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We Will Not Lie, Steal Or Cheat, Nor Tolerate Among Us Anyone Who Does," was formally adopted in 1956 by the Academy's first graduating class, the Class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and it reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce the fundamental value of living honorably

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times

Cadets must meet Academy standards -- honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude - in order to be a cadet in good standing, and honor probation is a rehabilitation tool for a cadet or cadet candidate who fails in a minor way to live up to the high standards expected of cadets and cadet candidates

The Air Force's Academy produces Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character

Honor Oath Statement:

After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference - or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character.

"This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value.

Rosebush Statement:

Dr. Mike Rosebush is an Operations Research Analyst for the Academy's Center of Character and Leadership Development. He analyzes and evaluates the effectiveness of USAFA's "Character & Leadership 101: Foundations of Honorable Living - MOSAIC Personalized Coaching Experience" course. He began work at the Center in 2011, after working for two years as an analyst in the Academy's Plans and Programs office. He was hired for his background in leadership development and analytical skills.

In his current capacity, Dr Rosebush has been involved with the design and execution of MOSAIC Personalized Coaching. The MOSAIC program develops growth in areas related directly to the Air Force's Core Values and the Air Force's institutional Leadership Competencies, to include Respect for Human Dignity, Humility, Duty, Honesty, Care for Others, Taking Care of People, etc. The Academy's Mosaic program is based on best practices from executive coaching in industry and academia. The program has been validated by the Jon C. Dalton Institute on College Student Values, earning its 2013 Best Practices Award, and has generated requests by outside corporate agencies for application to their organizations.

Attached you will find the MOSAIC Program Manual which explains how character coaching is conducted at USAFA, with an emphasis on living honorably, lifting others to their best possible selves, and elevating performance toward a common and noble purpose.

Regarding the allegations saying the Air Force's Academy not being a welcoming place for LGBTQ cadets, The Academy Superintendent, Lt. Gen.

Michelle D. Johnson, along with the Commandant of Cadets, Brig. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, and the Dean of the Faculty, Brig. Gen. Andrew Armacost, and Dr. Hans Mueh (Brig. Gen, ret.) Athletic Director recently met with Spectrum, the Academy's affinity group for LGBTQ cadets.

In that forum, the cadets expressed to Academy leaders that they are proud to be in the Air Force and do not feel like the Air Force Academy culture inhibits them in any way. Rather, they expressed their concerns about the media reports and how those reports may affect the decision of young Americans to attempt to come to the Academy.

One attendee at the forum was Air Force Capt. (b)(6) an Instructor, Department of English and Fine Arts, and the Officer in Charge of Spectrum.

"During the forum with leadership, the cadets of Spectrum expressed multiple times that the Academy is a safe and validating place to be LGBTQ, ' Capt. (b)(6) said. "Several cadets have told me they are frustrated with the articles disparaging USAFA; these articles do not take into account the extensive support our LGBTQ cadets have received from Academy leadership or the reality of the Academy's inclusive environment."

Story on Cadet Honor Code and Cadet Honor Oath:
By Major Brus E. Vidal

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We Will Not Lie, Steal Or Cheat, Nor Tolerate Among Us Anyone Who Does," was formally adopted in 1956 by the Academy's first graduating class, the Class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and it reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Since cadet candidates at the Academy's Preparatory School are not cadets, the Honor Oath is used by cadet candidates to underscore the importance of living honorably as they aspire to become a cadet at the Academy.

Dr. Hans Mueh (Brig. Gen., Ret.), Athletic Director at the Air Force's Academy, was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry department in 1984.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating. It was so widespread that the Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the Supt established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Dr. Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined that some additional clout was needed for this oath, which that all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin the code in order to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and to personally accept the individual mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Dr. Mueh said that addition led to the "and furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably "

"Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God,'" Dr. Mueh said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the Code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an education process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets - as potential future officers - receive extensive character and leadership instruction and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through the final semester at the Academy. The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" that the Academy aspires to produce.

But despite the Academy's emphasis on integrity, some cadets place themselves in situations where their honor is called into question.

If a violation of the Honor Code is suspected, the Honor Group Chairperson will appoint an investigative team. The investigative team consists of one first- and one second-class cadet honor representative from a squadron other than the suspected cadet's. The team gathers pertinent evidence about the suspected honor violation.

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"This all begins by living honorably and the Honor Code and Honor Code reinforce this fundamental value to lead a life of honor, character and integrity."

Key Messages:

- The foundation of the Air Force is our core values of Integrity, Service, and Excellence: we will build on that foundation at the Air Force's Academy by reinforcing and fostering a culture of dignity, respect and inclusion for all
- At the Air Force's Academy, we respect the rights of all people and remain committed to protecting individuals' right to practice any religion they choose, or no religion, provided their practices do not violate policy or law, or impede mission accomplishment, military readiness, unit cohesion, standards or discipline
- The Academy prides itself on its inclusive environment and is absolutely a safe and validating place to be LGBTQ

Talking Points:

- The foundation of the Air Force is our core values of Integrity, Service, and Excellence: we will build on that foundation at the Air Force's Academy by reinforcing and fostering a culture of dignity, respect and inclusion for all
- In the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy decided to make the final clause in the Cadet Honor Oath optional
- The Air Force Academy Honor Code, Cadet Honor Oath and Oath of Office (Allegiance) are not the same: the Oath of Office is legislated by law and pertains to all active duty service members
- The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We Will Not Lie, Steal Or Cheat, Nor Tolerate Among Us Anyone Who Does," was formally adopted in 1956 by the Academy's first graduating class, the Class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets
- In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and it reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."
- The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce the fundamental value of living honorably
- The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times
- Cadets must meet Academy standards — honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude — in order to be a cadet in good standing, and honor probation is a rehabilitation tool for a cadet or cadet candidate who fails in a minor way to live up to the high standards expected of cadets and cadet candidates
- The Air Force's Academy produces Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character

Honor Oath Statement:

After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference – or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character.

"This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value

Rosebush Statement:

Dr. Mike Rosebush is an Operations Research Analyst for the Academy's Center of Character and Leadership Development. He analyzes and evaluates the effectiveness of USAFA's "Character & Leadership 101: Foundations of Honorable Living - MOSAIC Personalized Coaching Experience" course. He began work at the Center in 2011, after working for two years as an analyst in the Academy's Plans and Programs office. He was hired for his background in leadership development and analytical skills.

In his current capacity, Dr Rosebush has been involved with the design and execution of MOSAIC Personalized Coaching. The MOSAIC program develops growth in areas related directly to the Air Force's Core Values and the Air Force's institutional Leadership Competencies, to include Respect for Human Dignity, Humility, Duty, Honesty, Care for Others, Taking Care of People, etc. The Academy's Mosaic program is based on best practices from executive coaching in industry and academia. The program has been validated by the Jon C. Dalton Institute on College Student Values, earning its 2013 Best Practices Award, and has generated requests by outside corporate agencies for application to their organizations.

Attached you will find the MOSAIC Program Manual which explains how character coaching is conducted at USAFA, with an emphasis on living honorably, lifting others to their best possible selves, and elevating performance toward a common and noble purpose.

Regarding the allegations saying the Air Force's Academy not being a welcoming place for LGBTQ cadets, The Academy Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, along with the Commandant of Cadets, Brig. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, and the Dean of the

Faculty, Brig. Gen. Andrew Armacost, and Dr. Hans Mueh (Brig. Gen. ret.) Athletic Director recently met with Spectrum, the Academy's affinity group for LGBQ cadets.

In that forum, the cadets expressed to Academy leaders that they are proud to be in the Air Force and do not feel like the Air Force Academy culture inhibits them in any way. Rather, they expressed their concerns about the media reports and how those reports may affect the decision of young Americans to attempt to come to the Academy.

One attendee at the forum was Air Force Capt. (b)(6) an Instructor, Department of English and Fine Arts, and the Officer in Charge of Spectrum.

"During the forum with leadership, the cadets of Spectrum expressed multiple times that the Academy is a safe and validating place to be LGBQ," Capt. (b)(6) said. "Several cadets have told me they are frustrated with the articles disparaging USAFA; these articles do not take into account the extensive support our LGBQ cadets have received from Academy leadership or the reality of the Academy's inclusive environment."

Story on Cadet Honor Code and Cadet Honor Oath:

By Major Brus E. Vidal

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We Will Not Lie, Steal Or Cheat, Nor Tolerate Among Us Anyone Who Does," was formally adopted in 1956 by the Academy's first graduating class, the Class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

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Since cadet candidates at the Academy's Preparatory School are not cadets, the Honor Oath is used by cadet candidates to underscore the importance of living honorably as they aspire to become a cadet at the Academy.

Dr. Hans Mueh (Brig. Gen., Ret.), Athletic Director at the Air Force's Academy, was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry department in 1984.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating. It was so widespread that the Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the Supt established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Dr. Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined that some additional clout was needed for this oath, which that all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin the code in order to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and to personally accept the individual mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Dr. Mueh said that addition led to the "and furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably."

"Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God.'" Dr. Mueh said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the Code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an education process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets – as potential future officers – receive extensive character and leadership instruction and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through the final semester at the Academy. The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" that the Academy aspires to produce.

But despite the Academy's emphasis on integrity, some cadets place themselves in situations where their honor is called into question.

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USAF FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:40 PM
To: JOHNSON, MICHELLE D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; LENGUEL, GREGORY J Brig Gen USAF USAFA COMMANDANT/CADETS UT/CW; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWV; Armacost, Andrew P BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/DF; (b)(6) Co USAF USAFA DEAN OF FACULTY UT/DFV; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA 10 ABW/CC; (b)(6) Co USAF USAFA USAFA 10 ABW/CV; (b)(6) AD-26 USAF USAFA DIRCT OF ATHLETICS UT/AD; (b)(6) Co USAF USAFA USAFA/AD; (b)(6) CMSgt USAF USAFA ACADEMY DU/CCC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA ACADEMY DU/A5/A8/A9; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/A7; (b)(6) CMSgt USAF USAFA USAFA 10 ABW/CCC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/IG; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/PL; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/PLV; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CW; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA ACADEMY DU/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA ACADEMY DU/CCE; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF USAFA COMMANDANT/CADETS UT/CWCH; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Co USAF USAFA COMMANDANT/CADETS UT/CWC; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/RR; (b)(6) GS-13 USAF A1M USAFA ACADEMY DU/A1
Subject: U.S. Air Force Academy News Release -- Final clause of Honor Oath made optional
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784
Importance: High

Good Afternoon USAFA Leaders,

Pasted below is the news release that went out today stating that the Final clause of the Cadet Honor Oath was made optional. In addition, at the below link (and pasted below the release), you will find a story that includes the release and outlines the history of our Cadet Honor Code and Cadet Honor Oath.

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123368388>

Please use these resources as tools to communicate to your cadets, Airmen, citizen Airmen and those who may be approaching you with questions, and to ensure we all speak with one voice.

We used a variety of tools/methods to get the word out, to include this website posting, Twitter, Facebook, through the Parent's Club, to the AOG and through the news media. It will also run in next Friday's Academy Spirit.

Please let me know if you have questions. Have a great weekend, all!

V/R Brus

BRUS E. VIDAL, Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy
 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3100
 USAF Academy, CO 80840-5016
 Phone: 719-333-1707 DSN: 333-1707
 Fax: 719-333-4094
 E-mail: brus.vidal@us.af.mil or brus.vidal@us.army.mil
 "The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and
 leaders for our Nation."

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, USAF ACADEMY, CO 80840
 www.usafa.af.mil (719) 333 7731

News Release # 146
 Oct. 25, 2013

FINAL CLAUSE OF CADET HONOR OATH MADE OPTIONAL

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. - After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

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30

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and Leaders for our nation."

Final clause in Cadet Honor Oath made optional

Posted 10/25/2013 Updated 10/25/2013

by Maj. Brus E. Vidal
Academy Public Affairs

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USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:16 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
Cc: (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/CWD; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/CWE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: Request for Info: Contrails

(b)(6)

Have a loaded Request for Info for you. The AOG President asked why the latest contrails in the Oath of Office and Enlistment Oath does not have "So Help Me God" at the end. We also noticed that the previous version does not have it either.

What is the official answer on this? And how far does it go back in years? If the official answer is "it was an oversight", then give me a warm fuzzy it will be rectified next year so I can pass it on to the grad community.

(b)(6)

Maj (b)(6)

Director, Commander's Action Group

HQ USAFA/CCX

(b)(6)

COM: (b)(6)

DSN: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 5:37 PM
To: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
Subject: RE: your appearance today at the CAS meeting

(b)(6) I admittedly have not read those articles, but I will. However, his last quote, "Ever since 1965, all substantive changes in the administration and interpretation of the Honor Code have been in reaction to an incident" reminds me that most, if not all, of the NOTES, WARNINGS and CAUTIONS in our technical data were made as a result of an incident. In some cases a catastrophic incident. I think it is only responsible of us to make adjustments when we experience events that warrant change. Thanks for the background.

v/r,

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:00 AM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
Subject: RE: your appearance today at the CAS meeting

Gen Johnson, The context is probably a three part series (b)(6) '64, did on the history of the Honor Code in 2004-2005, which was published in Checkpoints (I'll provide copy to (b)(6) (b)(6) was a Visiting Scholar for Honor at the time. He's also published some other articles ref military academy honor codes, with a focus on the toleration clause. He wrote another article in Checkpoints in 2009 on "The USAFA Cheating Affair of 2004" (article also provided to (b)(6) In this article his conclusions are supportive of the Honor Code and the systems in place.

He notes on the first page of the first article in the series (Fall 2004) that "Most graduates view the Honor System only from a narrow peephole of four years." And, "Ever since 1965, all substantive changes in the administration and interpretation of the Honor Code have been in reaction to an incident."

V/R

(b)(6)

Chief, Development and Alumni Affairs
 HQ USAFA/CMA

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DSN: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC

Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 9:50 PM

To: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA

Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW

Subject: Fw: your appearance today at the CAS meeting

(b)(6)

Tonight's AOG Senate was a long rehash of the Honor Oath, with a short burst from the grad below. Do you know the context for this?

Thanks,
mdj

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 09:00 PM

To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC

Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWC; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CWC;

(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: your appearance today at the CAS meeting

Gen Johnson

First of all, thank you for attending the CAS meeting today. I was the one who asked you about your opinion regarding the research being done by (b)(6) ('64) regarding compliance with the Honor Code. I must say that I was disappointed in your answer that you were not familiar with his research. But, yet you spent a lot of time in the meeting talking about a very superficial honor issue, the use of the "So help me God" phrase in the Honor Oath. And the fact that you would take time to meet with a nut case like (b)(6) but not take the time to become familiar with (b)(6) 20 years of research on the Honor Code, causes me to question your priorities.

You mentioned in part of your comments that this is not the same Academy as in '54 or '59 because this is 2013. I don't understand what is different in 2013 about fundamental concepts of honor, except that we no longer enforce them. BTW, when I asked Gen Lengyel, the then new commandant of cadets, the same question after his appearance at CAS, (ie, about (b)(6) research) Lengyel also said he was not familiar. You mentioned in your comments that Lengyel is soon to be leaving. I wonder if he has yet become familiar with (b)(6) research.

I hope that you will find time in your tenure to address this issue because there are many of us (albeit not a large percentage) who believe that the Honor Code is the most important part of the cadet experience. We would love to have it back.

Cordially

(b)(6) Col, USAF(Ret), USAFA '67

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

My recent article in Checkpoints-fyi

The June 2013 Checkpoints article "An in-depth look at the state of the Honor Code:"

Another Point of View

This rosy picture of the state of the USAFA Honor Code written by LTC (b)(6) the Assistant Director for Honor at the Center for Character and Leadership Development (CCLD) is a classic "puff piece" and demands a response. First, how can anyone claim to offer an "in-depth" look at the Honor Code and never mention any of the recent scandals at USAFA and fail to mention the only serious research that has ever been done on the results of the Honor Code, especially when that research is being done by a USAFA graduate? For much of that research, the researcher, (b)(6) USAFA '64, had offices at USAFA and at least some sanction by USAFA officials.

LTC (b)(6) asks, rhetorically, in his opening sentence "SO HOW ARE THINGS WITH THE HONOR CODE?" Rather than immediately answering the question (b)(6) tells us why people are asking. According to (b)(6) the reason is that the Honor Code is a "symbol of all we envision for the Academy." I don't mean to split hairs but some of us remember when the Honor Code was a "standard" of behavior, not a "symbol," not a training device. (b)(6) goes on to quote the Code and the Honor Oath, which was added to the Code in 1984. (b)(6) editorializes that the Oath "goes beyond the Code," implying that the standards at USAFA have been raised even higher. His comment is disingenuous because the facts are that the Oath was added in the wake of the 1980s cheating scandal, potentially the largest in the history of USAFA. In point of fact, rather than raise the standards in response to this scandal, USAFA Superintendent Scott actually suspended the Code. Therefore, I would contend the addition of the Oath at this time in our history was a cynical obfuscation of the true problem at USAFA, the FAILURE, to enforce the Honor Code. Furthermore, this action had a devastating effect on the perception of the Code. Ever since then, most knowledgeable people have realized that there could never be another large scandal at USAFA because the Code would simply never again be enforced against a large number of cadets. This fact has been admitted to in public by at least one subsequent USAFA superintendent (LG Rosa). But there is even more dishonesty in the (b)(6) report. (b)(6) proudly states that "Disenrollments due to honor cases have DECREASED (emphasis added) to an average of 28 per year since 2004." Meanwhile, (b)(6) research shows that admitted honor violations by cadets while at the Academy have steadily INCREASED over this same period to the point that the vast majority of recent graduates admit to having committed honor violations. This should not surprise anyone who sees that disenrollments for honor are steadily falling and that no large number of cadets will ever again be dismissed for honor. This allegation on my part was proven true less than ten years after the Gen Scott scandal when a large number of cadets were assumed to be using false IDs to buy liquor in downtown Colorado Springs. Instead of bringing these cadets to an honor hearing, the commandant at the time, BG Gamble, granted blanket amnesty to the whole wing. Is it any wonder that today no one seriously believes that any large number of cadets will ever be dismissed for honor?

Later in his article on the state of the Honor Code LTC (b)(6) states that the Honor Oath's meaning was that "USAFA leadership saw a need to promote a noble aspiration BEYOND ADHERENCE TO THE FOUR PROHIBITIONS OF THE CODE" (emphasis added). This is cynicism at its height. Later in the article Witzel again makes this disingenuous comment when he says "It's increasingly clear, however, that we must not limit our cadets to an appreciation of only the four traditional prohibitions of the Code." The fact is that, those four prohibitions are actually a very high standard and that, if USAFA were actually enforcing those standards, there would be no need for the kind of obfuscating pabulum in the Honor Oath or for any of the 20 plus seminars, courses, round tables, etc. that are now part of the CCLD. It is important to note that the converse of this statement is also true: If we will not aggressively enforce those four prohibitions, there are not enough seminars, courses, round tables, or obfuscating pabulum like the Honor Oath that can save us.

Because my comments are quite critical I should remind the reader that I believe the Honor Code to be the most important part of my USAFA experience. I value it highly and I think we are losing it. I realize that my comments do not sound like the rosy picture painted by LTC (b)(6) but I will leave it for the reader to decide which one of us has the more accurate picture.

USAFA FOIA

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 6:37 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX
Cc: Wallace, Lonzo E Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Co USAF USAFA USAFA/CV
Subject: Re: your appearance today at the CAS meeting

Thanks, (b)(6) I'll interested to know how this was analyzed/assessed/discussed by USAFA?

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 11:32 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) MSgt USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX
Subject: Re: your appearance today at the CAS meeting

Ma'am:

Here is a very quick 101 on the (b)(6) question brought up in the AOG Senate today. This is not a new issue, so I will let (b)(6) folks or CCLD give you a more in-depth response, as they dealt with it in 2012. All my info below comes from a Colorado Springs Independent Cover story April 1, 2012 by (b)(6).

(b)(6) ('64) was an unpaid visiting scholar for honor since 1999, and resigned in 2012 (1 week before article published). He did research based on grad surveys, with significant findings being:

- * The percentage of AFA graduates who said they committed honor violations more than doubled from the class of 1959 to the class of 2010 (from 29% to 66%).
- * The percentage of AFA grads who said they tolerated other infractions without reporting them grew from 5% in 1959 to 68% to 2010.
- * Respect for honor was around 90-100% for 50 years before plunging to 70% for classes of 2007-2010.
- * Motivation of AFA grads to make a career of the service dropped from 90% to 50%.

Again, this is just the surface level based on the article from the Indy, but will give you context for the question and the unfortunate email you received.

<http://www.csindy.com/coloradosprings/cracks-in-the-code/Content?oid=2452353>

(b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC

Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 09:49 PM

To: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA

Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA

USAFA/DS; Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW

Subject: Fw: your appearance today at the CAS meeting

(b)(6)

Tonight's AOG Senate was a long rehash of the Honor Oath, with a short burst from the grad below. Do you know the context for this?

Thanks,
mdj

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 09:00 PM

To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC

Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWC; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CWC;

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: your appearance today at the CAS meeting

Gen Johnson

First of all, thank you for attending the CAS meeting today. I was the one who asked you about your opinion regarding the research being done by (b)(6) '64) regarding compliance with the Honor Code. I must say that I was disappointed in your answer that you were not familiar with his research. But, yet you spent a lot of time in the meeting talking about a very superficial honor issue, the use of the "So help me God" phrase in the Honor Oath. And the fact that you would take time to meet with a nut case like (b)(6) but not take the time to become familiar with (b)(6) 20 years of research on the Honor Code, causes me to question your priorities.

You mentioned in part of your comments that this is not the same Academy as in '54 or '59 because this is 2013. I don't understand what is different in 2013 about fundamental concepts of honor, except that we no longer enforce them.

BTW, when I asked Gen Lengyel, the then new commandant of cadets, the same question after his appearance at CAS, (ie, about (b)(6) research) Lengyel also said he was not familiar. You mentioned in your comments that Lengyel is soon to be leaving. I wonder if he has yet become familiar with (b)(6) research.

I hope that you will find time in your tenure to address this issue because there are many of us (albeit not a large percentage) who believe that the Honor Code is the most important part of the cadet experience. We would love to have it back.

Cordially,

(b)(6) Col, USAF(Ret), USAFA '67

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

My recent article in Checkpoints-fyi

The June 2013 Checkpoints article "An in depth look at the state of the Honor Code:"

Another Point of View

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USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:33 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: Re: Story Related to "Oath"

Did you see this yet?

V/R,

Maj (b)(6)
 Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent

Sent from BB (b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 08:13 AM Mountain Standard Time
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: Fw: Story Related to "Oath"

I think she expects to see it in parenthesis, was that discussed?

V/R,

Maj (b)(6)
 Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent

Sent from BB (b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 07:26 AM Mountain Standard Time
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM;
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Subject: RE: Story Related to "Oath"

Good Morning again, Ma'am. Attached and pasted below are the electrons, per discussion. The first four paragraphs are what we recommend to issue in our press release. All of it combined is a story we will post on our Website, push to AF Link, publish in next week's Spirit, and include as an attachment with the press release. We will also tweet about it, post a link on Facebook, provide to Parent's Club, the AOG, and CW for communication to those respective audiences. See you at 1000, Ma'am!

V/R (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF

Director, Public Affairs
United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6) The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

After assessing the situation concerning the statement "So help me God" in the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make that part of the oath optional.

"Here at the Academy, ours is a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference - or not." said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of being respectful to all, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with the final sentence, 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on producing lieutenants who are humble, competent and confident." "In order to do this, our cadets need to internalize the concept, 'Leader of Character.'

"This all begins by living honorably and the Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value to lead a life of honor, character and integrity."

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does," was formally adopted by the Academy's first graduating class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and it reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Dr. Hans Mueh (Brig. Gen., Ret.), Athletic Director at the Air Force's Academy, was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry department in 1984.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating. It was so widespread that the Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the Supt established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Dr. Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined that some additional clout was needed for this oath, which that all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin

the code in order to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and to personally accept the individual mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Dr. Mueh said that addition led to the "and furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably."

"Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God,'" Dr. Mueh said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the Code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an education process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets - as potential future officers - receive extensive character and leadership instruction and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through the final semester at the Academy. The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" that the Academy aspires to produce.

"Cadets must meet Academy standards -- honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude - in order to be a cadet in good standing," said Brig.

Gen. Gregory Lengyel, Commandant of Cadets. "Holding each cadet to these high standards promotes good order and discipline throughout the institution."

The Honor Code is a vital part of cadets' development as military professionals. It also represents a broader aspect of ethical maturity which will serve them throughout their lives. As the bearers of the public trust, both as cadets and as officers, it is the Honor Code which helps build a personal integrity able to withstand the rigorous demands placed upon them.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 2:17 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: So Help Me God
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Good Afternoon (b)(6),

The below statement should answer your questions ... on a similar note, I'm sure you're speaking the MRFF frequently, and I'm still curious about the flip flop? Cheers.

"Regarding the e-mail sent by Mr. (b)(6) to the MRFF, we can confirm that Mr. (b)(6) is a trainer at the Air Force Academy Preparatory School, and yes, he did send an e-mail to the MRFF in his personal capacity and not as a representative of the Air Force's Academy or the Prep School.

Supporting the right of free exercise of religion relates directly to the Air Force core values and the ability to maintain an effective team. Air Force Academy Leaders at all levels must balance constitutional protections for an individual's free exercise of religion or other personal beliefs and the constitutional prohibition against governmental establishment of religion.

All Academy Airmen, especially commanders, supervisors and those who are in daily contact with cadets or cadet candidates, must ensure that in exercising their right of religious free expression, they do not degrade morale, good order, and discipline or degrade the trust and confidence that the public has in the United States Air Force and the Air Force's Academy.

The Air Force's Academy remains committed to protecting individuals' right to practice any religion they choose, or no religion, provided their practices do not violate policy or law, or impede mission accomplishment, military readiness, unit cohesion, standards or discipline.

It's also important to point out that USAFA has a robust, structured Religious Respect Training Program that helps cadets, cadet candidates, faculty and staff understand how the First Amendment applies to them at USAFA with an expectation that all are educated on religious respect and, in turn, are practitioners of respect."

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)
 Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: 719-333-4094

E-mail: brus.vidal@us.af.mil or brus.vidal@us.army.mil

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: Losey, Stephen [mailto:slosey@airforcetimes.com]

Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 12:23 PM

To: VIDAL, BRUS E Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: FW: So Help Me God

Brus,

Here is the e-mail Mr. Weinstein sent me this afternoon. My questions are:

1. Is Mr. Willoughby an athletic trainer at USAFA?
2. Is the content of this e-mail accurate? That is, did Mr. Willoughby send this e-mail to Mr. Weinstein?
3. Regarding the statement "I am on staff at USAFA and will talk about Jesus Christ my Lord and savior to everyone that I work with": What is the academy's policy on employees discussing their religious beliefs while on the job?

Thank you,

Steve

From: "Allen Willoughby" <rolltide1@falconbroadband.net>

Subject: So Help Me God

Date: November 6, 2013 11:32:45 PM MST

To: <info@militaryreligiousfreedom.org>

Mikey

Finally a leader at USAFA that really lets you know how all of us at USAFA especially at USAFA Preparatory feel about you and your beliefs, can't wait 'til you are escorted off campus and I am sure the majority of staff/cadets (believers and nonbelievers) wish that could happen now. Stop pushing your beliefs on us. God will always be a part of the US Military even when you are gone to meet him face to face. You know you can do a lot for the homeless veterans out here but you could care less about them but when it comes to Christians you are willing to fight against us, well you will never win and so you know the war has already been won. I am on staff at USAFA and will talk about Jesus Christ my Lord and savior to everyone that I work with. Do something productive with your life and Stop harassing the fine people at USAFA. I really pray for your soul.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:46 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM
Subject: RE: Request from CNN
Attachments: U.S. Air Force Academy News Release -- Final clause of Honor Oath made o... (25.9 KB)
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Good Afternoon Ms. (b)(6)

I work with (b)(6) and wanted to try to answer your questions. In reading the story, you are correct about the oath of office. That is dictated by law. Our Cadet Honor Code and Honor Oath are not, and to your question on that the decision (release on the decision and background on the Honor Oath and Honor Code are attached) affects the Honor Code or the oath of office, it is only for our Cadet Honor Oath.

For questions about the oath of office, I would recommend calling our elected officials.

Bottom line, the oath of office is not an Air Force Academy issue, it's a Congressional issue and it seems many of your questions surround that. We are only dealing with our Cadet Honor Oath here ... I will contact our Cadet Wing and the individual named below (the officer) to try to get you more on the e-mails, but I understand you're under deadline. Please let me know how we can further support. Have a nice day.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:54 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: FW: Request from CNN

V/R

Meade

//SIGNED//

MEADE WARTHEN

Chief, Media Relations Division

U.S. Air Force Academy Directorate of Public Affairs

Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5016

(719) 333 7639; DSN 333-7639; meade.warthen@us.af.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Smith, Emily (CNN) [mailto:Emily.Smith@turner.com]

Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:25 AM

To: WARTHEN, MEADE C GS 12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM

Subject: Request from CNN

Hi Meade,

As discussed, here's the background of my story:

In early August, officer in training Jonathan Bise objected to saying 'so help me God' at the end of his Commissioning Oath. He contacted a lawyer with the American Humanist Association who drafted a letter to Bise's commander saying that forcing him to say the phrase was against his constitutional right. The commander reversed his decision and Bise was allowed to omit the phrase at his commissioning ceremony.

On October 2, 2013, Shannon M Cagler apparently send 'Soon-to-be-Lieutenants' an email slugged INFO: Change to Oath of Office (Optional "So Help Me, God." to CS21_C14_ALL; CS21_C15 All; CS21_C16 All; CS21_C17_ALL.

The email said, "Bottom line: Don't expect to have any words changed in the near future."

The email stated that the oath of office is governed by Congressional

oversight and as such would require legislation to be changed. It instructed readers to contact their Congressional representatives if they felt passionately about the issue.

On October 3, 2013, Rhett S Hierlmeirer sent a follow up email to the same group clarifying the first email.

I'm trying to confirm that both emails were in fact sent. If you could, I'd appreciate a copy of the email so I can make sure that the version I have is the exact version that was sent and hasn't been altered.

That should be it! I really do appreciate all your help with this.

Emily Smith

One CNN Center, Atlanta, GA

404 827 4663

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) GS 12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM <(b)(6)>
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:42 AM
To: (b)(6) C GS 12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM
Subject: U.S. Air Force Academy News Release -- Final clause of Honor Oath made optional
Attachments: 146a History of the Cadet Honor Code and Oath.docx
Signed By: (b)(6)

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, USAF ACADEMY, CO 80840
www.usafa.af.mil (719) 333-7731

News Release # 146
 Oct. 25, 2013

FINAL CLAUSE OF CADET HONOR OATH MADE OPTIONAL

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. - After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference - or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character," General Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

-30-

NOTE: Attached is a history of the Cadet Honor Code and Honor Oath.

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and Leaders for our nation."

USAFA FOIA

From: Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:54 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWV; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/CWE; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWC
Subject: RE: Request for Info: Contrails
Signed By: (b)(6) 1010649508

Thanks (b)(6) We're sending up a reply on this.

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:20 AM
To: Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWV; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: FW: Request for Info: Contrails

Gen Lengyel,

Sir, FYI on below request from USAFA CAG. This came up at the AOG class senate meeting last night. It was from BG Carlton, not Mr. (b)(6)

VR,

(b)(6) Maj, USAF

Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent

United States Air Force Academy

Ph: (b)(6)

Cell

Email: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:16 AM

To: Adcock, Brian S Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW

Cc: Schlichenmeyer, Patrick L LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/CWD; Alden, Jared K Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/CWE; Sanders, William D Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; Henigin, Naomi Y Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; Wallace, Lonzo E Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE

Subject: Request for Info: Contrails

Brian,

Have a loaded Request for Info for you. The AOG President asked why the latest contrails in the Oath of Office and Enlistment Oath does not have "So Help Me God" at the end. We also noticed that the previous version does not have it either.

What is the official answer on this? And how far does it go back in years? If the official answer is "it was an oversight", then give me a warm fuzzy it will be rectified next year so I can pass it on to the grad community.

-Beeze

Maj Abizer Tyabji

Director, Commander's Action Group

HQ USAFA/CCX

2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3311

USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

COM: 719-333-3739 DSN: 333-3739

abizer.tyabji@usafa.edu

USAFA FOIA

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:26 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/IG
Cc: (b)(6) USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) CMSgt USAF HQ USAFA/CCC; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRR; (b)(6) (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: Recent IG complaints regarding the Honor Oath
Signed By: michel.e.johnson@us.af.mil

Sounds good, (b)(6)

Thank you, mdj

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/IG
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:02 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) CMSgt USAF HQ USAFA/CCC; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRR; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: Recent IG complaints regarding the Honor Oath

Ma'am, these individuals learned about the situation via the media and wrote to our IG office imploring USAFA to keep the "So Help Me God" phrase in the Honor Oath. It was pre-emptive rather than reactive, but by our guidance since they wrote the IG office, we still log them as complaints. We will now reply to these individuals with your official news release and direct them to the USAFA website for the full article and background on the Honor Oath.

V/r (b)(6)

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:20 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/IG
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) CMSgt USAF HQ USAFA/CCC; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRR; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: Re: Recent IG complaints regarding the Honor Oath

I'm not clear on what the complaints are about? We haven't taken any action yet, beyond taking down one 8x10 poster at the PL. ?

Thanks!

mdj

From: Kuenzli, David P Col USAF USAFA USAFA/IG

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 02:50 PM

To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC

Cc: Miller, Evan M Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; Colvin, Gail B Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; Ludwig, Stephen R CMSgt USAF HQ USAFA/CCC; Wallace, Lonzo E Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; Silva, Stephanie M Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRR; CANNON, DAVID K GS 15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; Vidal, Bruc Lt Col USAF USAFA/PA <bruc.vidal@us.af.mil>; VIDAL, BRUS E Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: Recent IG complaints regarding the Honor Oath

Ma'am, we've received two complaints today concerning the information in the media regarding the Honor Oath. Both were from out-of-state civilians. I have spoken to Maj Brus Vidal and I understand there's a strategic communication plan in the works and the USAFA position will be released when a final decision is made.

We will register these complaints in the IG's Automated Case Tracking System (ACTS). We'll then wait on your release of the coordinated strategic communications message before we respond to the complainants. We can expect to receive more complaints regarding this issue in the coming days.

v/r Dave

DAVID P. KUENZLI, Col, USAF

HQ USAFA/IG

DSN 333-3490, Comm (719) 333-3490

Cell: 813 465 4716

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:09 PM
To: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA
Cc: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
 USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE
Subject: RE: Please keep the Honor Oath as is
Signed By: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Done -- sending to Major (b)(6)

By mid day tomorrow we will have the answer for parents, social media, etc.

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA
[mailto:] (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:57 AM
To: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM
Cc: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA
 USAFA/CMA
Subject: FW: Please keep the Honor Oath as is

Sir,

A parent would like this letter forwarded to the General as feedback before
 she makes her decision.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Parents' Liaison

U.S. Air Force Academy, CO

(b)(6)

Toll Free (b)(6)

e-mail: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:44 AM
To: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA
Subject: Please keep the Honor Oath as is

Dear General Johnson,

It has recently been reported that you are considering removing the words "so help me God" from the USAFA Honor Oath. I understand this is in response to a complaint you received last week from (b)(6) President of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF). My son attends the academy and this greatly concerns me on many levels.

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/10/23/air-force-academy-may-drop-god-from-oath/>

The same oath or something very similar is pledged across our entire military, so if (b)(6) succeeds at USAFA, this will eventually, and possibly quickly, spread across the entire military and even beyond.

It dumbfounds me that one man's voice can carry so much weight within our military. It is simple to just not utter those words during the oath if you are not a believer. Why force the thought process of non-believers on the majority? I mean, isn't there already a process in place to accommodate service members on an individual basis who do not wish to say the end phrase. Do we have to cave to this man's complaint that this offends the atheist population and impose this change on the majority who will be offended by the removal of the phrase? This makes no sense to me and many other concerned individuals.

I hope and pray that you will stand strong and leave the Oath as is, while making an alternative option clearly available to the minority group of cadets that would rather not utter the word "God" at the end of the Oath. I would imagine that alternative would simply be to not say the word "God".

Thank you sincerely,

(b)(6)

USAF FOIA

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/PL
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 2:06 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/PL; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/HCX
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF AFPC USAF ACAD PREP SC/SC/PL; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HQ USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) Co. USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) LtCol USAF AMC 627 ABG/HQ
Subject: RE: PARTIAL STATEMENT: So He p Me Goo
Signed By: (b)(6)

OK. Clarification received. The religious briefing the C/Cs get during BMT is only an introduction to chapel programs...it is not an intro to RRTP. However, what I said in my last e mail about our SPIRE program having as a key underpinning all of the tenets of RRTP is correct.

v/r,

(b)(6)
 (b)(6) Col, USAF, PhD(Med)
 Commander, USAF Academy Prep School
 HQ USAFA/PL
 (b)(6)
 Off: (b)(6)
 Mob: (b)(6)
 E-mail: (b)(6)

GO HUSKIES!!!

-- Original Message --
From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/PL
[mailto:] (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 2:00 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/HCX
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF AFPC USAF ACAD PREP SC/SC/PL; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HQ USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY

DU/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj
 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCF; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ
 USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Col
 USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) P LtCol USAF AMC 627 ABG/HC
 Subject: RE: PARTIAL STATEMENT: So Help Me God
 Importance: High

All...hold the phone. All staff at the Prep School ARF required to take
 RRTP. Further, while C/Cs do not get the full RRTP like cadets do because of
 the amount of time available, they DO receive a briefing on religious
 respect during basic training. I'm not sure if this happened this year so
 far ((b)(6) checking now) but I know we did last year and in previous
 years. Further, our SPIRE program has as a key underpinning all of the
 tenets of religious respect.

We'll get more specifics to you shortly on this.

v/r,

(b)(6)
 (b)(6) Col, USAF, PhD(Med)
 Commander, USAF Academy Prep School
 HQ USAFA/PL
 (b)(6)
 Off: (b)(6)
 Mob: (b)(6)
 F mail: (b)(6)

GO HUSKIES!!!

--Original Message--

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (mailto:(b)(6))
 Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 1:52 PM
 To: (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/HCX
 Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/PL; (b)(6) Col USAF AFPC
 USAF ACAD PREP SC/SC/PL; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HQ USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF
 ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
 USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE; (b)(6)
 Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA
 USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; (b)(6) Col USAF
 USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HCX
 Subject: RE: PARTIAL STATEMENT: So Help Me God

Thank you, Sir ... will update.

V/R (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
Director, Public Affairs
United States Air Force Academy
(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

Original Message: --

From: (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/HCX

[mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 1:41 PM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Cc: (b)(6) E Col USAF USAFA USAFA/PL; (b)(6) Col USAF AFPC

USAF ACAD PREP SC/SC/PL; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6)

(b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HQ USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF

ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA

USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE; (b)(6)

Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA

USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; (b)(6) Col USAF

USAFA USAFA/IA; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HCX

Subject: RE: PARTIAL STATEMENT: So Help Me God

(b)(6),

(b)(6)

V/r

Chaplain (b)(6)

//signed//

Ch, Lt Col (b)(6)

Cadet Wing Chaplain

USAFA Cadet Chaplain Corps

(b)(6)

DSN: (b)(6)

Commercial (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (mailto: (b)(6))
 Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 1:10 PM
 To: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Col USAF
 USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; (b)(6)
 LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/HCX; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF USAF ACADEMY
 DU/HCX
 Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/PL; (b)(6) Col USAF AFPC
 USAF ACAD PREP SC/SC/PL; (b)(6) USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HQ USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF
 ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6)
 D Maj USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
 USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE; (b)(6)
 Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
 Subject: RE: PARTIAL STATEMENT: So Help Me God

Good Afternoon Leaders,

Here is a draft statement -- pending your review/guidance/edits, will submit
 to the front office for review and answer our queries by providing it.
 Thank you.

V/R (b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Maj, USAF

Director, Public Affairs

United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM

Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 12:54 PM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; Bruno, Robert Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/HCX; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HCX
Subject: PARTIAL STATEMENT: So Help Me God

(b)(6)

Here's a partial statement/start to the statement. You'll add religious respect points.

(b)(5)

COL (b)(6) Please ensure we are using the correct wording in describing this.

(b)(6) and I talked with Mr (b)(6) and he says he doesn't initiate any conversations about religion but doesn't shy away from the conversation if asked.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 11:08 AM
 To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
 Cc: Mark A III Gen MIL USAF AF/CC Welsh; Rich Harding; Howard D Maj Gen MIL USAF AF/HC Stendahl; Stephen P Lt Gen MIL USAF SAF/IG Mueller
 Subject: So Help Me God

...seriously, Michelle???...and he feels absolutely NO worries or even the slightest nuances of concern about making such heinous, astonishingly bigoted statements of fundamentalist Christian supremacy and expectionalism at USAFA so very publicly??...IF he truly does work at USAFA, and as we've been saying for almost a decade, your USAFA "command climate" for church-state separation is simply wretched!!!... (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
 Subject: So Help Me God

Date: November 6, 2013 11:32:45 PM MST

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Finally a leader at USAFA that really lets you know how all of us at USAFA especially at USAFA Preparatory feel about you and your beliefs, can't wait 'til you are escorted off campus and I am sure the majority of staff/cadets (believers and nonbelievers) wish that could happen now. Stop pushing your beliefs on us. God will always be a part of the US Military even when you are gone to meet him face to face. You know you can do a lot for the homeless veterans out here but you could care less about them but when it comes to Christians you are willing to fight against us, well you will never win and so you know the war has already been won. I am on staff at USAFA and will talk about Jesus Christ my Lord and savior to everyone that I work with. Do something productive with your life and Stop harassing the fine people at USAFA. I really pray for your soul.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:34 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MRFF overturns 29-year old religious violation at USAFA within a mere 68 minutes
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Thanks so much, (b)(6). truly do appreciate it!

Take care.

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)
 Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:15 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: MRFF overturns 29-year old religious violation at USAFA within a mere 68 minutes

Thanks for pointing that out, it is an important distinction. I'll make the change now and it should be up in a few minutes.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:10 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MRFF overturns 29-year old religious violation at USAFA within a mere 68 minutes

Greetings (b)(6),

Just saw your piece on the Honor Oath. I have one favor to ask -- could you kindly change the working in your second-to-last paragraph to religious respect vice religious tolerance? Ours is a program about respect for all, not tolerance. That would be much appreciated ... thanks again, and have a great week!

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:50 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: RE: MRFF overturns 29-year old religious violation at USAFA within a mere 68 minutes

Also, can you send me a copy of the photo of the poster that was taken down, with the pledge on it, that was provided to the Independent? (It wouldn't be kosher for me to pull it straight from their site.)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (mailto: (b)(6))

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:37 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: MRFF overturns 29-year old religious violation at USAFA within a mere 68 minutes

More to follow, don't have that answer yet (b)(6) You'll be the first to know when I know.

Cheers.

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:35 AM
 To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
 Subject: RE: MRFF overturns 29-year old religious violation at USAFA within a mere 68 minutes

Great, thank you very much. I'm still a little unclear on question 3, however -- are cadets allowed to omit "so help me God" when reciting the oath if they choose to?

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA [mailto:(b)(6)]
 Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 6:33 PM
 To: (b)(6)
 Subject: FW: MRFF overturns 29-year old religious violation at USAFA within a mere 68 minutes

Greetings (b)(6),

Apologies for the delayed response, but I think I can address your three questions from the three separate e-mails in one concise statement:

Despite the MRFF's headline, no decision has been made yet about the way forward. The Honor Review Committee did meet this morning and had an in-depth discussion about the Honor Code Oath. They considered a range of options and some of those options will be presented to Academy leaders and, ultimately, the Academy Superintendent for a decision. We will let you know what the way ahead is when the decision is made.

Your questions were:

- 1) Thanks. So I just want to be clear -- despite the MRFF's headline ("overturns 29-year old religious violation"), it sounds to me like no decision has been made yet. Correct?
- 2) Also, is the Honor Review Committee meeting now on it? Do you know when they might reach a decision or make a recommendation on this?
- 3) Currently, does the Air Force Academy allow cadets to omit "so help me God" if stating that runs counter to their beliefs, or if they choose not to say it?

Thanks for the opportunity to lend our voice. Have a nice evening!

V/R

(b)(6), Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 12:49 PM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: RE: MRFF overturns 29-year old religious violation at USAFA within a mere 68 minutes

Currently, does the Air Force Academy allow cadets to omit "so help me God" if stating that runs counter to their beliefs, or if they choose not to say it?

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA [mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 2:16 PM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: MRFF overturns 29-year old religious violation at USAFA within a mere 68 minutes

Good Afternoon (b)(6)

Apologies for not getting back to you sooner, but here is what we can offer:

We stand by the statement in Ms. (b)(6) blog, which says "We are assessing the situation and have many mission elements, to include Prep School leadership, the Honor Review Committee and other entities on base, working to put together a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives."

To your questions, it is correct that Lt Gen Johnson responded to the MRFF's inquiry and the release is accurate in what she told the MRFF. We value an inclusive environment that promotes dignity and respect for all. The Honor Review Committee is in the process of evaluating the Oath to develop a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives. We will let you know what the way ahead is once that determination is made.

Take care, (b)(6)

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Maj, USAF

Director, Public Affairs

United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 7:56 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: FW: MRFF overturns 29-year old religious violation at USAFA within a mere 68 minutes

Hi (b)(6)

I wanted to check on the claims made in this e-mail. Is it correct that Lt. Gen. Johnson responded to MRFF's inquiry Friday, and does this release accurately reflect what she told MRFF? How is the Academy going to proceed on this? Will the "so help me God" element of the honor oath be dropped?

Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: Military Religious Freedom Foundation
[mailto:mrff@militaryreligiousfreedom.ccsend.com] On Behalf Of Military Religious Freedom Foundation
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 7:12 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: MRFF overturns 29-year old religious violation at USAFA within a mere 68 minutes

<<http://r20.rs6.net/on.jsp?ca=fc820b98-ba8c-48d4-87c1-237d47b34079&a=1101766362531&d=1115373820255&r=3&o=http://ui.constantcontact.com/images/p1x1.gif&c=bf2a8890-36f5-11e3-b95c-d4ae5275b1a5&ch=c0aabff0-36f5-11e3-ba3a-d4ae5275b1a5>>

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MilitaryReligiousFreedom.org

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MRFF FEATURED BY COLORADO SPRINGS INDEPENDENT

AFA honor code: So help me God

MRFF Founder and President contacts U.S. Air Force Academy, and in SIXTY EIGHT MINUTES receives personal response from Superintendent assuring corrective action on TWENTY-NINE YEAR OLD religious violation at USAFA

Monday, October 21, 2013

Selected Article Excerpts:

* Despite an Air Force investigation in years past and continuing efforts to set up religious sensitivity training at the Air Force Academy, it appears the officer school north of Colorado Springs continues to couch its mission in terms of a divine being.

* One of those photos featured most of a poster of the academy's famous honor code, with a second sentence we'd never seen before:
 ... "Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably so help me God."

So we sent the photo to (b)(6) the 1977 academy grad who's been fighting for religious neutrality in the military since 2004 through his nonprofit, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. The foundation got

its start with efforts aimed at the academy, where (b)(6) alleges fundamental Christianity is given priority, based on cadets' and staff's complaints to him that those espousing such a belief system receive favorable treatment.

After receiving the photo late Friday afternoon, (b)(6) immediately contacted the academy about it. Ironically, he had met with Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson on Thursday morning and told her of several instances in the last month or so that he says demonstrate a lack of understanding about the separation of church and state.

First, he says, an academy grad and active-duty officer wrote on a classroom board the "only formula needed to get through this course," which was "1 cross, plus 3 nails equals 4-given."

Second, a female master sergeant recently told seniors that when they're commissioned as officers, they must end the oath with, "So help me God." (b)(6) says a staff judge advocate advised the academy this was wrong, and the message was revoked.

* When (b)(6) contacted Johnson's vice superintendent on Friday about the prep-school poster, he says, Johnson herself got back to him 68 minutes later. She wrote via e-mail:

Thanks for taking the time to talk with my Vice about this matter. This Honor Oath is one of the new things since my graduation, evidently in about 1984. Col (b)(6) was able to bring together the Prep School and other entities on base to put together a way ahead. We've already directed the Honor Review Committee to fix this next week when they meet. The Prep School poster has been taken down.

* We tried to find out more about what Johnson meant by "a way ahead," and by the word "fix," but she wasn't available. However, the academy did release this statement:

We are assessing the situation and have many mission elements, to include Prep School leadership, the Honor Review Committee and other entities on base, working to put together a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives.

Click to read at CSIndy

<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0014RNxaI2VM8Jfx_DRgTnoozl92bsGIWm8Vb6USBSf5IrrJ8JQSc1UfQeiq5oxC7Brnl6RZj2gfQu-yKUcm6C1okxK7i9h0vsMazjeCXhhErUEDiQ1A9d8FOWvK2UhcDrT3wcENqg27kvGvFnD5RjEqYyIUVOC1Kgwr3EFdohQqPyhzT-SE9Lw2eBmVJ1cXASb8pWDfRW1RfEMXaz1P2fXZ7k9Raz-pvZyAxbNIRWe-F7BWHBoMci6b890i7dWBVThnVv23Nohx4=&c-l dYCcdkC78LHbDyK_9fNsiZ1BN3YY-k9nFFBfsLGkYYt-9OG7FASog--&ch=ZaBnF8Ty1ILQ1Arx1EWKsIS3YxwKwCm2GTGXG6cCM8jHLYDWyHM5-dA-=>

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CFC # 30187

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PLEASE CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE
AND WATCH A VIDEO ON MRFF'S CAMPAIGN

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(b)(6) Facebook Page

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USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 2:32 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MRFF bil board
Signed By: (b)(6) D.1006883784

Good Afternoon (b)(6)

I just read your post on this issue and I have a couple of points. First, is our info going to make it in for context?

Second, your article states:

"After MRFF President (b)(6) in October objected to the inclusion of the phrase "so help me God" in the academy's honor oath, the academy decided to make reciting that part optional. But (b)(6) said that by not completely excising the clause, the oath still violates the Constitution's guarantee that no one shall be subjected to a religious test to hold a public office. "It was pretty obvious the Air Force Academy was going to continue in its noxiously unconstitutional way of including 'so help me God,'" (b)(6) said. "It's something that is completely illegal and unlawful. It marginalizes, it dehumanizes, it offends and it tramples on the essence of the Constitution." (b)(6) had harsh words for Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson's decision not to completely remove the clause. "She is the fourth superintendent we've met with [since MRFF was founded in 2004], and she seems to be the worst of all" in terms of her willingness to engage MRFF on their concerns, (b)(6) said. (b)(6) said he would not object to cadets choosing on their own to add "so help me God" to the honor oath. But making it optional is not good enough, he said, because airmen who chose not to say it would feel pressure to do so."

Did you ask him why he is flip-flopping on the issue, per chance? Just over a week ago, he told (b)(6) at the Colo Springs Gazette that he would settle, though, for "so help me God" to become optional (link below w/out quote, quote was in printed version). Why the flip-flop?

<http://gazette.com/foundation-protesting-so-help-me-god-in-air-force-academy-pledge/article/1508149>

Thanks in advance for including our information for balance and context and I'll be curious to know what the answer is if you ask this question. Take care, (b)(6)

Sincerely,

(b)(6)
 Maj, USAF

Director, Public Affairs

United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 1:23 PM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: RE: MRFF billboard

Thank you for this, (b)(6). Does the academy have any comment on the billboard specifically?

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA [mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 3:20 PM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: MRFF billboard

Greetings (b)(6)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this and, quite frankly, correct the record on some issues.

First, the Cadet Honor Oath remains unchanged. However, in the spirit enabling all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy made the final clause optional - cadets can choose to say that final clause or not.

Second, it seems the MRFF is confusing the facts and also does not understand the difference between 1) the commissioning Oath of Office, 2) the Cadet Honor Code, and 3) the Cadet Honor Oath, which remains unchanged.

Finally, and most importantly, I refer you to the MRFF's mission statement and the apparent disagreement of its fundamentals with the final clause in the Cadet Honor Oath as optional, thereby allowing all to be true to their beliefs, whatever those beliefs are.

To help define the differences in the Cadet Honor Code and Cadet Honor Oath, I refer you to our story about the Cadet Honor Code and Honor Oath - you might want to pass it along to them since they seem to be unclear on the facts and, specifically, that the Cadet Honor Oath was not changed -- we simply made the final clause optional, which is directly in line with the MRFF's mission statement to ensure "that all members of the United States

Armed Forces fully receive the Constitutional guarantees of religious freedom."

Here is the link and the story:

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123368388>

Final clause in cadet Honor Oath made optional

by Maj. Brus E. Vidal
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

10/25/2013 - U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. -- After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference -- or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character," Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does," was formally adopted by the Academy's first graduating class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. Cadets retake the oath at the beginning of every school year. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Retired Air Force brigadier general and now the Academy's Athletic Director, Dr. Hans Mueh was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry Department.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating," he said. It was so widespread that the superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the superintendent established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined some additional clout was needed for this oath, which all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin the code to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and personally accept the individual mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Mueh said that addition led to the line "and furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably. "Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God,'" he said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an educational process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets -- as potential future officers -- receive extensive character and leadership instruction, and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through their final semester at the Academy.

The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" the Academy aspires to produce.

"Cadets must meet Academy standards -- honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude -- in order to be a cadet in good standing," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, Commandant of Cadets. "Holding each cadet to these high standards promotes good order and discipline throughout the institution."

The Honor Code is a vital part of cadets' development as military professionals. It also represents a broader aspect of ethical maturity which

will serve them throughout their lives. As the bearers of the public trust, both as cadets and as officers, it is the Honor Code which helps build a personal integrity able to withstand the rigorous demands placed upon them.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Maj, USAF

Director, Public Affairs

United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6) or (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 11:20 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: RE: MRFF billboard

We are probably going to post a story soon, but will add your comment as soon as it arrives. Thanks,

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA [mailto:brus.vidal@us.af.mil]

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 1:15 PM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: MRFF billboard

Hello (b)(6)

I'm about to leave for a meeting, would it be acceptable to get back w/you in a couple hours? Thanks.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Maj, USAF

Director, Public Affairs

(b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6) or (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 11:06 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: MRFF billboard

Hi (b)(6)

(b)(6) just called me about the billboard they put up near the academy on the oath thing. Does the academy have any comment on this?

(b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:21 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Honor Oath
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Greetings Ms. (b)(6)

We just saw a teaser that says the MRFF leader will be on The Kelly File w/(b)(6) tonight. I'm sure you've already done so to help w/her prep, but if not feel free to share this information with her. Have a great evening!

Sincerely,

(b)(6)
 Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)
 Phone: (b)(6)
 Fax: (b)(6)
 E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:43 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: Honor Oath

Thanks so much, Maj. (b)(6)!

Will Lt. Gen Johnson be available to speak on camera when the time comes?

(b)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (mailto:(b)(6))
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:30 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Honor Oath

Good Afternoon Ms. (b)(6)

Per our discussion, here is the Colo Springs Independent blog about the

Honor Oath and referencing the MRFF.

<http://www.csindy.com/IndyBlog/archives/2013/10/21/afa-honor-code-so-help-me-god>

(b)(6) twitter post is here:

[https://twitter.com/\(b\)\(6\)](https://twitter.com/(b)(6))

His Facebook post here:

<https://www.facebook.com/MikeyMRFF>

And his post on the MRFF website here:

http://www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org/press-releases/2013/CSIndy_10-21-13.html

As I said, I don't know why the reporter, (b)(6), went to the MRFF vice the Air Force's Academy to ask questions about this, but if you would like to chat w/her she can be reached at (b)(6)

And, here is the statement I provided to the AF Times:

Despite the MRFF's headline, no decision has been made yet about the way forward. The Honor Review Committee did meet this morning and had an in-depth discussion about the Honor Code Oath. They considered a range of options and some of those options will be presented to Academy leaders and, ultimately, the Academy Superintendent for a decision. We will let you know what the way ahead is when the decision is made.

(b)(5)

Attribution for this info is coming from "an academy official" if you'd be so kind. You can attribute the statement to me.

As promised, I'll keep you updated on the progress of when the meeting is happening, what the decision is when it's made and the subsequent supporting piece on the history of the Honor Oath.

Please let me know if you need anything else ... have a great day!

Sincerely,

(b)(6)
Maj, USAF
Director, Public Affairs
United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6) or (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 1:52 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Honor oath?
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Good Afternoon (b)(6)

Here is a statement for your blog ... thanks for allowing us the opportunity to speak to this in your piece. You can attribute it to me. Have a nice afternoon.

"We are assessing the situation and have many mission elements, to include Prep School leadership, the Honor Review Committee and other entities on base, working to put together a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives."

Sincerely,

(b)(6)
 Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and our nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 12:44 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: Re: Honor oath?

Maj (b)(6) We appreciate your continued cooperation with our requests. Would the academy like to provide us with a comment on the discovery of the "so help me God" poster? We are writing a blog about it. Our question is this: Given the ongoing issues related to religion at the academy, how could this poster have been allowed to hang there since 1984? The superintendent tells (b)(6) she has directed that the prep school and others put together a "way ahead." She also says she's directed the Honor Review Committee to "fix this next week when they meet." And of course, she said the poster has been removed. Can you illuminate what she meant by way ahead

and fixing this?

(b)(6) senior reporter

The Independent

(b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

On Oct 21, 2013, at 12:30 PM, (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA wrote:

> (b)(6)

>

> First off, apologies for the tardy response ... just came out of a meeting.

>

> As I said in my note, I'm trying to deal with you in a professional manner,

> hence the note on professional courtesy. Believe we could and would get you

> the answers or address concerns regarding the Honor Oath here or in whatever

> the subject matter might be vice you going to an outside entity that most

> likely cannot answer the question/situation with context and accuracy.

>

> Official action was taken here, true, but it would have been taken if the

> concern came from you, as well.

>

> By the way, this is not a threat as you note below, nor is it official

> Academy policy. I'm simply reminding you a relationship is a two way street

> and was asking for your opinion on why it is in our interest to continue

> working with you ... which you really didn't answer but that's OK.

>

> We are still on for you interview w/the Director of Admissions and we will

> continue to work with you. However, professional courtesy is a two way

> street and it seems we are extending you that courtesy, but you do not care

> to reciprocate w/the same level of respect and professionalism. If that is

> your continued preference, that is your choice to make -- you've been in the

> business for three decades and I'm sure know better than I the importance of

> relationships in helping to get the best information with the goal of

> balanced, accurate reporting.

>

> Have a nice day, (b)(6)

>
 > Sincerely,
 >
 > (b)(6)
 > (b)(6) Maj, USAF
 > Director, Public Affairs
 > United States Air Force Academy
 > (b)(6)
 > (b)(6)
 > Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)
 > Fax: (b)(6)
 > E-mail: (b)(6)
 > "The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and our
 > nation."

>
 >
 > -----Original Message-----

> From: (b)(6)
 > Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 11:37 AM
 > To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
 > Subject: Re: Honor oath?

>
 > Maj. (b)(6) Is this the official position of the academy -- to cut off
 > reporters or threaten to cut off reporters who share public information
 > with
 > "outsiders," in this case a person who has been engaged in monitoring the
 > religious atmosphere at the USAFA for nearly 10 years, keeping in mind
 > that
 > official action was taken immediately to remove the sign after Mr.

(b)(6)
 > engaged with the superintendent's staff on this matter?

>
 > (b)(6) senior reporter
 > The Independent

> (b)(6)
 > (b)(6)
 > Office (b)(6)
 > Cell: (b)(6)
 > (b)(6)

>
 >
 >
 >
 > On Oct 18, 2013, at 6:24 PM, (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA wrote:

>> (b)(6)
 >>
 >> I just received word that you forwarded an honor oath poster photo from
 > the prep school walls to an external entity ... What gives?
 >>
 >> If you have questions/concerns, I would expect the professional courtesy

> to address w/me so we can get you answers and address any concerns (as I
and
> my staff have been going out of our way to do so w/your various
> queries/questions since I've been here and have been trying to work w/you
> and meet your needs.

>>

>> Quite honestly, this is a big step backward in our professional
> relationship and I'm thinking the time and effort my staff and I have
> dedicated to responding to you will be greatly curtailed going forward if
> this is the baseline you wish to establish.

>>

>> Pending your explanation we may or may not continue to support your
> continuing queries about the prep school, the DOD IG report, and any other
> topic you wish to address. Please tell me why we should continue to work
> with you?

>

>

USAF FOIA

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV (b)(5) >
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 1:39 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Cc: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE; (b)(6) USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CVE; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS
Subject: RE: Honor oath?
Signed By: (b)(6) 1177613548

(b)(6) I would just add a little to clarify (see red text) ...

"We are assessing the situation and have many mission elements, to include Prep School leadership, the Honor Review Committee and other entities on base, working to put together a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives."

Let me know if you have any concerns with that approach. Thanks

v/r,

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 1:08 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV
Cc: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CVE; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS
Subject: FW: Honor oath?

Good Afternoon Sir,

(b)(6) is filing a blog about the Honor Oath situation and Lt Gen

Johnson's note to the MRFF. She extended us the opportunity to issue a

statement in the next 30 mins or so -- here is a draft.

"We are assessing the situation and have many mission elements, to include Prep School leadership, the Honor Review Committee and other entities on base, working to put together a way ahead."

She will more than likely attribute the statement to me. Pending your review/edits, we'll get the statement to her. Thank you, Sir ... have a great afternoon!

V/R (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF

Director, Public Affairs

United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6) or (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and our nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 12:44 PM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: Re: Honor oath?

Maj. (b)(6) We appreciate your continued cooperation with our requests.

Would the academy like to provide us with a comment on the discovery of the

"so help me God" poster? We are writing a blog about it. Our question is

this: Given the ongoing issues related to religion at the academy, how could

this poster have been allowed to hang there since 1984? The superintendent

tells Mikey Weinstein she has directed that the prep school and others put

together a "way ahead." She also says she's directed the Honor Review

Committee to "fix this next week when they meet." And of course, she said

the poster has been removed. Can you illuminate what she meant by way ahead

and fixing this?

(b)(6) senior reporter

The Independent

(b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

USAF FOIA

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC <michelle.johnson@usafa.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 2:39 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWV;
 (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS;
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA JA/HQ
 USAFA/JA, (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) GS 15 USAF
 USAFA USAFA/CM/CM
Subject: Re: Honor Code Pledge

Thanks very much, (b)(6) and All. Glad to await the thorough staffing.

BTW, I had the chance to talk with MajGen Lepper in the hallway. We discussed alignment and timing of this matter, as well as our "holiday message."

mdj

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 03:34 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: LENGYEL, GREGORY J Brig Gen USAF USAFA COMMANDANT/CADETS UT/CW <gregory.lengyel@us.af.mil>; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWV; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV (b)(6)
 Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) E Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA JA/HQ USAFA/JA; (b)(6) E Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM
Subject: Honor Code Pledge

Gen Johnson,

(b)(5)

The HRC minutes will be staffed through the CW to you for your approval.

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)

Colonel, USAF

Staff Judge Advocate

USAF Academy

Comm: (b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 1:52 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Honor Oath?
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Good Afternoon (b)(6),

Here is a statement for your blog ... thanks for allowing us the opportunity to speak to this in your piece. You can attribute it to me. Have a nice afternoon.

"We are assessing the situation and have many mission elements, to include Prep School leadership, the Honor Review Committee and other entities on base, working to put together a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives."

Sincerely,

(b)(6)
 Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and our nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 12:44 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: Re: Honor oath?

Maj. (b)(6) We appreciate your continued cooperation with our requests. Would the academy like to provide us with a comment on the discovery of the "so help me God" poster? We are writing a blog about it. Our question is this: Given the ongoing issues related to religion at the academy, how could this poster have been allowed to hang there since 1984? The superintendent tells (b)(6) she has directed that the prep school and others put together a "way ahead." She also says she's directed the Honor Review Committee to "fix this next week when they meet." And of course, she said the poster has been removed. Can you illuminate what she meant by way ahead

and fixing this?

(b)(6), senior reporter

The Independent

(b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

On Oct 21, 2013, at 12:30 PM, (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA wrote:

> (b)(6)

>

> First off, apologies for the tardy response ... just came out of a meeting.

>

> As I said in my note, I'm trying to deal with you in a professional manner,

> hence the note on professional courtesy. Believe we could and would get you

> the answers or address concerns regarding the Honor Oath here or in whatever

> the subject matter might be vice you going to an outside entity that most

> likely cannot answer the question/situation with context and accuracy.

>

> Official action was taken here, true, but it would have been taken if the

> concern came from you, as well.

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> By the way, this is not a threat as you note below, nor is it official

> Academy policy. I'm simply reminding you a relationship is a two way street

> and was asking for your opinion on why it is in our interest to continue

> working with you ... which you really didn't answer but that's OK.

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> We are still on for you interview w/the Director of Admissions and we will

> continue to work with you. However, professional courtesy is a two way

> street and it seems we are extending you that courtesy, but you do not care

> to reciprocate w/the same level of respect and professionalism. If that is

> your continued preference, that is your choice to make -- you've been in the

> business for three decades and I'm sure know better than the importance of

> relationships in helping to get the best information with the goal of

> balanced, accurate reporting.

>

> Have a nice day, (b)(6)

>
> Sincerely,
>
> (b)(6)
>
> (b)(6) Maj, USAF
> Director, Public Affairs
> United States Air Force Academy
> (b)(6)
>
> Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)
> Fax: (b)(6)
> E-mail: (b)(6) or (b)(6)
> "The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and our
> nation."
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: (b)(6)
> Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 11:37 AM
> To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
> Subject: Re: Honor oath?
>
> Maj (b)(6) Is this the official position of the academy -- to cut off
> reporters or threaten to cut off reporters who share public information
with
> "outsiders," in this case a person who has been engaged in monitoring the
> religious atmosphere at the USAFA for nearly 10 years, keeping in mind
that
> official action was taken immediately to remove the sign after Mr.
(b)(6)
> engaged with the superintendent's staff on this matter?
>
> (b)(6), senior reporter
> The Independent
> (b)(6)
>
> Office: (b)(6)
> Cell: (b)(6)
> (b)(6)
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> On Oct 18, 2013, at 6:24 PM, (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA wrote:
>
>> (b)(6)
>>
>> I just received word that you forwarded an honor oath poster photo from
> the prep school walls to an external entity ... What gives?
>>
>> If you have questions/concerns, I would expect the professional courtesy

> to address w/me so we can get you answers and address any concerns (as I
and
> my staff have been going out of our way to do so w/your various
> queries/questions since I've been here and have been trying to work w/you
> and meet your needs.
>>
>> Quite honestly, this is a big step backward in our professional
> relationship and I'm thinking the time and effort my staff and I have
> dedicated to responding to you will be greatly curtailed going forward if
> this is the baseline you wish to establish.
>>
>> Pending your explanation we may or may not continue to support your
> continuing queries about the prep school, the DOD IG report, and any other
> topic you wish to address. Please tell me why we should continue to work
> with you?
>
>

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 6:27 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: RE: FW: RFI - CM Forbes Questions Regarding the Honor Oath/Contrails
Signed By: (b)(6)

Sir, once again my sincerest apologies. I let you down.

VR,

(b)(6), Maj, USAF

Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent

United States Air Force Academy

Ph: (b)(6)
 Cell: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 5:54 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: Re: FW: RFI - CM Forbes Questions Regarding the Honor Oath/Contrails

Appreciate your follow-up, (b)(6) but am disappointed in the original inaccurate answer. Have some damage control to attend to... (b)(6)

On Nov 13, 2013 11:39 AM, (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA" <(b)(6)> wrote:

Gen Gould,

Sir, I incorrectly answered your question last week about the Oath of Office in Contrails. I was at home and relayed the question back to the office and they checked on the Honor Oath (vice Oath of Office). Below is a summary of SHMG not

being in the Officer or Enlisted Oaths. The words were accidentally omitted in 2006, and that error was carried forward until now. Next year's version will be updated to reflect the Oaths as they are written. This was not a policy decision and it actually predates your tenure. We just missed it in the editing process.

Sorry for the bad info.

VR,

(b)(6) Maj, USAF

Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent

United States Air Force Academy

Ph: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW

Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:28 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA

Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE

Subject: FW: RFI - CM Forbes Questions Regarding the Honor Oath/Contrails

FYI --- Contrails information. Can use this to answer the question from the AOG.

Vr,

(b)(6) Major, USAF

Director, Commanders Action Group

USAFA/CWDX

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DSN: (b)(6)

Commercial: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
 Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 2:36 PM
 To: USAFA/CCEA (Taskers)
 Cc: USAFA/CW (Taskers)
 Subject: RFI - CM Forbes Questions Regarding the Honor Oath/Contrails

CW Input to CM Forbes Question #2 – Regarding Contrails

1. Contrails is published annually by the Commandant of Cadets, Directorate of Training Support, Training Division. Contrails Staff consists of an Officer in Charge, a Second-Class Cadet in Charge, and a variable number of Cadet editors from the second, third, and fourth classes.
2. A review of Contrails content since 2006 shows that the Cadet Oath was included but not the Officer and Enlisted Oaths. For the 2011-2012 version, the Cadet, Officer, and Enlisted oaths were included to show the similarities and relationships between all three oaths. In the 2011-2012 version the words "...so help me God" were NOT included at the end of all three Oaths. The Officer in Charge of Contrails that year (since retired) reports that there was not an intentional decision to drop these words; they likely were removed in the editing/page formatting process, and this omission was not caught in the final review.
3. Subsequent versions of Contrails also do not include the words "...so help me God". This was likely the result of carrying over previous content and was not discovered in content reviews.
4. Editorial decision for the 2013-2014 edition removed the Cadet Oath as it is essentially the same as the officer oath with the exception of the rank.
5. Contrails 2014-2015 edition will IAW Public Law, DoD, AF, and USAFA Instructions

Breakout of Contrails content regarding the presence of "so help me God" in the Oaths of Office and the Honor Oath:

Contrails Edition

Honor Oath

Cadet Oath

Officer Oath

Enlisted Oath

2013-2014

"...so help me God"

Oath not included*

-

-

2012-2013

"...so help me God"

-

-

-

2011-2012

"...so help me God"

-

-

-

2010-2011

"...so help me God"

"...so help me God"

Oath not included**

Oath not included**

2009-2010

"...so help me God"

"...so help me God"

Oath not included**

Oath not included**

2008-2009

"...so help me God"

"...so help me God"

Oath not included**

Oath not included**

2007-2008

"...so help me God"

"...so help me God"

Oath not included**

Oath not included**

2006-2007

"...so help me God"

"...so help me God"

Oath not included**

Oath not included**

*Since the Cadet oath is essentially the same as the officer oath with the exception of the rank, it was omitted.

**Contrails content changes annually. Editorial decision was to include Cadet Oath bit not Officer/Enlisted oaths.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 5:54 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: Re: FW: RFI - CM Forbes Questions Regarding the Honor Oath/Contrails

Appreciate your follow-up, (b)(6) but am disappointed in the original inaccurate answer. Have some damage control to attend to... (b)(6)

On Nov 13, 2013 11:39 AM, (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA" <(b)(6)> wrote:

Gen Gould,

Sir, I incorrectly answered your question last week about the Oath of Office in Contrails. I was at home and relayed the question back to the office and they checked on the Honor Oath (vice Oath of Office). Below is a summary of SHMG not being in the Officer or Enlisted Oaths. The words were accidentally omitted in 2006, and that error was carried forward until now. Next year's version will be updated to reflect the Oaths as they are written. This was not a policy decision and it actually predates your tenure. We just missed it in the editing process.

Sorry for the bad info.

VR,

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent
 United States Air Force Academy

Ph: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)
 Cell (b)(6)
 Email: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
 Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:28 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
 Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
 Subject: FW: RFI - CM Forbes Questions Regarding the Honor Oath/Contrails

FYI --- Contrails information. Can use this to answer the question from the AOG.

Vr,

(b)(6) Major, USAF

Director, Commanders Action Group

USAFA/CWDX

(b)(6)

DSN: (b)(6)

Commercial: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
 Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 2:36 PM
 To: USAFA/CCEA (Taskers)
 Cc: USAFA/CW (Taskers)
 Subject: RFI - CM Forbes Questions Regarding the Honor Oath/Contrails

CW Input to CM Forbes Question #2 – Regarding Contrails

1. Contrails is published annually by the Commandant of Cadets, Directorate of Training Support, Training Division. Contrails Staff consists of an Officer in Charge, a Second-Class Cadet in Charge, and a variable number of Cadet editors from the second, third, and fourth classes.

2. A review of Contrails content since 2006 shows that the Cadet Oath was included but not the Officer and Enlisted Oaths. For the 2011-2012 version, the Cadet, Officer, and Enlisted oaths were included to show the similarities and relationships between all three oaths. In the 2011-2012 version the words "...so help me God" were NOT included at the end of all three Oaths. The Officer in Charge of Contrails that year (since retired) reports that there was not an intentional decision to drop these words; they likely were removed in the editing/page formatting process, and this omission was not caught in the final review.

3. Subsequent versions of Contrails also do not include the words "...so help me God". This was likely the result of carrying over previous content and was not discovered in content reviews.

4. Editorial decision for the 2013-2014 edition removed the Cadet Oath as it is essentially the same as the officer oath with the exception of the rank.

5. Contrails 2014-2015 edition will IAW Public Law, DoD, AF, and USAFA Instructions

Breakout of Contrails content regarding the presence of "so help me God" in the Oaths of Office and the Honor Oath:

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"...so help me God"

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2009-2010

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Oath not included**

*Since the Cadet oath is essentially the same as the officer oath with the exception of the rank, it was omitted.

**Contrails content changes annually. Editorial decision was to include Cadet Oath bit not Officer/Enlisted oaths.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 11:54 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: USAFA/PAM (Media)
Subject: RE: FOX NEWS CHANNEL INQUIRY
Attachments: 146 Final clause of Cadet Honor Oath made optional.pdf
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Good Afternoon Mr. (b)(6)

It seems there may be some confusion with those members of Congress. Bottom line: the oath remains unchanged.

You might want to ask them about it after you read the below story that details the history of the Cadet Honor Code, the Cadet Honor Oath and the Academy's decision to leave the final clause in the Cadet Honor Oath but make it optional. If I'm one of 4,000 cadets who take the oath, it is my choice to say "so help me God" or not!

Hopefully this story clears the confusion up ... the first three paragraphs are the statement we released when the decision was made (release also attached). You can attribute this info to me. Please let me know if you need anything else, and have a great day!

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Maj, USAF

Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123368388>

Final clause in cadet Honor Oath made optional

by Maj. Brus E. Vidal
 Air Force Academy Public Affairs

10/25/2013 - U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. -- After reviewing the Cadet

Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference -- or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character," Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does," was formally adopted by the Academy's first graduating class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. Cadets retake the oath at the beginning of every school year. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Retired Air Force brigadier general and now the Academy's Athletic Director, Dr. Hans Mueh was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry Department.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating," he said. It was so widespread that the superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the superintendent established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined some additional clout was needed for this oath, which all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin the code to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and personally accept the individual mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Mueh said that addition led to the line "and furthermore, I resolve to do my

duty and live honorably. "Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God,'" he said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an educational process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets -- as potential future officers -- receive extensive character and leadership instruction, and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through their final semester at the Academy.

The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" the Academy aspires to produce.

"Cadets must meet Academy standards -- honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude -- in order to be a cadet in good standing," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, Commandant of Cadets. "Holding each cadet to these high standards promotes good order and discipline throughout the institution."

The Honor Code is a vital part of cadets' development as military professionals. It also represents a broader aspect of ethical maturity which will serve them throughout their lives. As the bearers of the public trust, both as cadets and as officers, it is the Honor Code which helps build a personal integrity able to withstand the rigorous demands placed upon them.

-----Original Message-----

From: USAFA/PAM (Media)

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 11:43 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: FW: FOX NEWS CHANNEL INQUIRY

-----Original Message-----

From: Starnes, Todd [mailto:Todd.Starnes@FOXNEWS.COM]

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 11:08 AM

To: USAFA/PAM (Media)

Subject: FOX NEWS CHANNEL INQUIRY

Nearly two dozen members of Congress have expressed concern that the phrase "so help me god" was removed from the Cadet's Oath of Allegiance, the Oath of Office for Officers and the Oath of Enlistment.

Can the Academy confirm or deny that allegation?

If the phrase was removed, could you explain why it was removed and when?

Thanks,

Todd Starnes

Fox News

212.301.5837



News Release

United States Air Force

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, USAF ACADEMY, CO 80840

www.usafa.af.mil (719) 333-7731

News Release # 146
Oct. 25, 2013

FINAL CLAUSE OF CADET HONOR OATH MADE OPTIONAL

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. – After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference – or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character," General Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

-30-

NOTE: Attached is a history of the Cadet Honor Code and Honor Oath.

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and Leaders for our nation."

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Co USAF USAFA USAFA/JA (b)(6) >
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:58 AM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Co USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
 USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath
Signed By: (b)(6)

Yes, ma'am- (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

If they share a draft
 with us, I'll let you know. V/r, (b)(6)

Original Message

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
 [mailto:michelle.johnson@usafa.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:24 AM
To: (b)(6) Co USAF USAFA USAFA/JA
Cc: (b)(6) Co USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
 USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6)
 Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

Thanks, (b)(6) Copy all. Seems the standing of our Honor Oath is different
 in that it does entail a change in military status like commissioning. Is
 that how you see it? mdj

- Original Message -

From: (b)(6) Co USAF USAFA USAFA/JA
 [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 8:25 AM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Co USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
 USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

Gen Johnson,

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) More to follow, but it will take some time to fully coord with other services and DOD. Appreciate any other feedback you may get from TJAG or CSAF this week.

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)

Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA
 Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:18 PM
 To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
 Cc: (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
 Subject: Re: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

Thank you, Gen Johnson. I wish JAA had put their "telephone" opinion in writing as I requested. Then CSAF would have something in hand with some clarity (b)(5)

(b)(5) I'll

talk to them again on Monday.

V/r

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
 [mailto:michelle.johnson@usafa.edu]
 Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2013 07:33 PM
 To: (b)(6) M Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA
 Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV <(b)(6)>
 (b)(6) USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CC
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
 Subject: Fw: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

FYSA

----- Original Message -----

From: Welsh, Mark A III Gen MIL USAF AF/CC
 [mailto:mark.welsh@pentagon.af.mil]
 Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2013 01:47 PM
 To: HARDING, RICHARD C Lt Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA; STENDAHL, HOWARD D Maj Gen USAF AF/HC
 Cc: HOOG, STEPHEN L Lt Gen USAF AF/CVA; SPENCER, LARRY Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF AF/CC; Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
 Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

Rich -- (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) - but I should probably know better than to think! r/mark

-----Original Message-----

From: HARDING, RICHARD C Lt Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA

Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:27 PM

To: Welsh, Mark A III Gen MIL USAF AF/CC; STENDAHL, HOWARD D Maj Gen USAF AF/HC

Cc: HOOG, STEPHEN L Lt Gen USAF AF/CVA; SPENCER, LARRY Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF AF/CC

Subject: Re: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

Chief,

WILCO.

(b)(5)

Both CNN and NBC are reporting that USAFA leadership has decided to make the honor code oath's phrase, "so help me God," optional.

VR, Rich

----- Original Message -----

From: Welsh, Mark A III Gen MIL USAF AF/CC

Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:46 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: STENDAHL, HOWARD D Maj Gen USAF AF/HC; HARDING, RICHARD C Lt Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA

Cc: HOOG, STEPHEN L Lt Gen USAF AF/CVA; SPENCER, LARRY Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF AF/CC

Subject: FW: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks! r/mark

(b)(6) -- track pls. Thanks! r/mark

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:17 PM

To: Welsh, Mark A III Gen MIL USAF AF/CC

Cc: MGen John Miller

Subject: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

To: General Mark Welsh

Chief of Staff, USAF

Subject: USAF Academy Oath

Oct 25, 2013

Sir:

As a retired Air Force Officer and former Wing Commander, I'm writing to you to express my deep distress at the recent decision by the Academy Superintendent to allow the reference "so help me God." to be optional when taking an oath.

I've never been a religious fanatic and at times had to council those under me about an individual's freedom of choice and application of religion as they apply to officer conduct. However, my faith in God, wither he be Lutheran (my choice by birth), Catholic (my wife's practice), or Jewish (I was exposed to a good bit of Jewish life and culture while growing up. That was an intentional choice of my father who helped liberate the Nazi death Camps), has been affirmed in combat and is unshakable.

To delete reference to God when taking an oath negates the validity and purpose of intent in taking an oath in the first place, which is why those words were added to the Honor Oath. This is certainly what our Founding Fathers intended as stated by General George Washington:

"The Hand of providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations." - George Washington (1778)

Over the past few years I have observed a wave of Political Correctness which has simply gotten out of hand. I even noted yesterday that those testifying before Congress were no longer including "so help me God." in their oaths. I'm sure the Superintendent's change was made with all good

intention, however that doesn't make it right.

From former Heritage president Ed Feulner: "[T]he Founders' attitude toward religion is widely misunderstood. A major source of confusion is the phrase 'separation of church and state,' used by President Thomas Jefferson in an 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptist Association of Connecticut. Many have interpreted this phrase to mean that religion should be entirely personal, kept out of schools and other public institutions. However, as Heritage scholar Jennifer Marshall has argued, this interpretation is incorrect: 'Jefferson wanted to protect states' freedom of religion from federal government control and religious groups' freedom to tend to their internal matters of faith and practice without government interference generally.' America's Founding Fathers did not want the government to impose a government-sponsored church on all Americans. Neither did they seek to confine religion to a separate, private sphere of life. On the contrary, they believed that religion had a vital and enduring role to play in the public affairs of the new American Republic."

To change the culture and heritage of our Air Force by allowing reference to God when giving an oath to be a matter of individual preference is folly and demeans us all. I strongly urge you sir, to reverse this decision and stand up for what is right though perhaps not politically correct.

I apologize for writing to you directly but I was unable to find an address for anyone in the leadership at the Academy. Apparently we don't post e-mail addresses for public access anymore.

Very Respectfully,

(b)(6)

Col. USAF Retired

(b)(6)

Col, USAF (Ret)

(b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 5:12 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Disgraceful -- Yes, it certainly is!
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Good Evening Uncle (b)(6)

Actually, I am honored to be the individual quoted as the spokesperson (we really have only one spokesperson, and her name is Lt Gen Michelle D. Johnson). It's an incredible honor to be serving in my capacity as Director of Public Affairs for the Air Force's Academy. It's an even greater honor to serve under Lt Gen Johnson and work for the myriad of leaders and professionals who make up the senior leadership here.

Here at the Air Force's Academy, ours is a culture of dignity and respect our leadership is working to put together a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives. I would also highlight our chapel staff, which is the most diverse in the military, and the fact that we take religious respect incredibly seriously. Cadets, and Airmen and civilian Airmen, are free to exercise whatever religious preference they choose -- or not, if that is their preference.

It's really not my place to speak about much of the remaining content, but thank you for your concerns and I can personally assure you our leadership, and our Superintendent, are being very deliberate about this decision and are taking it incredibly seriously.

Many of the media headlines lead w/Academy might drop "So Help Me God." So, Lastly, I'll highlight my statement, which says: "Despite the MRFF's headline, no decision has been made yet about the way forward. The Honor Review Committee did meet this morning and had an in-depth discussion about the Honor Code Oath. They considered a range of options and some of those options will be presented to Academy leaders and, ultimately, the Academy Superintendent for a decision. We will let you know what the way ahead is when the decision is made." You can see that it leads with "Despite the MRFF's headline, no decision has been made yet about the way forward."

Thanks for you note and concern and as "just the PR guy" I completely endorse whatever decision comes down from Lt Gen Johnson.

Have a wonderful evening, Uncle (b)(6)

Love, (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)
 Phone: (b)(6)
 Fax: (b)(6)
 E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:55 AM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Re: Disgraceful -- Yes, it certainly is!

Yes, (b)(6) is my nephew ... and your cousin ... ;)

Regarding the article that you just sent (quoted below), I can only imagine that (b)(6) is not thrilled with having to be the spokesperson in this regrettable matter.

To be sure, the atheist's campaign to remove God from every sector of public life is, indeed, disgraceful, disgusting, and an absurd extreme of childish intolerance.

On the other hand, I can concede that those who choose to disbelieve in God and to disavow Him certainly should have the right to proclaim their choice ... (and thereby choose their ultimate destiny).

Perhaps the more significant question, though, is this: On what basis can anyone who chooses to disavow faith in God be trusted?

Also, one must wonder: Why should anyone be given an all expenses paid free-ride for a four-year college education at a U.S. military academy if they disavow belief in our nation's official motto: "In God we trust." ?

Perhaps the honor code could offer two alternate endings:

(A) "... so help me God." OR

(B) "... you'll just have to take my word for this pledge
because I do not believe in God and I hereby declare that
I am totally self-sufficient and I do not need any help from God."

There is an ultimate price to be paid for the choices that we make.

- Mark 16:16

- Matthew 10:32-33

What goes around, comes around.

> Is this (b)(6) your nephew?

> Not anything towards him. I realize the guy in the

> article is just the PR guy and not the decision maker.

- >
- > <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/10/23/air-force-academy-may-drop-god-from-oath/?intcmp=latestnews>
- >
- > Two: Do you suppose they'll try to take this out of history
- > as well? And please feel free to pass this poem (which all
- > cadets (at least in my time) had to learn) to everyone you want.
- > It pretty much sums up the spirit of many of those lucky enough to fly.
- >
- > <http://www.skygod.com/quotes/highflight.html>

USAFA FOIA

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC <michelle.johnson@usafa.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 3:31 PM
To: (b)(6) USAF USAFA USAFA/JA
Cc: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA JA/HQ USAFA/JA; (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Commissioning Oath & "so he'p me God"

Copy All, (b)(6)

Do you have a sense of how other Service Academies have handled this? Same?

Re Honor Oath: there are probably more than one viable COAs. As weekend emails cited, we would do well to be measured and mindful of other points of view.

BTW, I recall Col Von Wald at the now defunct 15AF...

Thanks!

mdj

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA (mailto:(b)(6))
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 05:18 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV (b)(6) GS-13 USAF A1M USAF ACADEMY DU/A1 (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA JA/HQ USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE (b)(6)
Subject: Commissioning Oath & "so help me God"

Gen Johnson,

Mr Conrad Von Wald, SES Director of Administrative Law, HQ AF/JAA, and Mr (b)(6) just called to give me their legal review of the inclusion of "so help me God" in the commissioning oath. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

I asked for a written opinion but, unfortunately, JAA does not plan to provide one. You, however, may request a written opinion from Lt Gen Harding (3-star to 3-star).

Finally, we also discussed the Honor Code oath/pledge and (b)(5)

(b)(5) I'm meeting with the Honor Review Committee tomorrow morning and will recommend we

(b)(5)

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Colonel, USAF

Staff Judge Advocate

USAF Academy

Comm: (b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC <michelle.johnson@usafa.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 3:31 PM
To: (b)(6) USAF USAFA USAFA/JA
Cc: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA JA/HQ USAFA/JA; (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Commissioning Oath & "so help me God"

Copy All, (b)(6)

Do you have a sense of how other Service Academies have handled this? Same?

Re Honor Oath: there are probably more than one viable COAs. As weekend emails cited, we would do well to be measured and mindful of other points of view.

BTW, I recall Col Von Wald at the now defunct 15AF.

Thanks!

mdj

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 05:18 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) GS-13 USAF A1M USAF ACADEMY DU/A1; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA JA/HQ USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE; (b)(6)
Subject: Commissioning Oath & "so help me God"

Gen Johnson,

Mr Conrad Von Wald, SES Director of Administrative Law, HQ AF/JAA, and Mr (b)(6) just called to give me their legal review of the inclusion of "so help me God" in the commissioning oath. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

I asked for a written opinion but, unfortunately, JAA does not plan to provide one. You, however, may request a written opinion from Lt Gen Harding (3-star to 3 star).

Finally, we also discussed the Honor Code oath/pledge and (b)(5)
 (b)(5) I'm meeting with the Honor Review Committee tomorrow morning and will recommend we
 (b)(5)

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Colonel, USAF

Staff Judge Advocate

USAF Academy

Comm: (b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 1:20 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Comment?
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Greetings (b)(6)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this and, quite frankly, correct the record on some issues.

First, the Cadet Honor Oath remains unchanged. However, in the spirit enabling all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy made the final clause optional - cadets can choose to say that final clause or not.

Second, it seems the MRFF is confusing the facts and also does not understand the difference between 1) the commissioning Oath of Office, 2) the Cadet Honor Code, and 3) the Cadet Honor Oath, which remains unchanged.

Finally, and most importantly, I refer you to the MRFF's mission statement and the apparent disagreement of its fundamentals with the final clause in the Cadet Honor Oath as optional, thereby allowing all to be true to their beliefs, whatever those beliefs are.

To help define the differences in the Cadet Honor Code and Cadet Honor Oath, I refer you to our story about the Cadet Honor Code and Honor Oath - you might want to pass it along to them since they seem to be unclear on the facts and, specifically, that the Cadet Honor Oath was not changed - we simply made the final clause optional, which is directly in line with the MRFF's mission statement to ensure "that all members of the United States Armed Forces fully receive the Constitutional guarantees of religious freedom."

Here is the link and the story:

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123368388>

Final clause in cadet Honor Oath made optional

by Maj. Brus E. Vidal
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

10/25/2013 U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and

that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference - or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character," Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does," was formally adopted by the Academy's first graduating class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. Cadets retake the oath at the beginning of every school year. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Retired Air Force brigadier general and now the Academy's Athletic Director, Dr. Hans Mueh was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry Department.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating," he said. It was so widespread that the superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the superintendent established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined some additional clout was needed for this oath, which all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin the code to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and personally accept the individual mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Mueh said that addition led to the line "and furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably." Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God,'" he said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an educational process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets -- as potential future officers -- receive extensive character and leadership instruction, and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through their final semester at the Academy.

The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" the Academy aspires to produce.

"Cadets must meet Academy standards -- honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude -- in order to be a cadet in good standing," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, Commandant of Cadets. "Holding each cadet to these high standards promotes good order and discipline throughout the institution."

The Honor Code is a vital part of cadets' development as military professionals. It also represents a broader aspect of ethical maturity which will serve them throughout their lives. As the bearers of the public trust, both as cadets and as officers, it is the Honor Code which helps build a personal integrity able to withstand the rigorous demands placed upon them.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)
 Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)
 Phone: (b)(6)
 Fax: (b)(6)
 E mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 9:35 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: Re: Comment?

(b)(6) senior reporter

The Independent

(b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

On Nov 6, 2013, at 9:21 AM, (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA wrote:

> Good Morning (b)(6)

>

> I received no attachment ... thanks.

>

> (b)(6) Maj, USAF

> Director, Public Affairs

> United States Air Force Academy

> (b)(6)

> Phone: (b)(6)

> Fax: (b)(6)

> E-mail: (b)(6) "The Air

> Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders

> for our Nation."

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: (b)(6)

> Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 9:19 AM

> To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

> Subject: Comment?

>

> (b)(6) This billboard is at Nevada and Garden of the Gods. Any comment?

>

>

>

>

> (b)(6) senior reporter

> The Independent

- > (b)(6)
- > [Redacted]
- > Office: (b)(6)
- > Cell: (b)(6)
- > (b)(6)
- > [Redacted]
- > [Redacted]
- > [Redacted]
- > [Redacted]
- > [Redacted]

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 2:44 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: (b)(6) email to (b)(6)
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Good Afternoon (b)(6)

Per our telecon, the below statement should answer your questions ... take care (b)(6).

"Regarding the e-mail sent by Mr. (b)(6) to the MRFF, we can confirm that Mr. (b)(6) is a trainer at the Air Force Academy Preparatory School, and yes, he did send an e-mail to the MRFF in his personal capacity and not as a representative of the Air Force's Academy or the Prep School.

Supporting the right of free exercise of religion relates directly to the Air Force core values and the ability to maintain an effective team. Air Force Academy Leaders at all levels must balance constitutional protections for an individual's free exercise of religion or other personal beliefs and the constitutional prohibition against governmental establishment of religion.

All Academy Airmen, especially commanders, supervisors and those who are in daily contact with cadets or cadet candidates, must ensure that in exercising their right of religious free expression, they do not degrade morale, good order, and discipline or degrade the trust and confidence that the public has in the United States Air Force and the Air Force's Academy.

The Air Force's Academy remains committed to protecting individuals' right to practice any religion they choose, or no religion, provided their practices do not violate policy or law, or impede mission accomplishment, military readiness, unit cohesion, standards or discipline.

It's also important to point out that USAFA has a robust, structured Religious Respect Training Program that helps cadets, cadet candidates, faculty and staff understand how the First Amendment applies to them at USAFA with an expectation that all are educated on religious respect and, in turn, are practitioners of respect."

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)
 Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)
 Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 2:41 PM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: (b)(6) email to (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation told me today that he received the following email from (b)(6) head athletic trainer at the Air Force Academy Prep School.

Can you confirm that (b)(6) sent this email to (b)(6)?

Do you believe that the statement in this email, "I am on staff at USAFA and will talk about Jesus Christ my Lord and savior to everyone that I work with," complies with or violates Air Force Instruction 1-1, section 2.11, which states in part, "For example, (leaders at all levels) must avoid the actual or apparent use of their position to promote their personal religious beliefs to their subordinates or to extend preferential treatment for any religion"?

I'd also like to speak with (b)(6) if you can arrange it. I have sent him emails at the return address on the email sent to

(b)(6)

and to his USAFA address.

Thanks.

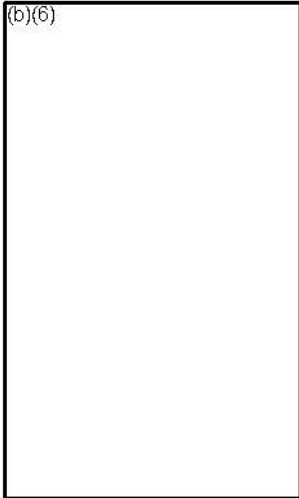
(b)(6)

cid:image001.jpg@01CDB8DE.DEE34820

Description: Description:

C:\Users\ObjectiveSubject\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet
Files\Content.Word\signature-96.jpg

On any given day, more than half the world's population sees news from AP.



From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 2:18 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: So Help Me God

From: "(b)(6)" <(b)(6)>
Subject: So Help Me God

Date: November 6, 2013 11:32:45 PM MST

To: <info@militaryreligiousfreedom.org>

Mikey

Finally a leader at USAFA that really lets you know how all of us at USAFA especially at USAFA Preparatory feel about you and your beliefs, can't wait 'til you are escorted off campus and I am sure the majority of staff/cadets (believers and nonbelievers) wish that could happen now. Stop pushing your beliefs on us. God will always be a part of the US Military even when you are gone to meet him face to face. You know you can do a lot for the homeless veterans out here but you could care less about them but when it comes to Christians you are willing to fight against us, well you will never win and so you know the war has already been won. I am on staff at USAFA and will talk about Jesus Christ my Lord and savior to everyone that I work with. Do something productive with your life and Stop harassing the fine people at USAFA. I really pray for your soul.

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1898 and delete this email.

Thank you.

[IP_US_DISC]

msk dccc60c6d2c3a6438f0cf467d9a4938

USAFA FOIA

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 5:58 PM
To: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM
Cc: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CCA (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Academy Athletic Trainer Vows to Proselytize on Campus.
Signed By: michelle.johnson@us.af.mil

Great idea(s). I'm in.
 Thank you!
 mdj

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM [mailto:david.cannon.8@us.af.mil]
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 7:46 AM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM
Subject: RE: Academy Athletic Trainer Vows to Proselytize on Campus.

General Johnson,

Thanks ma'am.

Would you like to start at the senior staff meeting?

I also recommend that you discuss this topic in your smaller meetings around the Academy; ie, AOCs, coaches, etc. so all understand what they can and cannot do. We can work with CAG, JA and HC to get the right talking points.

Another recommendation I have (and you are doing this with your dinners) is to expand the meetings with different groups of people. SECDEF meets once a month over lunch with different groups of NCOs. You may want to do the same here. I know it adds more to your schedule but as you recall from your SAF/PA days, the most trusted source for news and information is face to face communication with leadership.

Vr,

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC [mailto:michelle.johnson@usafa.edu]
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 6:48 AM
To: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HQ USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/HCX; (b)(6) Col USAF AFPC USAF ACAD PREP SC/SC/PL
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) C GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM; (b)(6) GS-11 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM; (b)(6) GS-13 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CMA
Subject: Re: Academy Athletic Trainer Vows to Proselytize on Campus.

(b)(6)

Thanks very much for the update, especially citing the Academy Reg prohibiting proselytizing.

This is helpful data for me.

I'd like to talk with our leadership team to see how they think we're doing on understanding and enforcement.

mdj

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM [mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 06:37 AM

To: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6)

(b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV (b)(6); (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HQ

USAFA/DS (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA

USAFA/HC; (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/HCX; (b)(6) Col USAF AFPC USAF ACAD PREP

SC/SC/PL (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM; (b)(6)

(b)(6) GS-11 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM; (b)(6) GS-13 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CMA

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Academy Athletic Trainer Vows to Proselytize on Campus.

General,

After I sent this, I found the AP story -- less toxic and more straightforward:

<http://gazette.com/advocate/af-academy-staffer-broke-religion-rules/article/feed/60313>

Advocate: AF Academy staffer broke religion rules

Updated: November 7, 2013 at 8:01 pm • Published: November 7, 2013 • 0

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AP) — A religious-freedom advocate and the Air Force Academy differed Thursday over whether an academy employee violated regulations on proselytizing by saying in an email that he would talk with co-workers about his religion.

The academy confirmed that the email was written by Allen Willoughby, an athletic trainer at the academy's preparatory school. It was sent to activist Mikey Weinstein, president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation two weeks after the academy announced it would make the words "so help me God" optional in an oath that cadets take every year.

The change came after Weinstein complained to academy officials that the phrase violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

Maj. Brus Vidal, an academy spokesman, said Willoughby's email was personal and that he was not acting as a representative of the academy or the prep school. Commanders do not plan to take any action against Willoughby, Vidal said.

Willoughby didn't immediately respond to a phone message or emails.

His email stated, "I am on staff at USAFA and will talk about Jesus Christ my Lord and savior to everyone that I work with." There was no indication in the email or in a written response from the academy whether Willoughby actually has had such conversations.

Willoughby's email accused Weinstein of harassing academy staffers and opposing Christians.

Weinstein said the email violates an Air Force regulation that says leaders may not use their position to promote their personal religious beliefs to subordinates.

The Academy Preparatory School where Willoughby works trains potential cadets who are not immediately accepted by the academy.

The academy established a training program for cadets and staff on religious freedom after criticism that some who were not evangelical Christians felt ostracized.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM

Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 6:28 AM

To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6)

(b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HQ USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/HCX; (b)(6) Col USAF AFPC USAF ACAD PREP SC/SC/PL

Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM; (b)(6)

(b)(6) GS-11 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM; (b)(6) GS-13 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CMA

Subject: Academy Athletic Trainer Vows to Proselytize on Campus.

<http://www.csindy.com/IndyBlog/archives/2013/11/07/academy-athletic-trainer-vows-to-proselytize-on-campus>

General Johnson, Ladies and Gents,

Here's the blog post that Pam Zubeck did yesterday. Also posted below. Vr, (b)(6)

Academy athletic trainer vows to proselytize on campus

Posted by Pam Zubeck <<http://www.csindy.com/coloradosprings/ArticleArchives?author=1433753>> on Thu, Nov 7, 2013 at 3:02 PM

Love him or hate him, Mikey Weinstein has a point. For nearly a decade, he's been ranting about the pervasive fundamental Christian atmosphere at the Air Force Academy. He's pointed out many such instances, and now here's further proof.

After Weinstein went ballistic over the academy posting the honor oath at the Preparatory School, which concludes with "so help me God," he's gotten a lot of hate mail.

To counter, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, which he founded, posted a billboard <<http://www.csindy.com/IndyBlog/archives/2013/11/06/george-washington-didnt-say-it>> on North Nevada Avenue asking why the academy feels compelled to make "so help me God" optional for cadets when President George Washington's oath of office didn't contain it?

That triggered this piece of hate mail from Allen Willoughby, head athletic trainer and assistant athletic director at the academy's prep school:

Mikey
Finally a leader at USAFA that really lets you know how all of us at USAFA especially at USAFA Preparatory feel about you and your beliefs, can't wait 'til you are escorted off campus and I am sure the majority of staff/cadets (believers and nonbelievers) wish that could happen now. Stop pushing your beliefs on us. God will always be a part of the US Military even when you are gone to meet him face to face. You know you can do a lot for the homeless veterans out here but you could care less about them but when it comes to Christians you are willing to fight against us, well you will never win and so you know the war has already been won. I am on staff at USAFA and will talk about Jesus Christ my Lord and savior to everyone that I work with. Do something productive with your life and Stop harassing the fine people at USAFA. I really pray for your soul.

As you can imagine, this sent Weinstein into orbit. He tells us in an interview, "This is the best example of how wretched the climate is there, the brazen boldness of Christian supremacy. It's an absolute disgrace. We want an apology to me, my family and the foundation, and we want him disciplined."

He then fired off an e-mail message to Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson, saying, "he feels absolutely NO worries or even the slightest nuances of concern about making such heinous, astonishingly bigoted statements of fundamentalist Christian supremacy ... at USAFA so very publicly??"

Meantime, we asked the academy to comment on Willoughby's message and to tell us what, if any, action would be taken against him, given that the academy claims to require its staff, faculty and cadets to be trained in religious respect. Not so long ago, proselytizing was banned from the academy.

The academy issued a statement and later said, "No action is being taken against the individual "

The academy's statement:

Regarding the e-mail sent by Mr. Allen Willoughby to the MRFF, we can confirm that Mr. Willoughby is a trainer at the Air Force Academy Preparatory School, and yes, he did send an e-mail to the MRFF in his personal capacity and not as a representative of the Air Force's Academy or the Prep School.

Supporting the right of free exercise of religion relates directly to the Air Force core values and the ability to maintain an effective team. Air Force Academy Leaders at all levels must balance constitutional protections for an individual's free exercise of religion or other personal beliefs and the constitutional prohibition against governmental establishment of religion.

All Academy Airmen, especially commanders, supervisors and those who are in daily contact with cadets or cadet candidates, must ensure that in exercising their right of religious free expression, they do not degrade morale, good order, and discipline or degrade the trust and confidence that the public has in the United States Air Force and the Air Force's Academy.

The Air Force's Academy remains committed to protecting individuals' right to practice any religion they choose, or no religion, provided their practices do not violate policy or law, or impede mission accomplishment, military readiness, unit cohesion, standards or discipline.

It's also important to point out that USAFA has a robust, structured Religious Respect Training Program that helps cadets, cadet candidates, faculty and staff understand how the First Amendment applies to them at USAFA with an expectation that all are educated on religious respect and, in turn, are practitioners of respect.

(b)(6)

Director of Communication

US Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:26 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Cc: (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/CWD; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/CWF; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: RE: Request for Info: Contrails
Signed By: (b)(6)

All,

We just provided this answer to an RFI that came out from Rep Forbes in support of a telecom he's having with CSAF. I'll forward that response to you.... same answer for this one.

Vr,

(b)(6) Major, USAF
 Director, Commanders Action Group

USAFA/CWDX

(b)(6)
 DSN: (b)(6)
 Commercial: (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:19 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
Cc: (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/CWD; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/CWE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: RE: Request for Info: Contrails

Sorry, you are correct. The Chairman.

Maj (b)(6)

Director, Commander's Action Group

HQ USAFA/CCX

(b)(6)

USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
 Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:17 AM
 To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF
 USAFA USAFA/CW
 Cc: (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/CWD; (b)(6)
 Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/CWE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX;
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
 Subject: RE: Request for Info: Contrails

Clarification: If it was Gen Carlton who asked the question he is the
 Chairman of the AOG Board, not the President.

VR,

(b)(6) Maj, USAF

Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent

United States Air Force Academy

Ph: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX
 Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:16 AM
 To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
 Cc: (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/CWD; (b)(6)
 Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/CWE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA;
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
 USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
 Subject: Request for Info: Contrails

(b)(6)

Have a loaded Request for Info for you. The AOG President asked why the latest contrails in the Oath of Office and Enlistment Oath does not have "So Help Me God" at the end. We also noticed that the previous version does not have it either.

What is the official answer on this? And how far does it go back in years? If the official answer is "it was an oversight", then give me a warm fuzzy it will be rectified next year so I can pass it on to the grad community.

(b)(6)

Maj (b)(6)

Director, Commander's Action Group

HQ USAFA/CCX

(b)(6)

USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001

COM: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:30 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Honor Oath
Signed By: (b)(6)

Good Afternoon Ms. (b)(6)

Per our discussion, here is the Colo Springs Independent blog about the Honor Oath and referencing the MRFF.

<http://www.csindy.com/IndyBlog/archives/2013/10/21/afa-honor-code-so-help-me-god>

(b)(6) twitter post is here:

[https://twitter.com/\(b\)\(6\)](https://twitter.com/(b)(6))

His Facebook post here:

[https://www.facebook.com/\(b\)\(6\)MRFF](https://www.facebook.com/(b)(6)MRFF)

And his post on the MRFF website here:

http://www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org/press-releases/2013/CSIndy_10-21-13.html

As I said, I don't know why the reporter, (b)(6) went to the MRFF vice the Air Force's Academy to ask questions about this, but if you would like to chat w/her she can be reached at (b)(6) or (b)(6)

And, here is the statement I provided to the AF Times:

Despite the MRFF's headline, no decision has been made yet about the way forward. The Honor Review Committee did meet this morning and had an in-depth discussion about the Honor Code Oath. They considered a range of options and some of those options will be presented to Academy leaders and, ultimately, the Academy Superintendent for a decision. We will let you know what the way ahead is when the decision is made.

For your use and on background, I believe some of the options discussed were "no change" to striking the whole oath altogether or making the "so help me God" piece optional. Please don't quote me directly on this if you use it! Attribution for this info is coming from "an academy official" if you'd be so kind. You can attribute the statement to me.

As promised, I'll keep you updated on the progress of when the meeting is

happening, what the decision is when it's made and the subsequent supporting piece on the history of the Honor Oath.

Please let me know if you need anything else ... have a great day!

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6), Maj, USAF

Director, Public Affairs

United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 4:37 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE; (b)(6) (b) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA JA/HQ USAFA/JA
Subject: Honor Code Pledge

Yes, ma'am. That's the same "Von Wald" (go by is "Conrad" or "VW" if you see him).

(b)(5)

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)

----- Original Message-----

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC [mailto:michelle.johnson@usafa.edu]

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 3:31 PM

To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA

Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) GS-13 USAF A1M USAF ACADEMY DU/A1;

(b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA JA/HQ USAFA/JA; (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE

Subject: Re: Commissioning Oath & "so help me God"

Copy All, (b)(6)

Do you have a sense of how other Service Academies have handled this? Same?

Re Honor Oath: there are probably more than one viable COAs. As weekend emails cited, we would do well to be measured and mindful of other points of view.

BTW, I recall Col Von Wald at the now defunct 15AF.

Thanks!

mdj

----- Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA [mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 05:18 PM

To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC

Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) GS 13 USAF A1M
 USAF ACADEMY DU/A1 <(b)(6)> Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6)
 USAF USAFA USAFA JA/HQ USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE <(b)(6)>
 Subject: Commissioning Oath & "so help me God"

Gen Johnson,

(b)(5)

I asked for a written opinion but, unfortunately, JAA does not plan to provide one. You, however, may request a written opinion from Lt Gen Harding (3-star to 3-star).

Finally, we also discussed the Honor Code oath/pledge and (b)(5)

(b)(5) I'm meeting with the Honor Review Committee tomorrow morning and will recommend we

(b)(5)

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)

Colonel, USAF

Staff Judge Advocate

USAF Academy

Comm: (b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 5:49 AM
To: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Col USAF
 USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) CMSgt
 USAF HQ USAFA/CCC; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE;
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Subject: Fw: USAFA and Oaths
Attachments: Letter_to_USAFA_on_Military_Oaths_-_18_Nov_2013.pdf

Fysa

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 12:41 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6)
Cc: BLACKMON, FRANCINE SES USAF HQ USAF SAF/MRM (Francine.Blackmon@pentagon.af.mil)
 <Francine.Blackmon@pentagon.af.mil>
Subject: FW: USAFA and Oaths

When it rains it pours ma'am. Not sure you have seen this Member letter dated 11/18/13 regarding USAFA's Honor Oath. Also, not trying to get out in front on this but felt I needed to provide (b)(6) a timely response. (b)(6) is the owner and operator of Northwestern Preparatory School (NWP) here in Crestline, CA and a good friend and he has strong Congressional relationships across the country and in both parties rooted in his work with NWP candidates and service schools and in particular USAFA.

V/r - (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 11:35 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: USAFA and Oaths

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Hey (b)(6) thanks for sharing this with me.

Regarding this letter and in my opinion it is not accurate nor helpful and seems to be political grandstanding for a conservative home and national audience. Truth-be-told USAFA does differ with our other service schools on this issue in that we are the only academy that has kept the "So help me God" phrase in our Honor Oath, and to many of us graduates this part of the oath is new. In fact it did not even exist until I think the early 90's and as a result of a cheating scandal. At the time the Cadets wanted to impart the severity of the oath and decided to mimic the Oath of Office with the phrase. The poster in question was an old and out of date artifact still hanging on the walls of the USAFA Prep School when it was "discovered". Also, I do think LtGen Johnson's guidance and direction of making this phrase in the oath elective, and just like the Oath of Office, is correct and appropriate and she could have eliminated it totally like the other service schools have done and so a good compromise.

Finally, if Congressional Members really want to help our USAFA mission and not themselves – restore our budget!

Again thank you (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 7:08 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: USAFA and Oaths

Your thoughts?

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6)
 Date: November 20, 2013 at 6:26:23 AM PST
 To: (b)(6)
 Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: Fw: USAFA and Oaths

----- Original Message ----- From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 7:31 AM
 Subject: USAFA and Oaths

In case you haven't seen the following. Take a look at this letter written to AFA superintendent. Great letter.....wonder how AF will handle it? Letter was sponsored by Col (b)(6) (USAF ret).

NOTICE: This electronic mail transmission is for the use of the named individual or entity to which it is directed and may contain information that is privileged or confidential. It is not to be transmitted to or received by anyone other than the named addressee (or a person authorized to deliver it to the named addressee). It is not to be copied or forwarded to any unauthorized persons. If you have received this electronic mail transmission in error, delete it from your system without copying or forwarding it, and notify the sender of the error by replying via email or by calling The Private Investment Group at (937) 434-0500, so that our address record can be corrected.

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2013

Lt. General Michelle D. Johnson
 Superintendent
 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3300
 U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-5001

Dear Lt. Gen. Johnson:

It has come to our attention that the Air Force Academy removed a poster portraying the words of the Academy oath, and the Academy's Honor Review Committee considered removing the phrase "so help me God" from the Honor Oath recited by all incoming Cadets. On October 25, 2013, you announced that the final phrase contained in the oath is now optional. We respectfully request confirmation as to who made the decision to reconsider the oath and remove the poster, as well as the reason for which the poster was removed.

While we fully support the Academy's retention of "so help me God" in the Honor Oath, our concerns do not end here. The 2012 edition of the Contrails Cadet Handbook contains the text of four military oaths: the Cadet's Oath of Allegiance; the Oath of Office for Officers; the Oath of Enlistment, and the Honor Oath. In the 2012 edition of the handbook, only the Honor Oath contains the phrase "so help me God."

The Oath of Office for Officers, as it is enumerated in the United States Code, ends with "so help me God." 5 U.S.C. § 3331. The Oath of Enlistment, as it is enumerated in the United States Code, ends with "so help me God." 10 U.S.C. § 502. The Cadet's Oath of Allegiance, as it enumerated in the Code of Federal Regulations, ends with "so help me God." 32 CFR § 901.26.

"So help me God" is not a Twentieth Century addition to the historic oath of service. The Continental Congress passed two versions of an oath for officers, the first on October 21, 1776 and the second on February 3, 1778. Both versions ended with the singular sentence, "So help me God." Though not included in the first oath approved by Congress in 1789, the phrase was again included in the oath for officers in 1862, and has remained as part of the oath to this very day.

We request a detailed explanation as to why the Contrails Cadet Handbook omits "so help me God" from these oaths, despite the fact that the phrase is used in the very statutory language of the United States Code, and was a part of the military oath drafted by the Founders themselves.

The Constitution does not require that this phrase be scrubbed from the oath. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the establishment of religion; however, the inclusion of the phrase "so help me God" in an oath of service does not rise to this level. The phrase is included in the oath of office taken by all elected or appointed officials, including Members of Congress. 5 U.S.C. § 3331. Including the phrase "so help me God" in an oath of service is a deeply-rooted American tradition—a tradition that was begun by George Washington at his inauguration as the first President of the United

States. As you know, courts consistently have upheld the constitutionality of similar acknowledgements of the Divine, such as "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, as well as of our national motto, "In God we Trust."

Removing the poster and editing the oath for all Academy students is extreme and unnecessary, and does a disservice to the countless individuals who wish to include the phrase as a solemn reminder that they are pledging their fidelity to God and country. It is our sincere hope that those cadets who wish to include the solemnity of "so help me God" in their administration of the oath will always be supported by the Air Force Academy in doing so.

We urge you to edit the Contrails Cadet Handbook to properly reflect the language of the Cadet's Oath of Office for Officers, the Oath of Allegiance, and of the Oath of Enlistment to reflect their original statutory language in full. Finally, we ask that you restore the poster bearing the oath in full to its original location as an honorable reflection of the oath of service. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

JIM BRIDENSTINE (OK-01)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

RANDY FORBES (VA-04)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

FRANK R. WOLF (VA-10)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

MICHELE BACHMANN (MN-06)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

MIKE POMPEO (KS-04)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

TIM WALBERG (MI-07)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

JACK KINGSTON (GA-01)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

STEVEN PEARCE (NM-02)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

JOSEPH R. PITTS (PA-16)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

BILL JOHNSON (OH-06)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

PAUL C. BROUN (GA-10)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

JOE WILSON (SC-02)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

ALAN NUNNELEE (MS-01)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

JEFF DUNCAN (SC-03)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

JOHN FLEMING (LA-04)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

DOUG COLLINS (GA-09)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

ROBERT E. LATTA (OH-05)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

SAM JOHNSON (TX-03)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

VICKY HARTZLER (MO-04)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

WALTER B. JONES (NC-03)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

TRENT FRANKS (AZ-08)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

LOUIE GOHMERT (TX-01)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

KENNY MARCHANT (TX-24)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

ANDY BARR (KY-06)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

TIM HUELSKAMP (KS-01)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

LYNN JENKINS (KS-02)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

PHIL GINGREY (GA-11)
Member of Congress

(b)(6)

DOUG LAMALFA (CA-01)
Member of Congress

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:13 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: Fw: Story Related to "Oath"
Attachments: The Air Force Academy Honor Code v3.docx

I think she expects to see it in parenthesis, was that discussed?

V/R,

Maj (b)(6)
 Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent

Sent from BB (b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 07:26 AM Mountain Standard Time
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM;
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Subject: RE: Story Related to "Oath"

Good Morning again, Ma'am. Attached and pasted below are the electrons, per discussion. The first four paragraphs are what we recommend to issue in our press release. All of it combined is a story we will post on our Website, push to AF Link, publish in next week's Spirit, and include as an attachment with the press release. We will also tweet about it, post a link on Facebook, provide to Parent's Club, the AOG, and CW for communication to those respective audiences. See you at 1000, Ma'am!

V/R (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy
 (b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6) The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

After assessing the situation concerning the statement "So help me God" in the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make that part of the oath optional.

"Here at the Academy, ours is a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference - or not," said Lt.

Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of being respectful to all, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with the final sentence, 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on producing lieutenants who are humble, competent and confident." "In order to do this, our cadets need to internalize the concept, 'Leader of Character.'"

"This all begins by living honorably and the Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value to lead a life of honor, character and integrity."

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does," was formally adopted by the Academy's first graduating class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training.

The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and it reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Dr. Hans Mueh (Brig. Gen., Ret.), Athletic Director at the Air Force's Academy, was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry department in 1984.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating. It was so widespread that the Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the Supt established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Dr. Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined that some additional clout was needed for this oath, which that all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin the code in order to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and to personally accept the individual mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Dr. Mueh said that addition led to the "and furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably."

"Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God,'" Dr. Mueh said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the Code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an education process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets - as potential future officers - receive extensive character and leadership instruction and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through the final semester at the Academy. The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" that the Academy aspires to produce.

"Cadets must meet Academy standards - honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude - in order to be a cadet in good standing," said Brig.

Gen. Gregory Lengyel, Commandant of Cadets. "Holding each cadet to these high standards promotes good order and discipline throughout the institution."

The Honor Code is a vital part of cadets' development as military professionals. It also represents a broader aspect of ethical maturity which will serve them throughout their lives. As the bearers of the public trust, both as cadets and as officers, it is the Honor Code which helps build a personal integrity able to withstand the rigorous demands placed upon them.

After assessing the situation concerning the statement "So help me God" in the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make that part of the oath optional.

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USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/DFXO
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 9:21 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: FW: So Help Me God
Signed By: (b)(6)

(b)(6), Capt, USAF

Executive Officer to the Dean

(b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 8:52 AM
To: (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/DFXO
Subject: So Help Me God

From: (b)(6)

Subject: So Help Me God

Date: November 6, 2013 11:32:45 PM MST

To: (b)(6)

Mikey

Finally a leader at USAFA that really lets you know how all of us at USAFA especially at USAFA Preparatory feel about you and your beliefs, can't wait 'til you are escorted off campus and I am sure the majority of staff/cadets (believers and nonbelievers) wish that could happen now. Stop pushing your beliefs on us. God will always be a part of the US Military even when you are gone to meet him face to face. You know you can do a lot for the homeless veterans out here but you could care less about them but when it comes to Christians you are willing to fight against us, well you will never win and so you know the war has already been won. I am on staff at USAFA and will talk about Jesus Christ my Lord and savior to everyone that I work with. Do something productive with your life and Stop harassing the fine people at USAFA. I really pray for your soul.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 1:42 PM
To: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: FW: RFI - CM Forbes Questions Regarding the Honor Oath/Contrails
Signed By: (b)(6)

Sir, sorry if my last email wasn't clear. I wasn't really looking for any info from you guys about the history. Rather, I was wondering if we had seen the media report referenced in Gen Gould's email. All of the background info is below for your reference.

VR,

(b)(6), Maj, USAF

Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent

United States Air Force Academy

Ph: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:28 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: FW: RFI - CM Forbes Questions Regarding the Honor Oath/Contrails

FYI --- Contrails information. Can use this to answer the question from the AOG.

Vr,

(b)(6), Major, USAF

Director, Commanders Action Group

USAFA/CWDX

(b)(6)

DSN: (b)(6)

Commercial (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
 Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 2:36 PM
 To: USAFA/CCEA (Taskers)
 Cc: USAFA/CW (Taskers)
 Subject: RFI - CM Forbes Questions Regarding the Honor Oath/Contrails

CW Input to CM Forbes Question #2 – Regarding Contrails

1. Contrails is published annually by the Commandant of Cadets, Directorate of Training Support, Training Division. Contrails Staff consists of an Officer in Charge, a Second-Class Cadet in Charge, and a variable number of Cadet editors from the second, third, and fourth classes.
2. A review of Contrails content since 2006 shows that the Cadet Oath was included but not the Officer and Enlisted Oaths. For the 2011-2012 version, the Cadet, Officer, and Enlisted oaths were included to show the similarities and relationships between all three oaths. In the 2011-2012 version the words "...so help me God" were NOT included at the end of all three Oaths. The Officer in Charge of Contrails that year (since retired) reports that there was not an intentional decision to drop these words; they likely were removed in the editing/page formatting process, and this omission was not caught in the final review.
3. Subsequent versions of Contrails also do not include the words "...so help me God". This was likely the result of carrying over previous content and was not discovered in content reviews.
4. Editorial decision for the 2013-2014 edition removed the Cadet Oath as it is essentially the same as the officer oath with the exception of the rank.
5. Contrails 2014-2015 edition will IAW Public Law, DoD, AF, and USAFA Instructions

Breakout of Contrails content regarding the presence of "so help me God" in the Oaths of Office and the Honor Oath:

Contrails Edition

Honor Oath

Cadet Oath

Officer Oath

Enlisted Oath

2013-2014

"...so help me God"

Oath not included*

-

-

2012-2013

"...so help me God"

-

-

-

2011-2012

"...so help me God"

-

-

-

2010 2011

"...so help me God"

"...so help me God"

Oath not included**

Oath not included**

2009-2010

"...so help me God"

"...so help me God"

Oath not included**

Oath not included**

2008-2009

"...so help me God"

"...so help me God"

Oath not included**

Oath not included**

2007-2008

"...so help me God"

"...so help me God"

Oath not included**

Oath not included**

2006-2007

"...so help me God"

"...so help me God"

Oath not included**

Oath not included**

*Since the Cadet oath is essentially the same as the officer oath with the exception of the rank, it was omitted.

**Contrails content changes annually. Editorial decision was to include Cadet Oath bit not Officer/Enlisted oaths.

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 05:20 PM Mountain Standard Time

To: USAFA/CCEA (Taskers)

Cc: (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/CWD

(b)(6) > (b)(6) K GS-15 USAF
USAFA

USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: FW: Gen Welsh Telecon w/Rep Forbes

SUSPENSE: 12 Nov 13

OPR: CW, PA

OCR(s): CM, JA(Info)

DESCRIPTION: RFI - CM Forbes Questions Regarding the Honor Oath/Contrails

BACKGROUND: CM Forbes has requested a telecom with CSAF in the next few days to discuss the recent issues with the Honor Oath and Contrails. In preparation for the phone call CSAF requests background on the two issues below (what happened, how did we respond, what is the way ahead, etc.):

1. A poster with the Cadet Honor Oath including the "so help me God" phrase was removed at the Air Force Academy. The LA was not sure where the poster was at the Academy, just that they were told it was removed.
2. The 2012 Contrails Handbook (scanned page attached) lists the Officer and Enlisted oath of office and Cadet Oath of Allegiance, but they do not

include the optional phrase "so help me God". The question is why was this removed?

3. Pertinent information on latest issue with Mr. Weinstein and email as appropriate.

DELIVERABLE: PA please provide response to Q1, Q3 and CW provide response to Q2. Narrative response covering issue, background, action taken, way ahead) by 12 Nov 13. All information should be sent to USAFA/CCEA (Taskers).

SOURCE: USAFA/CC

Submittal Instructions:

OPR: *Send response to USAFA/CCEA (Taskers) only.

*Always include Task#, SUBJECT on the response.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:20 AM
To: Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWV; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: FW: Request for Info: Contrails
Signed By: (b)(6)

Gen Lengyel,

Sir, FYI on below request from USAFA CAG. This came up at the AOG class senate meeting last night. It was from BG Carlton, not Mr. (b)(6)

VR,

(b)(6) Maj, USAF

Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent

United States Air Force Academy

Ph: (b)(6) DSN (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:16 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
Cc: (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/CWD; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/CWE; (b)(6) (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: Request for Info: Contrails

(b)(6)

Have a loaded Request for Info for you. The AOG President asked why the latest contrails in the Oath of Office and Enlistment Oath does not have "So Help Me God" at the end. We also noticed that the previous version does not have it either.

What is the official answer on this? And how far does it go back in years? If the official answer is "it was an oversight", then give me a warm fuzzy it will be rectified next year so I can pass it on to the grad community.

(b)(6)

Maj (b)(6)

Director, Commander's Action Group

HQ USAFA/CCX

(b)(6)

COM: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:27 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: FW: MRFF on FOX News, TONIGHT! (b)(6) on "The Kelly File," 9:40p/12:40a ET
Signed By: gal.coivin.1@us.af.mil

From: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM (mailto:(b)(6))
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:13 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HQ USAFA/DS;
 (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; KODLICK, LES A Brig Gen USAF
 HQ USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) ES-00 USAF HQ USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ/PA
Cc: (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6)
 GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM; (b)(6) TSgt USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PA
Subject: FW: MRFF on FOX News, TONIGHT! (b)(6) on "The Kelly File," 9:40p/12:40a ET

Gen Kodlick, Ms (b)(6) Ladies and Gents,

You may have already seen this but provided for your awareness.

We will attempt to record this.

For SA: AF Times did their story today as well:

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/article/20131023/NEWS/310230013/Academy-may-drop-change-honor-oath-over-help-me-God->

We also expect to see a story in The Gazette. We've also had three national level FOX reporters, (b)(6)
 (b)(6), contact us on this story as well.

We'll keep all posted as this moves forward.

Vr,

(b)(6)

From: Military Religious Freedom Foundation [mailto:mrff@militaryreligiousfreedom.ccsend.com] On Behalf Of Military Religious Freedom Foundation

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:02 PM

To: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM

Subject: MRFF on FOX News, TONIGHT! (b)(6) on "The Kelly File," 9:40p/12:40a ET

Description: Image removed by sender.

Description: Image removed by sender.

<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001u2n2LgCfsW6goWlvxPlx9wXU_YKBHNgSI35jKZkMmjL9s84xEUy9QBPLNvi07lux6qgpurs4_kLLzRnuMnmmydQlh_GAKh5VT0zVbklqB6WlkyNKsguyze54TfVfKbhFspULHxRC4dIRXaaA2-URj5pZ6TqrUp2S5fV8ZJ02qArSQxA-HmRAo2ayknaPcdHc&c=r_vMGB2O_Yoy6xulOoE-tky3iREpD8se7DdAPU1v1CqyQ_7HDuLCeg--&ch=dQAxbQu7j12TrtFwIRKSM8e5VsqwmwgOCZhx-5dad5FDQv1ETKyBsA==>

MilitaryReligiousFreedom.org

<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001u2n2LgCfsW6goWlvxPlx9wXU_YKBHNgSI35jKZkMmjL9s84xEUy9QBPLNvi07lux6qgpurs4_kLLzRnuMnmmydQlh_GAKh5VT0zVbklqB6WlkyNKsguyze54TfVfKbhFspULHxRC4dIRXaaA2-URj5pZ6TqrUp2S5fV8ZJ02qArSQxA-HmRAo2ayknaPcdHc&c=r_vMGB2O_Yoy6xulOoE-tky3iREpD8se7DdAPU1v1CqyQ_7HDuLCeg==&ch=dQAxbQu7j12TrtFwIRKSM8e5VsqwmwgOCZhx-5dad5FDQv1ETKyBsA=->

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MRFF Media Alert:

(b)(6) to appear on
FOX NEWS

"THE KELLY FILE"
WITH MEGYN KELLY

Description: Image removed by sender.

TONIGHT

Approx. 9:40PM EASTERN TIME
and repeating at 12:40AM ET

Tune in shortly beforehand to make sure you do NOT miss this!

(b)(6) will discuss MRFF's latest victory at the
U.S. Air Force Academy
<[Please check your local listings.
Media schedules subject to change without notice.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001u2n2LgCfsW6goWlVxPlx9wXU_YKBHNgSI35jKZkMmjL9s84xEUy9QLeqYqFPHDjUie5zNL9w5_p6R0W8fopQObMXnmBHCv5M_ACSRvjTyDBLgaiRyb6AdSxx3sgQMbHaD2QHOO6rxXfcZKbXAw11-OPp5ZbZ4hRkuf-yik3d2w4LQERYtSiYAW-gaCxM5sIWPr8BgmJsG6b34RkccmQg2PyQcuooeOJkN2uNMxgi5SuETxAJHd2Hf0hHID04h1L9&c-r_vMgb2O_Yoy6xulOoE-tky3iREpD8se7DdAPU1v1CqyQ_7HDuLCeg==&ch=dQAxQu7j12TrtFwIRKSM8e5VsqwmwgOCZhx-5dad5FDQv1ETKyBsA==> . Mikey contacted USAFA, and in
SIXTY EIGHT MINUTES received a personal response
from the Commanding General at the Academy assuring
corrective action on a TWENTY-NINE YEAR OLD
religious violation.</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

Connect with MRFF:

Description: Image removed by sender. (b)(6) Facebook Page
<<[3](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001u2n2LgCfsW6goWlVxPlx9wXU_YKBHNgSI35jKZkMmjL9s84xEUy9QMgOdJcsy3LY1YmSFPw3rzdDr5b9WgccFmpDhUBtaxfQ57QFZZFX5Maph3LcCk5CpLGMvYA_hssgVGMqScE1lQrOGu5AL0hEbDqyDVRkclNwjQTSGRcRhuPrHxFWF0Fm_K1OV6pLXAXB&c-r_vMgb2O_Yoy6xulOoE-tky3iREpD8se7DdAPU1v1CqyQ_7HDuLCeg==&ch=dQAxQu7j12TrtFwIRKSM8e5VsqwmwgOCZhx-5dad5FDQv1ETKyBsA==></p>
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Description: Image removed by sender.

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Military Religious Freedom Foundation | 13170-B Central Avenue, SE | Suite 255 | Albuquerque | NM | 87123

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:20 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA ACADEMY DU/CCE
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA ACADEMY DU/CCA; (b)(6) Col
 USAF USAFA USAFA/CA; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS
Subject: FW: INFO: Change to Oath of Office (Optional "So Help Me, God."
Attachments: RE: Request from CNN (5.54 KB)
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

(b)(6)

For context and to avoid the perception of covering up or avoidance, I recommend we share this e-mail traffic w/CNN. They already have the text, they just want confirmation/denial this transpired. It would not be advisable, IMHO, to not meet this request ... recommend we let the boss know and give CW a heads-up, but CNN is ready to file. Thx.

V/R

P.S. As you can see, I've corrected her on oath of office vice honor oath and provided our statement and supporting story from today, which helps, but we also cannot hide from this e-mail trail.

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA CG3/CS21
[mailto:] (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:12 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: FW: INFO: Change to Oath of Office (Optional "So Help Me, God."

Brus,

Here is the email sent by MSgt (b)(6) and my response to it as directed by BG Lengyel after consult with AF SJA.

Maj (b)(6)

CS-21 Blackjacks Air Officer Commanding

(b)(6) Duty Phone
(b)(6) Work Cell

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA CG3/CS21
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 4:46 PM
To: CS21_C14_ALL; CS21_C15_All; CS21_C16_All; CS21_C17_ALL
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA CW/CS27; (b)(6) MSgt
USAF USAFA CW/CS21
Subject: RE: INFO: Change to Oath of Office (Optional "So Help Me, God.")

Blackjacks,

I would like to clarify what MSgt (b)(6) sent out yesterday regarding the
Oath of Office.

(b)(5)

Please see me if you have any questions regarding this issue.

Maj (b)(6)

CS-21 Blackjacks Air Officer Commanding

(b)(6) Duty Phone
(b)(6) Work Cell

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) MSgt USAF USAFA CW/CS21
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 10:45 AM
To: CS21_C14_ALL; CS21_C15_All; CS21_C16_All; CS21_C17_ALL
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA CG3/CS21; (b)(6)
(b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA CW/CS27

Subject: INFO: Change to Oath of Office (Optional "So Help Me, God.")

Soon-to-be-Lieutenants,

Bottom Line: Don't expect to have any words changed in the near future.

You may remember seeing guidance regarding another Commissioning Source out of Maxwell AFB and an Airman challenging the last sentence in the Officer's Oath of Office ("So Help Me, God."). The Airman was allowed to omit the this statement. I engaged Cadet Personnel earlier this semester regarding this possible change for those who would prefer to omit this verbiage as well (both verbally and on the Form 103 - your Commissioning documentation -- where the Oath is written and your signature is required). They had received no specific guidance. I also questioned the Chaplain Corps who also had received no specific guidance. Today, I spoke with the JAG and have the following information update:

The Air Force has since rescinded the guidance of omission. The Oath of Office is governed by Congressional Oversight. The words in the Oath of Office **MUST** be said in order for your Commissioning to be legal. Legislation is addressing the possibility of change however, due to other business priorities, who knows when this will be looked at again. If you are passionate about changing this legislation I encourage you to contact your Congressional Representatives and let them know how you feel. If you'd like to discuss this topic further I'm always here.

~MSgt (b)(6)

MSgt (b)(6)

Description: cid:image002.jpg@01CAFF32.CF5C97C0

Blackjacks 21 AMT

Comm: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:54 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Cc: (b)(6) GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM
Subject: RE: Request from CNN

Thanks Mr. (b)(6)

I appreciate you getting back to me on the emails. I feel it's important to have that side of the story in my piece so I'm going to hold off for as long as I possibly can and hope you get the confirmation/denial to me ASAP.

As for the decision regarding the honor oath - do you know how this will be implemented? What does optional mean? My understanding is that a one star general administers the oath, will that general leave off the phrase 'so help me God' or will they say it and the cadet can decide whether or not to repeat it?

Thanks,

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (mailto:(b)(6))
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:46 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM
Subject: RE: Request from CNN

Good Afternoon Ms. (b)(6),

I work with (b)(6) and wanted to try to answer your questions. In reading the story, you are correct about the oath of office. That is dictated by law. Our Cadet Honor Code and Honor Oath are not, and to your question on that the decision (release on the decision and background on the Honor Oath and Honor Code are attached) affects the Honor Code or the oath of office, it is only for our Cadet Honor Oath.

For questions about the oath of office, I would recommend calling our elected officials.

Bottom line, the oath of office is not an Air Force Academy issue, it's a Congressional issue and it seems many of your questions surround that. We are only dealing with our Cadet Honor Oath here ... I will contact our Cadet Wing and the individual named below (the officer) to try to get you more on the e-mails, but I understand you're under deadline. Please let me know how we can further support. Have a nice day.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

USAF Academy, CO 80840-5016

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6) "The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) C GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM

Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:54 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: FW: Request from CNN

V/R

(b)(6)

//SIGNED//

(b)(6)

Chief, Media Relations Division

U.S. Air Force Academy Directorate of Public Affairs

Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5016

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) (CNN) [mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:25 AM

To: (b)(6) C GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM

Subject: Request from CNN

Hi (b)(6)

As discussed, here's the background of my story:

In early August, officer in training Jonathan Bise objected to saying 'so help me God' at the end of his Commissioning Oath. He contacted a lawyer with the American Humanist Association who drafted a letter to Bise's commander saying that forcing him to say the phrase was against his constitutional right. The commander reversed his decision and Bise was allowed to omit the phrase at his commissioning ceremony.

On October 2, 2013, (b)(6) apparently send

'Soon-to-be-Lieutenants' an email slugged 'INFO: Change to Oath of Office (Optional "So Help Me, God." to CS21_C14_ALL; CS21_C15_All; CS21_C16_All; CS21_C17_ALL.

The email said: "Bottom line: Don't expect to have any words changed in the near future."

The email stated that the oath of office is governed by Congressional oversight and as such would require legislation to be changed. It instructed readers to contact their Congressional representatives if they felt passionately about the issue.

On October 3, 2013, Rhett S Hierlmeirer sent a follow up email to the same group clarifying the first email.

I'm trying to confirm that both emails were in fact sent. If you could, I'd appreciate a copy of the email so I can make sure that the version I have is the exact version that was sent and hasn't been altered.

That should be it! I really do appreciate all your help with this.

Emily Smith

One CNN Center, Atlanta, GA

404 827 4663

USAF FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 1:08 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV
Cc: (b)(6) GS 15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM: (b)(6) Maj USAF
 USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY
 DU/CVE: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS
Subject: FW: Honor oath?
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883/84

Good Afternoon Sir,

(b)(6) is filing a blog about the Honor Oath situation and Lt Gen Johnson's note to the MRF. She extended us the opportunity to issue a statement in the next 30 mins or so -- here is a draft.

"We are assessing the situation and have many mission elements, to include Prep School leadership, the Honor Review Committee and other entities on base, working to put together a way ahead."

She will more than likely attribute the statement to me. Pending your review/edits, we'll get the statement to her. Thank you, Sir ... have a great afternoon!

V/R (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and our nation."

--Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 12:44 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: Re: Honor oath?

Maj. (b)(6), We appreciate your continued cooperation with our requests. Would the academy like to provide us with a comment on the discovery of the "so help me God" poster? We are writing a blog about it. Our question is this: Given the ongoing issues related to religion at the academy, how could this poster have been allowed to hang there since 1984? The superintendent

tells (b)(6) she has directed that the prep school and others put together a "way ahead." She also says she's directed the Honor Review Committee to "fix this next week when they meet." And of course, she said the poster has been removed. Can you illuminate what she meant by way ahead and fixing this?

(b)(6) senior reporter

The Independent

(b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

USAF FOIA

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2013 11:02 AM
To: Armacost, Andrew P BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/DF; Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW; (b)(6) Dr USAF USAFA USAFA/AD; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/PL; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA 10 ABW/CC; (b)(6) (b)(6) Col USAF AETC 306 FTG/CC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWV; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC
Subject: Fw: EXTERNAL: RE: USAFA Honor Oath

FYSA

----- Original Message -----

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2013 10:59 AM
To: LEPPER, STEVEN J Maj Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA; KODLICK, LES A Brig Gen USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; STENDAHL, HOWARD D Maj Gen USAF AF/HC; HARDING, RICHARD C Lt Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA
Cc: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; NOLTA, CHRISTY C SES USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; VON WALD, CONRAD M SES USAF AFDW AF/JAA; (b)(6) CIV USAF AF/JAA
Subject: Re: EXTERNAL: RE: USAFA Honor Oath

Steve

Thanks very much!

We aim to be consistent with AF & DOD policy and the law. I suppose that goes without saying... :-} mdj

----- Original Message -----

From: LEPPER, STEVEN J Maj Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA [mailto:steven.lepper@pentagon.af.mil]
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2013 10:43 AM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; KODLICK, LES A Brig Gen USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; STENDAHL, HOWARD D Maj Gen USAF AF/HC; HARDING, RICHARD C Lt Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA
Cc: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; NOLTA, CHRISTY C SES USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; VON WALD, CONRAD M SES USAF AFDW AF/JAA; (b)(6) CIV USAF AF/JAA
Subject: Re: EXTERNAL: RE: USAFA Honor Oath

Ma'am,

This is the first I've heard of an Honor Oath (we had the Honor Code), but a couple of weeks ago, MREF complained about the words "so help me God" that are part of the oath of office. You may remember that case; I talked with (b)(6)

(b)(6) about it. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Have a great weekend.

Vr,
Steve

----- Original Message -----

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC [mailto:michelle.johnson@usafa.edu]

Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2013 10:40 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: KODLICK, LES A Brig Gen USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; LIPPER, STEVEN J Maj Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA; STENDAHL, HOWARD D Maj Gen USAF AF/HC; HARDING, RICHARD C Lt Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA

Cc: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; NOLTA, CHRISTY C SES USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV (b)(6)
(b)(6) M Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCF; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA

Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: USAFA Honor Oath

Thanks, Les.

I appreciate your perspective and would welcome MG Lepper's insights.

This Honor Oath, though new to me, has evidently been around since 1984. Interesting to consider how many graduates--and children of graduates--have seen and recited it since then evidently without note or comment (?). (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks again,
mdj

-----Original Message-----

From: KODLICK, LES A Brig Gen USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA [mailto:les.kodlick@pentagon.af.mil]

Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2013 7:54 AM

To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; LIPPER, STEVEN J Maj Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA; STENDAHL, HOWARD D Maj Gen USAF AF/HC; HARDING, RICHARD C Lt Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA

Cc: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; NOLTA, CHRISTY C SES USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA

Subject: RE: USAFA Honor Oath

General Johnson

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

In some cases, commanders over-reacted in an

effort to 'correct' the issue, only to inflame the other side. It has been our experience that taking a deliberate, well thought out approach works best. MRFF will do what they do.

We are ready to assist with whatever you need.

Vr
Les

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC [mailto:michelle.johnson@usafa.edu]

Sent: Friday, October 18, 2013 8:08 PM

To: KODLICK, LES A Brig Gen USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA

Cc: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC

Subject: EXTERNAL: FW: Honor Oath

Les

FYSA: (b)(6) visited the Prep School yesterday, and saw the cadet Honor Oath posted on the wall. She noted, "so help me God" at the end, and forwarded a picture of it to MRFF.

This oath is new to me, but evidently came in the cadet honor system in about 1984. We're going to work the solution in the next week.

Not sure what action MRFF will take. I did send the email below in response.

Thanks for your support.

mdj

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC

Sent: Friday, October 18, 2013 5:53 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; Armacost, Andrew P BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/DF; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/IG; (b)(6) Dr USAF USAFA USAFA/AD

Subject: RE: Honor Oath

(b)(6)

Thanks for taking the time to talk with my Vice about this matter. This Honor Oath is one of the new things since my graduation, evidently in about 1984. Col (b)(6) was able to bring together the Prep School and other entities on base to put together a way ahead. We've already directed the Honor Review Committee to fix this next week when they meet. The Prep School poster has been taken down.

Best regards,

Michèle

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 5:01 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCE
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX
Subject: FW: CM Forbes Response
Signed By: (b)(6)

(b)(6) per our discussion, email for the boss to send to the Chief and possibly(?) CM Forbes.

 Chief,

The response to the inquiries regarding the Honor Oath from Congressman Bridenstine, co-signed by Congressman Forbes, is making its way through your LL office. While that happens, I wanted to send a quick synopsis to ensure that you and Congressmen Forbes were updated as soon as possible.

- 1) The words "so help me God" have not been removed from the Cadet Honor Oath. In an effort to ensure an environment that fosters respect and inclusivity, the Honor Review Committee (comprised of 17 voting members; 9 of which are cadet votes) voted on 22 October to make the last four words optional. The recommendation regarding this change was presented to me after significant discussion between senior leaders and cadets.
- 2) The wording of the Honor Oath on the poster that was removed from the USAFA Prep School was inaccurate, and thus was removed and will not be returned. However, this year's cadet candidates (CC) have plans to paint a mural depicting the full Honor Oath and its significance to their development. We believe this will have a long-lasting impact on this year's CCs and for years to come.
- 3) Regarding the omission of the phrase "So help me God" from the Cadet Oath, the Oath of Office and the Enlistment Oath in the 2010 to 2013 printings of the Contrails handbook, this was an unintentional editorial oversight and will be corrected in future versions of Contrails beginning in Academic Year 2014-2015.

We trust this information will be helpful to you and to Congressman Forbes and we appreciate feedback as we continue to prepare officers to lead Airmen in defense of our nation.

Respectfully,

Michelle

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 10:02 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: Fw: Air Force Association membership

Dear Superintendent Johnson:

Mr. (b)(6) the Air Force Association's Director, suggested I contact you directly.
Please see my message below.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: (b)(6)

To: (b)(6)

Cc:

(b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 2:14 PM

Subject: Re: Air Force Association membership

(b)(6)

The Air Force Association is a 501c3 charitable organization that is totally separate from the Air Force. Our role is to advocate for the National Security and to support Airmen and their families. These missions were why Jimmy Doolittle created the AFA and John Alison was such an ardent supporter.

While, we would hate to lose your support of our airmen, we cannot intercede to change actions taken by Air Force organizations. If you are unhappy with this reported action by the Air Force Academy Superintendent, I suggest you contact the Academy.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Chairman of the Board
Air Force Association

From: (b)(6)

Reply-To: (b)(6)

Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 10:54 AM

To: (b)(6)

Cc:

(b)(6)

Subject: Air Force Association membership
Resent-From: <chairman@afa.org>

To: (b)(6) AFA Chairman of the Board

Good afternoon, Chairman (b)(6).

I first became aware of the Air Force Association when (b)(6) the father of one of my co-workers, passed away in 2011. As you probably know, Mr. (b)(6) a past President of the AFA, was a highly decorated American combat ace of World War II and veteran of the Korean War, and is often cited as the father of Air Force Special Operations. Appropriately, in his honor, I made a donation to the Air Force Association and have since been a member.

However, it has recently come to my attention that there is a movement to remove the "so help me God" portion from the Honor Oath of the Air Force Academy. Please be aware that if this happens, solicitations from the AFA, such as the one from you which I have attached, will not be receiving any financial assistance from me ever again, so it behooves you to intercede and put an end to this nonsense.

The ringleader of this egregious maneuver to remove God from the Oath is a man who cites the example that when John Quincy Adams – a very devout Christian himself – took his Presidential Oath, he put his hand on a book of laws, not the Bible, because he loved the separation of church and state which makes our country great. However, according to Mr. Adams' own version of his Inauguration, he took the oath upon a volume of law – a volume of law that was based on Christianity. Adams stated, 'In compliance with an usage coeval with the existence of our Federal Constitution, and sanctioned by the example of my predecessors in the career upon which I am about to enter, I appear, my fellow citizens, in your presence and in that of Heaven to bind myself by the solemnities of religious obligation to the faithful performance of the duties allotted to me in the station to which I have been called.'

America was founded on God. Our very Constitution gives us those rights. Now the non-believers are doing their best to take God out of America to turn it into a Godless country of corruption. How much do we stand for in the name of "political correctness"? God is with our troops when they are in harm's way, and now they want to take that away from them. No prayer in schools and no prayers for our soldiers goes against the very grain this great country worked so hard to achieve.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

daytime telephone (b)(6)

Attachment

cc w/attach:

Scott Van Cleef, Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Operations Jerry E. White, Vice Chairman of the Board, Aerospace Education Marvin L. Tooman, Secretary Len Vernamonti, Treasurer Craig R. McKinley, President F. Gavin MacAloon, President, Central East Region Kevin R. Lewis, President, Donald W. Steele, Sr. Memorial Chapter Nick Abate, Vice President, Membership, Donald W. Steele, Sr. Memorial Chapter

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF AF/A1 (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:31 AM
To: (b)(6) USAF USAFA USAFA/DS
Cc: Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: Fw: Air Force Academy may drop 'God' from oath

Howdy (b)(6)

I learn something new every day, which is a good thing.

Can you confirm what Maj (b)(6) says below because I've never talked with (b)(6) and am unaware of this Congressional role.

If true, ill stop clogging up the processes.

Thanks!

I'll figure this all out eventually!

Respectfully

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Col, USAF
 Director, USAFA Washington DC Office

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF AFDW SAF/LL
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:21 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: (b)(6) A Col USAF HQ USAF AF/A1
Subject: RE: Air Force Academy may drop 'God' from oath

Copy all sir...I typically go through (b) because he's the Congressional Liaison down there unless his title has changed. He would typically reach out to whoever would be able to provide me the information. Just trying not to step on anyone's toes, but I'll take the information from anyone down there that will give it to me.

V/r,

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF AF/A1
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:13 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF AFDW SAF/LL; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/RRSC
Cc: STENDAHL, HOWARD D Maj Gen USAF AF/HC; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF AF/HC; (b)(6) TSgt USAF HQ USAF AF/HC; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF SAF/LL; (b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF AF/JA; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: Re: Air Force Academy may drop 'God' from oath

(b)(6) probably best if you work with (b)(6) from PA for this as it was all hashed out yesterday. CSAF is aware and the AF Times story is basically correct--USAF is assessing a way ahead.

I've cc'd Ms (b)(6) I'm mobile and my blackberry won't pull up (b)(6) email; can you have him get in touch with LL on the questions below.

Thanks all

Col (b)(6)

(b)(6) Col, USAF
Director, USAFA Washington DC Office
Pentagon Suite 4D950

(b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF AFDW SAF/LL

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:03 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: Dahlmann, James W Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/RRSC

Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF AF/A1; STENDAHL, HOWARD D Maj Gen USAF AF/HC; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF AF/HC; (b)(6) TSgt USAF HQ USAF AF/HC; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF SAF/LL;

(b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF AF/JA

Subject: FW: Air Force Academy may drop 'God' from oath

(b)(6)

Just wanted to let you know we're going to need some details on this quickly. Either corroborating the story or telling us what really happened.

- What actually caused the inquiry from (b)(6)?
- If Lt Gen Johnson did respond in 68 minutes to (b)(6), what caused her to respond so quickly?
- What did she say in her response?
- What took place following her response (did she call an emergency huddle to figure out how to deal with this)?
- What is USAFA's way ahead on this issue (will they remove, so help me God, make it optional or strike the oath)?

SASC PSMs are already inquiring. Would like to have the answers as soon as possible, to put out the fire before CM Forbes, Huelskamp, Lamborn or Fleming see the article and start asking questions.

V/r,

(b)(6)

////////

The Air Force Academy is considering dropping the phrase "so help me God" from its honor oath after the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) filed a complaint.

The Academy's Honor Review Committee met Wednesday to review the oath in response to the MRFF complaint, said Public Affairs Director Maj. (b)(6)

"They considered a range of options and some of those options will be presented to Academy leaders and, ultimately, the Academy Superintendent for a decision," he said.

"Removing this voluntary affirmation expresses hostility toward religion."

-(b)(6) executive director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty

The current version of the Academy's oath reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably, so help me God."

Last week, the Colorado Springs Independent newspaper published a photograph of a poster at the academy which included the oath. The newspaper then forwarded the photo to MRFF President (b)(6)

(b)(6) a frequent critic of Christianity in the armed forces, wrote a letter to Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson. (b)(6) said she responded 68 minutes later.

"The Prep School poster has been taken down," she wrote in an email reply posted by the Independent. "We are assessing the situation and have many mission elements, to include Prep School leadership, the Honor Review Committee and other entities on base, working to put together a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives."

While the poster has been removed, the phrase "so help me God" remains as part of the oath.

(b)(6) told the Air Force Times they could either make no change, make the God part optional or strike the entire oath.

"We value an inclusive environment that promotes dignity and respect for all," (b)(6) told the newspaper.

(b)(6) president of the Family Research Council and a Marine Corps veteran, told Fox News it's not about accommodating those who don't believe in God.

"That already exists," he said. "No one is forced to say this. This is about imposing an atheistic view on everyone so there can be no recognition of God."

(b)(6) said the incident raises questions about who is in charge of the nation's military.

"Is it in fact the military chiefs or is it (b)(6)?" he asked.

(b)(6) executive director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty said the incident is "one more example of the Academy yielding to (b)(6) at the expense of official military policy."

"Removing this voluntary affirmation expresses hostility toward religion," (b)(6) said. "Further, it removes the solemnity and gravity of the oath, particularly for the many cadets who come from a faith tradition."

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 6:26 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: FW: 2 issues
Signed By: (b)(6)

To my credit, I put in the email that it was the honor oath. Oh well.

(b)(6) Maj, USAF

Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent

United States Air Force Academy

Ph: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 5:33 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: 2 issues

Sir, good to hear from you. I spoke with (b)(6) and she withdrew her request after talking to you. I thought I closed the loop with ABW, but I will double check.

I don't have any background on the contrails issue, but we checked and the last five issues contain the full honor oath including "so help me God".

V/R,

Ma (b)(6)
 Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent

Sent from BB (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 04:56 PM Mountain Standard Time

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA

Subject: 2 issues

Hi (b)(6) Need some info, please. 1.) What's up with a request for (b)(6) to get an Academy access pass??? (b)(6) came to me at the Police foundation event yesterday and apologized for slow-rolling the request. Not sure I know what's up, but I have a feeling it is not a valid or necessary request. Please advise... and 2.) In a recent follow-up publication to the "so help me God" fiasco, I was accused by an author of having approved Contrails to remove "SHMG" from the oath of office as written in the Class of 2014's edition (published in 2010). Can you check a '14 Contrails, as well as the last couple editions and tell me if it's true that the phrase is absent? If so, I'll track down who made the decision to delete it!

You guys going to UNM game? If so, the Supt can expect some drama from, as Fr. Bruno would say, him whose name we do not speak... Thanks, Mike

Sent from Windows Mail

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) MSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMP
(b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 1:13 PM
To: (b)(6)

Subject:
Signed By:

Please ensure widest dissemination...

Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment -- CANCELLED

Reference to Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment MUST READ:
"All Airmen enlisting or reenlisting must take the following oath: I, (State your full name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

This removes the option to omit the words "So help me God", if desired for personal reasons.

V/r,

(b)(6) MSgt, USAF
 Superintendent, Military Personnel
 USAF Academy, CO
 Comm: (b)(6)
 DSN: (b)(6)

Click on the ICE link and tell us how we are doing:
http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&s=393&sp=103108&dep=*DoD

"The information herein is For Official Use Only (FOUO) which must be protected under the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. Unauthorized disclosure or misuse of the PERSONAL INFORMATION may result in criminal and/or civil Penalties."

-----Original Message-----

From: AFPC/DPTSF Change Management
 Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 12:30 PM
 To: AFPC/DPTSF FSS (CC, CD, OPS); AFPC/DPTSF MPF CC & MPS Chief; AFPC/DPTSF Supt (FSS, MPF, MPS); AFPC/DPTSF MAJCOM Field Activities;
 UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_PERSCO Deployed Dlist; UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_ANG Dlist;
 UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_AFR Dlist; AFPC/DPTSF Other; 409 AEG Det 2/PERSCO ; 449 Persco; 768 EABS PERSCO; Capt (b)(6) (AETF-A) ;
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6) GS-15 DoD; FSS-CareerDevelopment; FSS-CustomerSupport;
 FSS-EducationandTraining; FSS-ForceManagement; (b)(6) Capt;
 (b)(6) JR Lt
 Col USAF ACC 495 FG AA/CD; (b)(6) MSgt 966 AES PERSCO; MSgt
 (b)(6) CAPT USN
 SOUTHCOM SCJ1 (US) (b)(6) SMSgt USAF AFOSI FSS/DPM; STRATCOM/J13,
 3A8; (b)(6) Maj
 Cc: (b)(6) CMSgt USAF AFPC DPSOA
 Subject: **Action Item** Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606, Reenlistment in the USAF

TO: MAJCOMs, FSS/CCs, MPS/Chiefs, MPS/Supts

SUBJECT: Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606, Reenlistment in the USAF

1. An administrative change has been posted to AF Publishing site:
<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/> <<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>> .
2. This admin change cancels paragraph 5.6 as it currently reads to the language indicated in the referenced announcement. MPS personnel must immediately download and comply with the change.
3. POC for MPS personnel is AFPC Reenlistments at DSN 665-2090 or email: AFPC/DPSReenlistmentsDlist@us.af.mil.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 3:18 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) GS-13 USAF
 A1M USAF ACADEMY DU/A1; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA JA/HQ USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Maj USAF
 USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE
Subject: Commissioning Oath & "so help me God"
Attachments: email re oath of office 131003_Redacted.pdf

Gen Johnson,

Mr Conrad Von Wald, SES Director of Administrative Law, HQ AF/JAA, and Mr (b)(6) just called to give me their legal review of the inclusion of "so help me God" in the commissioning oath. It is (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

I shared with Mr Von Wald the attached email that I helped craft. JAA (b)(5)

(b)(5)

I asked for a written opinion but, unfortunately, JAA does not plan to provide one. You, however, may request a written opinion from Lt Gen Harding (3-star to 3-star).

Finally, we also discussed the Honor Code oath/pledge and JAA (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)

Colonel, USAF

Staff Judge Advocate

USAF Academy

Comm (b)(5)

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA CG3/CS21
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 4:46 PM
To: CS21_C14_ALL; CS21_C15_ALL; CS21_C16_ALL; CS21_C17_ALL
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA CW/CS27; (b)(6) MSgt USAF USAFA CW/CS21
Subject: RE: INFO: Change to Oath of Office (Optional "So Help Me, God.")
Signed By:

Blackjacks,

I would like to clarify what MSgt (b)(6) sent out yesterday regarding the Oath of Office.

It turns out that AF/JA has been working to put together a legal opinion on this issue because of a question raised by our SJA last April and a recent case that arose out of Air University regarding the permissibility of deleting the words "so help me God" in the officer commissioning oath on the commissioning form. That opinion has not been completed and is considering the questions whether the written oath, which is set out in statute, may be modified in any way and whether the spoken oath at a ceremony must repeat those words verbatim. AF/JA is not prepared at this moment to definitively answer either question.

I did talk to our SJA who pointed out that whether or not you repeat your commissioning oath verbatim at your ceremony has no legal consequence. However, your signature on the AF Form 133 is legally binding and JA cannot advise you to alter the oath (even though others have done so in the past without consequence).

Our SJA recommends we standby for updates from higher headquarters as they become available.

Please see me if you have any questions regarding this issue.

Maj (b)(6)
 CS-21 Blackjacks Air Officer Commanding

[Redacted Signature]

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) MSgt USAF USAFA CW/CS21
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 10:45 AM
To: CS21_C14_ALL; CS21_C15_ALL; CS21_C16_ALL; CS21_C17_ALL
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA CG3/CS21; (b)(6) J Maj USAF USAFA CW/CS27
Subject: INFO: Change to Oath of Office (Optional "So Help Me, God.")

Soon-to-be-Lieutenants,

Bottom Line: Don't expect to have any words changed in the near future.

You may remember seeing guidance regarding another Commissioning Source out of Maxwell AFB and an Airman challenging the last sentence in the Officer's Oath of Office ("So Help Me, God. "). The Airman was allowed to omit the this statement. I engaged Cadet Personnel earlier this semester regarding this possible change for those who would prefer to omit this verbiage as well (both verbally and on the Form 103 - your Commissioning documentation -- where the Oath is written and your signature is required). They had received no specific guidance. I also questioned the Chaplain Corps who also had received no specific guidance. Today, I spoke with the JAG and have the following information update:

The Air Force has since rescinded the guidance of omission. The Oath of Office is governed by Congressional Oversight. The words in the Oath of Office MUST be said in order for your Commissioning to be legal. Legislation is addressing the possibility of change however, due to other business priorities, who knows when this will be looked at again. If you are passionate about changing this legislation I encourage you to contact your Congressional Representatives and let them know how you feel. If you'd like to discuss this topic further I'm always here.

~MSgt (b)(6)

MSgt (b)(6)

Description: cid:image002.jpg@01CAFF32.CF5C97C0

Blackjacks 21 AMT

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAF CW/CWCH
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 3:17 PM
To: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE
Subject: Cadet Wing Honor Oath changes
Attachments: Cadet Wing Honor Oath article.pdf
Signed By: (b)(6)

Sir/Ma'am,

The final version of the cadet wing e-mail with all comments from JA/PA/HC/CW are incorporated below. Please let me know if there are any further comments. Thank you!

V/R

Lt Col (b)(6)

Cadet Wing,

If you have been paying attention to the media you may have heard of changes to the Cadet Wing Honor Oath. To clarify, no words were removed from the Cadet Wing Honor Code but the last four words (i.e., "so help me God") are now optional. This change was made during our annual Honor Review Committee, which consists of both cadets and permanent party. It is imperative that we respect cadets of all faiths as well as cadets of no faith, hence this change. The Cadet Wing Honor Oath now reads: "We will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty, and live honorably (so help me God)." Thanks for all you do, and keep it real.

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123368388>

Very Respectfully,

C1C (b)(6)

Wing Honor Chairman

CS-28 "Badass Blackbirds"

US Air Force Academy

V/R,

(b)(6) Lieutenant Colonel, USAF

Assistant Director for Honor

USAFA Center for Character and Leadership Development

(b)(6)

This email may contain information protected under the Privacy Act of 1974. You must safeguard all information reflected in this e-mail and, if applicable, all attachments. Disclosure of information is IAW AFI 33-119, AFI 33-127, AFI 33-129, AFI 37-131, AFI 37-132, and PL 93-579, and is For Official Use Only (FOUO).

Final clause in cadet Honor Oath made optional

by Maj. Brus E. Vidal
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

10/25/2013 - U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. -- After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference -- or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character," Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does," was formally adopted by the Academy's first graduating class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. Cadets retake the oath at the beginning of every school year. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Retired Air Force brigadier general and now the Academy's Athletic Director, Dr. Hans Mueh was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry Department.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating," he said. It was so widespread that the superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the superintendent established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined some additional clout was needed for this oath, which all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin the code to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and personally accept the individual mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Mueh said that addition led to the line "and furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably. "Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God,'" he said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an educational process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets -- as potential future officers -- receive extensive character and leadership instruction, and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through their final semester at the Academy.

The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" the Academy aspires to produce.

"Cadets must meet Academy standards -- honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude -- in order to be a cadet in good standing," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, Commandant of Cadets. "Holding each cadet to these high standards promotes good order and discipline throughout the institution."

The Honor Code is a vital part of cadets' development as military professionals. It also represents a broader aspect of ethical maturity which will serve them throughout their lives. As the bearers of the public trust, both as cadets and as officers, it is the Honor Code which helps build a personal integrity able to withstand the rigorous demands placed upon them.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 3:33 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Cadet Honor Oath
Attachments: 146 Final clause of Cadet Honor Oath made optional.pdf
Signed By: (b)(6)

Good Afternoon (b)(6)

I'm Major (b)(6) Director of Public Affairs at the Air Force's Academy.
 I just read your blog about "Sam Johnson, Pete Olson pledge to keep "so help me God" in Air Force honor oath," and per my discussion this afternoon with (b)(6). I wanted to point out that the Cadet Honor Oath remains unchanged and that clause is still part of the oath.

However, that clause is now optional and cadets can choose to either say it when they take the oath or not -- it is their individual choice. Pasted below is our story on the decision along with a history of both the Cadet Honor Code and the Cadet Honor Oath (link here: <http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123368388>) and attached is our release on the decision to make that part of the oath optional but to keep the oath as is.

As (b)(6) and I discussed, you might want to reach out to the offices of these elected officials to inform them that the oath remains unchanged -- seems that is not evidently clear. At any rate, I provide this information for your situational awareness ... please feel free to ask any questions, otherwise I hope you have a fantastic day!

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

Final clause in cadet Honor Oath made optional

by Maj. (b)(6)

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News Release

United States Air Force

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, USAF ACADEMY, CO 80840
www.usafa.af.mil (719) 333-7731

News Release # 146
Oct. 25, 2013

FINAL CLAUSE OF CADET HONOR OATH MADE OPTIONAL

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. – After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

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-30-

NOTE: Attached is a history of the Cadet Honor Code and Honor Oath.

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and Leaders for our nation."

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRA
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 10:26 AM
To: DRU_Ali; Harmon Hall_Ali
Subject: AF Weekly Announcements (28 Oct - 1 Nov)
Attachments: 1 - PSDM 13-102, CY14 Medical Squadron Commander Matches (126 KB); 2 - ***UPDATE*** PSDM 13-81, Announcement of the 14 - 17 January 2014 Ai... (8.98 KB); 3 - **Action Item** Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606, Reenlistment i... (11.3 KB); 4 - ***UPDATE ***CY13C Captain Line of the Air Force (LAF) Quarterly Se ... (5.55 KB)
Signed By: (b)(6)

HQ Staff,

Sir/Ma'am, attached are the announcements from the last week that relate to military and civilian members:

1. CY14 Medical Squadron Commander Matches (USAFA has one select that is projected inbound to 10MDSS: Lt Col

(b)(6)

2. The Rated Issues Branch at Headquarters Air Force Military Policy Division

(HQ AF/A1PPR) has approved an extension to UFT applicants seeking ETP

requests. The new suspense to submit ETP requests is 15 Nov 2013 (previously

31 Oct 2013). Please email afpc.dpalt3@us.af.mil with any questions. POC is

AFPC/DPALT email: AFPC.DPALT3@us.af.mil

3. Change to AFI 36-2606, Active Duty Reenlistment Oath – Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment – CANCELLED. This removes the option to omit the words "So help me God", if desired for personal reasons.

Reference to Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment MUST READ:

"All Airmen enlisting or reenlisting must take the following oath: I, (State your full name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

4. CY13 Captain Line of the Air Force Quarterly Selection Process – changed Para 2: this only applies to IPZ. All APZ officers will pin on 1 Jan 14. The remainder of this message is unchanged. POC for Promotions: HQ AFPC/DPSOO, DSN 665-2483 email : afpc.dpppo2@us.af.mil. POC for Separations/Retirements: HQ AFPC/DPSOR, DSN 665-2792 email: afpc.dpsor.retsepbranch@us.af.mil.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

--

(b)(6) Capt, USAF

Executive Officer to the Vice Superintendent

(b)(6)

Subject: PSDM 13-81, Announcement of the 14 - 17 January 2014 Air Force Undergraduate Flying Training (UFT) Selection Board

TO: MAJCOMs, FSS/CCs, MPS Chiefs/Supts

SUBJECT: PSDM 13-81, Announcement of the 14 - 17 January 2014 Air Force Undergraduate Flying Training (UFT) Selection Board

1. Air Force Personnel Center will convene the Air Force Undergraduate Flying Training (UFT) Selection Board on 14 - 17 Jan 2014, to fill fiscal year (FY) 2014/2015 training requirements in the following categories.

2. PSDM 13-81 has been posted on myPers website:
https://myPers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/25739

3. POC: AFPC/DPALR, DSN 665-3442, e-mail: AFPC.DPALT3@us.af.mil

USAFA FOIA

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:**To:****Subject:****Signed By:****Follow Up Flag:**

Follow up

Flag Status:

Flagged

Please ensure widest dissemination...

Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment -- CANCELLED

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V/r,

(b)(6) MSgt, USAF
 Superintendent, Military Personnel
 USAF Academy, CO
 Comm: (b)(6)
 DSN: (b)(6)

Click on the ICE link and tell us how we are doing:
http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&s=393&sp=103108&dep=*DoD

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-----Original Message-----

From: AFPC/DPTSF Change Management
 Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 12:30 PM
 To: AFPC/DPTSF FSS (CC, CD, OPS); AFPC/DPTSF MPF CC & MPS Chief; AFPC/DPTSF Supt (FSS, MPF, MPS); AFPC/DPTSF MAJCOM Field Activities; UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_PERSCO Deployed Dlist; UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_ANG Dlist; UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_AFR Dlist; AFPC/DPTSF Other; 409 AEG Det 2/PERSCO ; 449 Persco; 768 EABS PERSCO; Capt (b)(6) (AETF-A) ; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) GS-15 DoD; FSS-CareerDevelopment; FSS-CustomerSupport; FSS-EducationandTraining; FSS-ForceManagement; (b)(6) Capt; (b)(6) Lt
 Col USAF ACC 495 FG AA/CD; (b)(6) MSgt 966 AES PERSCO; MSgt (b)(6) (NDU-Ft McNair) (b)(6) CAPT USN
 SOUTHCOM SCJ1 (US) ; (b)(6) SMSgt USAF AFOSI FSS/DPM; STRATCOM/J13, 3A8; (b)(6) Maj
 Cc: (b)(6) CMSgt USAF AFPC DPSOA
 Subject: **Action Item** Administrative Change to AFI 36 2606, Reenlistment in the USAF

TO: MAJCOMs, FSS/CCs, MPS/Chiefs, MPS/Supts

SUBJECT: Administrative Change to AFI 36 2606, Reenlistment in the USAF

1. An administrative change has been posted to AF Publishing site:
<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/> <<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>> .

2. This admin change cancels paragraph 5.6 as it currently reads to the language indicated in the referenced announcement. MPS personnel must immediately download and comply with the change.

3. POC for MPS personnel is AFPC Reenlistments at DSN 665-2090 or email:
AFPC/DPSReenlistmentsDlist@us.af.mil.

afpc.dpppo2@us.af.mil. POC for Separations/Retirements: HQ AFPC/DPSOR, DSN 665-2792 email:
afpc.dpsor.retsepbranch@us.af.mil

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USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:12 AM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) C v USAF USAFA USAFA/DS
Cc: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; KODLICK, LES A Brig Gen USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ/PA
Subject: AF Times Piece on Honor Oath is live
Signed By: (b)(6)

Importance: High

Good Morning Sir/Ma'am,

Although the piece leads with the headline " Academy may drop or change honor oath over 'so help me God'," it is balanced and somewhat corrects the record on Mikey's "68 minutes" victory lap.

We couldn't have asked for a better conclusion, which highlights our "religious tolerance" program and states:

"The MRFF has been a vocal critic of the academy over the last decade for allowing evangelical Christian airmen to proselytize their faith to cadets. The academy is trying to address that, and recently created a religious tolerance program.

For example, under this program, first-year cadets are taught strategies for handling someone who is attempting to exert unwanted religious influence, and seniors who are about to be commissioned as officers are taught how to promote religious tolerance as commanders."

I asked them to change to wording to religious respect vice religious tolerance. The entire story is pasted below and can be linked to here:

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/article/20131023/NEWS/310230013/Academy-may-drop-change-honor-oath-over-help-me-God->

V/R (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

The Air Force Academy is considering dropping or changing its honor oath because it has the phrase "so help me God."

The review is in response to a complaint from the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, which advocates for the separation of church and state in the military.

Academy spokesman Maj. Brus Vidal said the Honor Review Committee met Oct. 22 to discuss the oath's wording, but made no decision on whether or how to alter the 28 words. Vidal said the academy will "develop a way ahead that is respectful to all perspectives."

"They considered a range of options and some of those options will be presented to academy leaders and, ultimately, the academy Superintendent [Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson] for a decision," Vidal said. "We value an inclusive environment that promotes dignity and respect for all."

The academy's honor oath currently reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably, so help me God."

Among the options the committee discussed were making no change to the oath, making the "so help me God" portion optional, or striking the entire oath.

The Colorado Springs Independent on Oct. 21 posted a picture of a poster at the academy, which had the oath, including the concluding "so help me God" phrase. It received the photo, along with several others, from the academy last week when it asked for pictures of the academy preparatory school. The Independent said it forwarded the photo to MRFF President Mikey Weinstein, who complained to the academy's vice superintendent on Oct. 18 about it.

Weinstein said Johnson soon wrote back to him and said the honor oath has had this wording since about 1984, and that the poster with the oath has been taken down. Vidal confirmed the content of Johnson's email.

The MRFF has been a vocal critic of the academy over the last decade for allowing evangelical Christian airmen to proselytize their faith to cadets. The academy is trying to address that, and recently created a religious tolerance program.

For example, under this program, first-year cadets are taught strategies for handling someone who is attempting to exert unwanted religious influence, and seniors who are about to be commissioned as officers are taught how to promote religious tolerance as commanders.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:03 AM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV
Subject: You Are The Most Evil Man in the World

From: (b)(6)

Subject: You Are The Most Evil Man in the World

Date: October 22, 2013 9:07:07 AM MDT

To: Information (b)(6) <(b)(6)>

Mr. (b)(6), I am the Christian mother of wonderful Christian children and the wife of a Christian Air Force Officer. We are stationed at the Air Force Academy where my husband proudly serves the Lord, our Family and our country. In that order. We belong to a spirit-filled Christian Church in a town also shining with the Light of Christ. And the Word of Christ. Me, my husband and our entire church are just furious at you and your Christian-hating MRFF gang of trouble-makers. You all just cannot get over yourselves. You think by raising the constitution (small 'c') over the Word of Christ (Big 'C') you are doing "good"? You are not. My husband and I saw the Colo. Spgs. independent article. By that awful athiest lesbian zubeck writer. It was sent out to us by members of our Church Board last evening. As a reminder of the work of satan which persists here in Colorado Springs and at the Academy. Aided and led by YOU, Mr. (b)(6). Now you attack the Honor Code at the Academy as you attack all other things sacred in Christ? There is NOTHING wrong with "So help me God" being sworn to by the cadets when they swear to uphold the Honor Code! Would you prefer them to swear to satan? Yes we know that you would. Everyone here knows why you attack the Academy over its love of God and his only begotten son Jesus Christ. Because your own children came here and couldn't cope with an Air Force Academy where the gentle words of Christ bring hope and ease sorrow for all. You just cannot live and let live if Jesus is working his Word at the Air Force Academy. You deny the only Lord and Savior to the Air Force Academy because you are so very evil. We are taught in Church to hate the sin but love the sinner. But you are all sin, Mr. (b)(6). Our Church prays your days be few until you meet your father satan.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:00 AM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW
Subject: RE: your appearance today at the CAS meeting
Signed By: (b)(6)

Gen Johnson, The context is probably a three part series (b)(6) 64, did on the history of the Honor Code in 2004-2005, which was published in Checkpoints (I'll provide copy to (b)(6)). (b)(6) was a Visiting Scholar for Honor at the time. He's also published some other articles ref military academy honor codes, with a focus on the toleration clause. He wrote another article in Checkpoints in 2009 on "The USAFA Cheating Affair of 2004" (article also provided to (b)(6)). In this article his conclusions are supportive of the Honor Code and the systems in place.

He notes on the first page of the first article in the series (Fall 2004) that "Most graduates view the Honor System only from a narrow peephole of four years." And, "Ever since 1965, all substantive changes in the administration and interpretation of the Honor Code have been in reaction to an incident."

V/R

(b)(6)

Chief, Development and Alumni Affairs
 HQ USAFA/CMA

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DSN: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC

Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 9:50 PM

To: (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA

Cc: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCX; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA

USAFA/DS; Lengyel Gregory J BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/CW

Subject: Fw: your appearance today at the CAS meeting

(b)(6)

Tonight's AOG Senate was a long rehash of the Honor Oath, with a short burst from the grad below. Do you know the context for this?

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 09:00 PM

To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC

Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CWC; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CWC; (b)(6)

Subject: your appearance today at the CAS meeting

Gen Johnson

First of all, thank you for attending the CAS meeting today. I was the one who asked you about your opinion regarding the research being done by (b)(6) ('64) regarding compliance with the Honor Code. I must say that I was disappointed in your answer that you were not familiar with his research. But, yet you spent a lot of time in the meeting talking about a very superficial honor issue, the use of the "So help me God" phrase in the Honor Oath. And the fact that you would take time to meet with a nut case like (b)(6) but not take the time to become familiar with (b)(6) 20 years of research on the Honor Code, causes me to question your priorities.

You mentioned in part of your comments that this is not the same Academy as in '54 or '59 because this is 2013. I don't understand what is different in 2013 about fundamental concepts of honor, except that we no longer enforce them. BTW, when I asked Gen Lengyel, the then new commandant of cadets, the same question after his appearance at CAS, (ie, about (b)(6) research) Lengyel also said he was not familiar. You mentioned in your comments that Lengyel is soon to be leaving. I wonder if he has yet become familiar with (b)(6) research.

I hope that you will find time in your tenure to address this issue because there are many of us (albeit not a large percentage) who believe that the Honor Code is the most important part of the cadet experience. We would love to have it back.

Cordially,

(b)(6) Col, USAF(Ret), USAFA '67

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

My recent article in Checkpoints-fyi

The June 2013 Checkpoints article "An in-depth look at the state of the Honor Code:"

Another Point of View

This rosy picture of the state of the USAFA Honor Code written by LTC (b)(6) the Assistant Director for Honor at the Center for Character and Leadership Development (CCLD) is a classic "puff piece" and demands a response. First, how can anyone claim to offer an "in-depth" look at the Honor Code and never mention any of the recent scandals at USAFA and fail to mention the only serious research that has ever been done on the results of the Honor Code, especially when that research is being done by a USAFA graduate? For much of that research, the researcher, (b)(6) USAFA '64, had offices at USAFA and at least some sanction by USAFA officials.

LTC (b)(6) asks, rhetorically, in his opening sentence "SO HOW ARE THINGS WITH THE HONOR CODE?" Rather than immediately answering the question (b)(6) tells us why people are asking. According to (b)(6) the reason is that the Honor Code is a "symbol of all we envision for the Academy." I don't mean to split hairs but some of us remember when the Honor Code was a "standard" of behavior, not a "symbol," not a training device. (b)(6) goes on to quote the Code and the Honor Oath, which was added to the Code in 1984. (b)(6) editorializes that the Oath "goes beyond the Code,"

implying that the standards at USAFA have been raised even higher. His comment is disingenuous because the facts are that the Oath was added in the wake of the 1980s cheating scandal, potentially the largest in the history of USAFA. In point of fact, rather than raise the standards in response to this scandal, USAFA Superintendent (b)(6) actually suspended the Code. Therefore, I would contend the addition of the Oath at this time in our history was a cynical obfuscation of the true problem at USAFA, the FAILURE, to enforce the Honor Code. Furthermore, this action had a devastating effect on the perception of the Code. Ever since then, most knowledgeable people have realized that there could never be another large scandal at USAFA because the Code would simply never again be enforced against a large number of cadets. This fact has been admitted to in public by at least one subsequent USAFA superintendent (LG Rosa). But there is even more dishonesty in the (b)(6) report. (b)(6) proudly states that "Disenrollments due to honor cases have DECREASED (emphasis added) to an average of 28 per year since 2004." Meanwhile, (b)(6) research shows that admitted honor violations by cadets while at the Academy have steadily INCREASED over this same period to the point that the vast majority of recent graduates admit to having committed honor violations. This should not surprise anyone who sees that disenrollments for honor are steadily falling and that no large number of cadets will ever again be dismissed for honor. This allegation on my part was proven true less than ten years after the Gen Scott scandal when a large number of cadets were assumed to be using false IDs to buy liquor in downtown Colorado Springs. Instead of bringing these cadets to an honor hearing, the commandant at the time, BG Gamble, granted blanket amnesty to the whole wing. Is it any wonder that today no one seriously believes that any large number of cadets will ever be dismissed for honor?

Later in his article on the state of the Honor Code LTC (b)(6) states that the Honor Oath's meaning was that "USAFA leadership saw a need to promote a noble aspiration BEYOND ADHERENCE TO THE FOUR PROHIBITIONS OF THE CODE" (emphasis added). This is cynicism at its height. Later in the article (b)(6) again makes this disingenuous comment when he says "It's increasingly clear, however, that we must not limit our cadets to an appreciation of only the four traditional prohibitions of the Code." The fact is that, those four prohibitions are actually a very high standard and that, if USAFA were actually enforcing those standards, there would be no need for the kind of obfuscating pabulum in the Honor Oath or for any of the 20 plus seminars, courses, round tables, etc. that are now part of the CCLD. It is important to note that the converse of this statement is also true: If we will not aggressively enforce those four prohibitions, there are not enough seminars, courses, round tables, or obfuscating pabulum like the Honor Oath that can save us. Because my comments are quite critical I should remind the reader that I believe the Honor Code to be the most important part of my USAFA experience. I value it highly and I think we are losing it. I realize that my comments do not sound like the rosy picture painted by LTC (b)(6) but I will leave it for the reader to decide which one of us has the more accurate picture.

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 2:32 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MRFF billboard
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Good Afternoon (b)(6)

I just read your post on this issue and I have a couple of points. First, is our info going to make it in for context?

Second, your article states:

"After MRFF President (b)(6) in October objected to the inclusion of the phrase "so help me God" in the academy's honor oath, the academy decided to make reciting that part optional. But (b)(6) said that by not completely excising the clause, the oath still violates the Constitution's guarantee that no one shall be subjected to a religious test to hold a public office. "It was pretty obvious the Air Force Academy was going to continue in its noxiously unconstitutional way of including 'so help me God,'" (b)(6) said. "It's something that is completely illegal and unlawful. It marginalizes, it dehumanizes, it offends and it tramples on the essence of the Constitution." (b)(6) had harsh words for Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson's decision not to completely remove the clause. "She is the fourth superintendent we've met with [since MRFF was founded in 2004], and she seems to be the worst of all" in terms of her willingness to engage MRFF on their concerns, (b)(6) said. (b)(6) said he would not object to cadets choosing on their own to add "so help me God" to the honor oath. But making it optional is not good enough, he said, because airmen who chose not to say it would feel pressure to do so."

Did you ask him why he is flip-flopping on the issue, per chance? Just over a week ago, he told (b)(6) at the Colo Springs Gazette that he would settle, though, for "so help me God" to become optional (link below w/out quote, quote was in printed version). Why the flip-flop?

<http://gazette.com/foundation-protesting-so-help-me-god-in-air-force-academy-pledge/article/1508149>

Thanks in advance for including our information for balance and context and I'll be curious to know what the answer is if you ask this question. Take care, (b)(6)

Sincerely,

(b)(6)
 Maj, USAF

Director, Public Affairs
United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 1:23 PM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: MRFF billboard

Thank you for this, (b)(6) Does the academy have any comment on the billboard specifically?

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 3:20 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MRFF billboard

Greetings (b)(6)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this and, quite frankly, correct the record on some issues.

First, the Cadet Honor Oath remains unchanged. However, in the spirit enabling all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy made the final clause optional - cadets can choose to say that final clause or not.

Second, it seems the MRFF is confusing the facts and also does not understand the difference between 1) the commissioning Oath of Office, 2) the Cadet Honor Code, and 3) the Cadet Honor Oath, which remains unchanged.

Finally, and most importantly, I refer you to the MRFF's mission statement and the apparent disagreement of its fundamentals with the final clause in the Cadet Honor Oath as optional, thereby allowing all to be true to their beliefs, whatever those beliefs are.

To help define the differences in the Cadet Honor Code and Cadet Honor Oath, I refer you to our story about the Cadet Honor Code and Honor Oath - you might want to pass it along to them since they seem to be unclear on the facts and, specifically, that the Cadet Honor Oath was not changed -- we simply made the final clause optional, which is directly in line with the MRFF's mission statement to ensure "that all members of the United States

Armed Forces fully receive the Constitutional guarantees of religious freedom."

Here is the link and the story:

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123368388>

Final clause in cadet Honor Oath made optional

by Maj. Brus E. Vidal
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

10/25/2013 - U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. -- After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference -- or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character," Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does," was formally adopted by the Academy's first graduating class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. Cadets retake the oath at the beginning of every school year. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Retired Air Force brigadier general and now the Academy's Athletic Director, Dr. Hans Mueh was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry Department.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating," he said. It was so widespread that the superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the superintendent established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined some additional clout was needed for this oath, which all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin the code to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and personally accept the individual mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Mueh said that addition led to the line "and furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably. "Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God,'" he said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an educational process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets -- as potential future officers -- receive extensive character and leadership instruction, and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through their final semester at the Academy.

The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" the Academy aspires to produce.

"Cadets must meet Academy standards -- honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude -- in order to be a cadet in good standing," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, Commandant of Cadets. "Holding each cadet to these high standards promotes good order and discipline throughout the institution."

The Honor Code is a vital part of cadets' development as military professionals. It also represents a broader aspect of ethical maturity which

will serve them throughout their lives. As the bearers of the public trust, both as cadets and as officers, it is the Honor Code which helps build a personal integrity able to withstand the rigorous demands placed upon them.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
Director, Public Affairs
United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 11:20 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: RE: MRFF billboard

We are probably going to post a story soon, but will add your comment as soon as it arrives. Thanks,

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA [mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 1:15 PM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: MRFF billboard

Hello (b)(6),

I'm about to leave for a meeting, would it be acceptable to get back w/you in a couple hours? Thanks.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6), Maj, USAF
Director, Public Affairs
United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 11:06 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: MRFF billboard

Hi (b)(6)

(b)(6) just called me about the billboard they put up near the academy on the oath thing. Does the academy have any comment on this?

(b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 1:20 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MRFF billboard
Signed By: VIDAL.BRUS.EDWARD.1006883784

Greetings (b)(6)

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that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference -- or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

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Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
Director, Public Affairs
United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

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Sincerely,

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(b)(6) Maj, USAF
Director, Public Affairs
United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 11:06 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: MRFF billboard

Hi (b)(6)

(b)(6) just called me about the billboard they put up near the academy on the oath thing. Does the academy have any comment on this?

(b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 11:54 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: USAFA/PAM (Media)
Subject: RE: FOX NEWS CHANNEL INQUIRY
Attachments: 146 Final clause of Cadet Honor Oath made optional.pdf
Signed By: (b)(6)

Good Afternoon Mr. (b)(6)

It seems there may be some confusion with those members of Congress. Bottom line: the oath remains unchanged.

You might want to ask them about it after you read the below story that details the history of the Cadet Honor Code, the Cadet Honor Oath and the Academy's decision to leave the final clause in the Cadet Honor Oath but make it optional. If I'm one of 4,000 cadets who take the oath, it is my choice to say "so help me God" or not!

Hopefully this story clears the confusion up ... the first three paragraphs are the statement we released when the decision was made (release also attached). You can attribute this info to me. Please let me know if you need anything else, and have a great day!

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)
 Fax: (b)(6)
 E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123368388>

Final clause in cadet Honor Oath made optional

by Maj. Brus E. Vidal
 Air Force Academy Public Affairs

10/25/2013 - U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. -- After reviewing the Cadet

Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference -- or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character," Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does," was formally adopted by the Academy's first graduating class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. Cadets retake the oath at the beginning of every school year. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Retired Air Force brigadier general and now the Academy's Athletic Director, Dr. Hans Mueh was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry Department.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating," he said. It was so widespread that the superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the superintendent established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined some additional clout was needed for this oath, which all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin the code to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and personally accept the individual mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Mueh said that addition led to the line "and furthermore, I resolve to do my

duty and live honorably. "Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God,'" he said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an educational process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets -- as potential future officers -- receive extensive character and leadership instruction, and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through their final semester at the Academy.

The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" the Academy aspires to produce.

"Cadets must meet Academy standards -- honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude -- in order to be a cadet in good standing," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, Commandant of Cadets. "Holding each cadet to these high standards promotes good order and discipline throughout the institution."

The Honor Code is a vital part of cadets' development as military professionals. It also represents a broader aspect of ethical maturity which will serve them throughout their lives. As the bearers of the public trust, both as cadets and as officers, it is the Honor Code which helps build a personal integrity able to withstand the rigorous demands placed upon them.

-----Original Message-----

From: USAFA/PAM (Media)

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 11:43 AM

To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: FW: FOX NEWS CHANNEL INQUIRY

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 11:08 AM

To: USAFA/PAM (Media)

Subject: FOX NEWS CHANNEL INQUIRY

Nearly two dozen members of Congress have expressed concern that the phrase "so help me god" was removed from the Cadet's Oath of Allegiance, the Oath of Office for Officers and the Oath of Enlistment.

Can the Academy confirm or deny that allegation?

If the phrase was removed, could you explain why it was removed and when?

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Fox News

(b)(6)



News Release United States Air Force

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, USAF ACADEMY, CO 80840

www.usafa.af.mil (719) 333-7731

News Release # 146

Oct. 25, 2013

FINAL CLAUSE OF CADET HONOR OATH MADE OPTIONAL

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. – After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference – or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character" General Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

-30-

NOTE: Attached is a history of the Cadet Honor Code and Honor Oath.

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and Leaders for our nation."

USAF FOIA

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:58 AM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath
Signed By: (b)(6)

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
 [mailto:michelle.johnson@usafa.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:24 AM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA
 [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 8:25 AM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

Gen Johnson,

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

More to follow, but it will take some time to fully coord with other services and DOD. Appreciate any other feedback you may get from TJAG or CSAF this week.

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)

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(b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: Re: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

I'll

talk to them again on Monday.

V/r

(b)(6)

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[mailto:michelle.johnson@usafa.edu]

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(b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/CCA

(b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA

Subject: Fw: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

FYSA

----- Original Message -----

From: Welsh, Mark A III Gen MIL USAF AF/CC

[mailto:mark.welsh@pentagon.af.mil]

Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2013 01:47 PM

To: HARDING, RICHARD C Lt Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA; STENDAHL, HOWARD D Maj Gen USAF AF/HC

Cc: HOOG, STEPHEN L Lt Gen USAF AF/CVA; SPENCER, LARRY Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF AF/CC; Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC

Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

Rich -- (b)(5)

(b)(5)

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(b)(5) -- but I should probably know better than to think! r/mark

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Subject: Re: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

Chief,

WILCO.

(b)(5)

Both CNN and NBC are reporting that USAFA leadership has decided to make the honor code oath's phrase, "so help me God," optional.

VR, Rich

----- Original Message -----

From: Welsh, Mark A III Gen MIL USAF AF/CC

Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:46 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: STENDAHL, HOWARD D Maj Gen USAF AF/HC; HARDING, RICHARD C Lt Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/JA

Cc: HOOG, STEPHEN L Lt Gen USAF AF/CVA; SPENCER, LARRY Gen USAF HQ USAF AF/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF AF/CC

Subject: FW: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6) -- track pls. Thanks! r/mark

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:17 PM

To: Welsh, Mark A III Gen MIL USAF AF/CC

Cc: MGen John Miller

Subject: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath

To: General Mark Welsh

Chief of Staff, USAF

Subject: USAF Academy Oath

Oct 25, 2013

Sir:

As a retired Air Force Officer and former Wing Commander, I'm writing to you to express my deep distress at the recent decision by the Academy Superintendent to allow the reference "so help me God." to be optional when taking an oath.

I've never been a religious fanatic and at times had to council those under me about an individual's freedom of choice and application of religion as they apply to officer conduct. However, my faith in God, wither he be Lutheran (my choice by birth), Catholic (my wife's practice), or Jewish (I was exposed to a good bit of Jewish life and culture while growing up. That was an intentional choice of my father who helped liberate the Nazi death Camps), has been affirmed in combat and is unshakable.

To delete reference to God when taking an oath negates the validity and purpose of intent in taking an oath in the first place, which is why those words were added to the Honor Oath. This is certainly what our Founding Fathers intended as stated by General George Washington:

"The Hand of providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations." - George Washington (1778)

Over the past few years I have observed a wave of Political Correctness which has simply gotten out of hand. I even noted yesterday that those testifying before Congress were no longer including "so help me God." in their oaths. I'm sure the Superintendent's change was made with all good

intention, however that doesn't make it right.

From former Heritage president Ed Feulner: "[T]he Founders' attitude toward religion is widely misunderstood. A major source of confusion is the phrase 'separation of church and state,' used by President Thomas Jefferson in an 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptist Association of Connecticut. Many have interpreted this phrase to mean that religion should be entirely personal, kept out of schools and other public institutions. However, as Heritage scholar Jennifer Marshall has argued, this interpretation is incorrect: 'Jefferson wanted to protect states' freedom of religion from federal government control and religious groups' freedom to tend to their internal matters of faith and practice without government interference generally.' America's Founding Fathers did not want the government to impose a government-sponsored church on all Americans. Neither did they seek to confine religion to a separate, private sphere of life. On the contrary, they believed that religion had a vital and enduring role to play in the public affairs of the new American Republic."

To change the culture and heritage of our Air Force by allowing reference to God when giving an oath to be a matter of individual preference is folly and demeans us all. I strongly urge you sir, to reverse this decision and stand up for what is right though perhaps not politically correct.

I apologize for writing to you directly but I was unable to find an address for anyone in the leadership at the Academy. Apparently we don't post e-mail addresses for public access anymore.

Very Respectfully,

(b)(6)

Col. USAF Retired

(b)(6)

Col, USAF (Ret)

(b)(6)

USAF FOIA

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Thank you, Gen Johnson. (b)(5)

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V/r

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Subject: USAF Academy Oath

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Col, USAF (Ret)

(b)(6)

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Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Change in the AFA Oath
Signed By: michelle.johnson@us.af.mil

Thanks, (b)(6) Copy all. Seems the standing of our Honor Oath is different in that it does entail a change in military status like commissioning. Is that how you see it? mdj

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA
 [mailto:(b)(6)]
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To delete reference to God when taking an oath negates the validity and purpose of intent in taking an oath in the first place, which is why those words were added to the Honor Oath. This is certainly what our Founding Fathers intended as stated by General George Washington:

"The Hand of providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations." - George Washington (1778)

Over the past few years I have observed a wave of Political Correctness which has simply gotten out of hand. I even noted yesterday that those testifying before Congress were no longer including "so help me God." in their oaths. I'm sure the Superintendent's change was made with all good intention, however that doesn't make it right.

From former Heritage president Ed Feulner: "[T]he Founders' attitude toward religion is widely misunderstood. A major source of confusion is the phrase 'separation of church and state,' used by President Thomas Jefferson in an 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptist Association of Connecticut. Many have interpreted this phrase to mean that religion should be entirely personal, kept out of schools and other public institutions. However, as Heritage scholar Jennifer Marshall has argued, this interpretation is incorrect: 'Jefferson wanted to protect states' freedom of religion from federal government control and religious groups' freedom to tend to their internal matters of faith and practice without government interference generally.' America's Founding Fathers did not want the government to impose a government-sponsored church on all Americans. Neither did they seek to confine religion to a separate, private sphere of life. On the contrary, they believed that religion had a vital and enduring role to play in the

public affairs of the new American Republic."

To change the culture and heritage of our Air Force by allowing reference to God when giving an oath to be a matter of individual preference is folly and demeans us all. I strongly urge you sir, to reverse this decision and stand up for what is right though perhaps not politically correct.

I apologize for writing to you directly but I was unable to find an address for anyone in the leadership at the Academy. Apparently we don't post e-mail addresses for public access anymore.

Very Respectfully,

(b)(6)

Col. USAF Retired

(b)(6)

Col, USAF (Ret)

(b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 1:20 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Comment?
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Greetings (b)(6)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this and, quite frankly, correct the record on some issues.

First, the Cadet Honor Oath remains unchanged. However, in the spirit enabling all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy made the final clause optional - cadets can choose to say that final clause or not.

Second, it seems the MRFF is confusing the facts and also does not understand the difference between 1) the commissioning Oath of Office, 2) the Cadet Honor Code, and 3) the Cadet Honor Oath, which remains unchanged.

Finally, and most importantly, I refer you to the MRFF's mission statement and the apparent disagreement of its fundamentals with the final clause in the Cadet Honor Oath as optional, thereby allowing all to be true to their beliefs, whatever those beliefs are.

To help define the differences in the Cadet Honor Code and Cadet Honor Oath, I refer you to our story about the Cadet Honor Code and Honor Oath - you might want to pass it along to them since they seem to be unclear on the facts and, specifically, that the Cadet Honor Oath was not changed -- we simply made the final clause optional, which is directly in line with the MRFF's mission statement to ensure "that all members of the United States Armed Forces fully receive the Constitutional guarantees of religious freedom."

Here is the link and the story:

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123368388>

Final clause in cadet Honor Oath made optional

by Maj. Brus E. Vidal
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

10/25/2013 - U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. -- After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and

that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference -- or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character," Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does," was formally adopted by the Academy's first graduating class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. Cadets retake the oath at the beginning of every school year. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Retired Air Force brigadier general and now the Academy's Athletic Director, Dr. Hans Mueh was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry Department.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating," he said. It was so widespread that the superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the superintendent established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined some additional clout was needed for this oath, which all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin the code to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and personally accept the individual mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Mueh said that addition led to the line "and furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably." Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God,'" he said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an educational process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets -- as potential future officers -- receive extensive character and leadership instruction, and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through their final semester at the Academy.

The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" the Academy aspires to produce.

"Cadets must meet Academy standards -- honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude -- in order to be a cadet in good standing," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, Commandant of Cadets. "Holding each cadet to these high standards promotes good order and discipline throughout the institution."

The Honor Code is a vital part of cadets' development as military professionals. It also represents a broader aspect of ethical maturity which will serve them throughout their lives. As the bearers of the public trust, both as cadets and as officers, it is the Honor Code which helps build a personal integrity able to withstand the rigorous demands placed upon them.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Maj, USAF

Director, Public Affairs
United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 9:35 AM
To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: Re: Comment?

(b)(6) senior reporter
The Independent

(b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)
Cell: (b)(6)
(b)(6)

On Nov 6, 2013, at 9:21 AM, (b)(6) USAF USAFA USAFA/PA wrote:

> Good Morning (b)(6)
>
> I received no attachment ... thanks.
>
> (b)(6) Maj, USAF
> Director, Public Affairs
> United States Air Force Academy
> (b)(6)
>
> Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)
> Fax: (b)(6)
> E-mail: (b)(6) "The Air
> Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders
> for our Nation."
>
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: (b)(6)
> Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 9:19 AM
> To: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
> Subject: Comment?

> (b)(6) This billboard is at Nevada and Garden of the Gods. Any comment?

> (b)(6) senior reporter
> The Independent

> (b)(6)
> [Redacted]
> Office: (b)(6)
> Cell: (b)(6)
> (b)(6)
> [Redacted]
> [Redacted]
> [Redacted]
> [Redacted]
> [Redacted]

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/DFAS
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:38 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/DFV
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA DEAN OF FACULTY UT/DFPY (b)(6)
(b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA
USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/DFBL; (b)(6) Col USAF
USAFA USAFA/CV
Subject: Oath
Signed By: (b)(6)

(b)(6) et al,

The questions left unanswered here are as follows:

1. When the Commandant (or whoever) ADMINISTERS the Honor Oath at the end of BCT in the "raise your right hand and repeat after me" fashion, will he/she say the last four words (creating an expectation of repetition and compliance by a senior officer) or will he leave that as truly optional to the basics?
2. When we post and advertise the Honor Oath around USAFA, will it include the optional words? With they be parenthetical?

Until those questions are answered, the release below really doesn't answer any questions.

Glad you're having a hap-hap-happy Air Force Day,

Cheers,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:42 PM
Subject: U.S. Air Force Academy News Release -- Final clause of Honor Oath made optional

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, USAF ACADEMY, CO 80840
www.usafa.af.mil <<http://www.usafa.af.mil>> (719) 333-7731

News Release # 146
 Oct. 25, 2013

FINAL CLAUSE OF CADET HONOR OATH MADE OPTIONAL

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. - After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference - or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

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-30-

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 2:10 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HQ USAFA/DS; (b)(6) CMSgt USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCC; LENGUEL, GREGORY J Brig Gen USAF USAFA COMMANDANT/CADETS UT/CW; (b)(6) Col USAF HQs COMMANDANT/CADETS UT; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC; (b)(6) GS-13 USAF A1M USAF ACADEMY DU/A1; (b)(6) AD-26 USAF USAFA DIRCT OF ATHLETICS UT/AD; Armacost, Andrew P BrigGen USAF USAFA USAFA/DF; (b)(6) Col USAF AFPC USAF ACAD PREP SC/SC/PL; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA 10 ABW/CC; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA; (b)(6) GS-12 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/PAM (b)(6) GS-11 USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/ (b)(6) (b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/A1; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ/PA
Subject: Honor Oath Discussions May Not Be Over...
Signed By: (b)(6)

<http://blog.chron.com/txpotomac/2013/11/sam-johnson-pete-olson-pledge-to-keep-so-help-me-god-in-air-force-honor-oath/>

General Johnson, Ladies and Gents,

This is in today's Houston Chronicle and pasted below. Provided for awareness.

Sam Johnson, Pete Olson pledge to keep "so help me God" in Air Force honor oath

Posted on November 5, 2013 | By Rachel Jackson <<http://blog.chron.com/txpotomac/author/racheljackson/>>

*
*

Graduating Air Force cadets stand at attention inside their football stadium at the start of the commencement ceremony for the class of 2013, at the U.S. Air Force Academy, in Colorado, Wednesday May 29. (Brennan Linsley/AP)
 <http://blog.chron.com/txpotomac/wp-content/blogs.dir/1944/files/2013/11/1026-air-force-honor-oath.jpg_full_600.jpg>

Graduating Air Force cadets stand at attention inside their football stadium at the start of the commencement ceremony for the class of 2013, at the U.S. Air Force Academy, in Colorado, Wednesday May 29. (Brennan Linsley/AP)

Two Texas Congressmen are teaming up to reinstate a religious phrase in an Air Force Academy honor code that was recently removed after a complaint.

Republicans Sam Johnson of Plano and Pete Olson of Sugar Land introduced a bill last week to require Congressional approval before any changes may be made to oaths to enlist in the Armed Forces.

Their legislation <<http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th/house-bill/3416>> comes on the heels of a decision by the Air Force Academy on Oct. 25 to allow cadets taking their honor code to opt out of saying "so help me God" at the end of the oath.

Olson, a former Navy pilot, said military personnel who undergo stressful training to prepare for protecting the nation should be allowed to exercise their religious freedoms.

Johnson spent seven years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, during which time he said he found strength in God.

"I can tell you from experience, there are no atheists in foxholes," Johnson said in a statement. "Many people don't know this but when you survive a near-death experience you realize that the only thing you had to hold on to was your faith in God."

According to Religion News Service <<http://www.chron.com/life/houston-belief/article/Air-Force-Academy-drops-So-help-me-God-from-4939645.php>> , the Air Force changed the oath after the New Mexico-based Military Religious Freedom Foundation complained about the presence of religion in the military. The group says Christianity is given a higher pedestal at the Air Force Academy and has been critical of its use in official military practices.

Other military academies do not use the word "God."

"It's not only my experience, but that of my fellow POWs, veterans, and those currently in harm's way that make 'so help me God' vital to the oath," Johnson said. "I urge my colleagues to join this effort to protect the legacy of freedom of religion."

The bill was introduced last week and has been referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(b)(6)

Director of Communication

US Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

DSN (b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 1:26 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/HQ USAFA/DS; (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/JA; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Cc: KODLICK, LES A Brig Gen USAF HQ USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Col USAF HQ USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/A1; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF HQ USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ/PA; (b)(6) ES-00 USAF HQ USAF U S AIR FORCE HQ/PA; (b)(6) K GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM
Subject: FW: BREAKING: Air Force Times
Signed By: (b)(6)

General Johnson,

The MRFF founder called the AF Times to alert them about the billboard they've put up. In addition to AF Times, (b)(6) of the Independent has also called asking for comment. Here's what we provided to both media outlets and will provide to any other media outlet who calls.

Vr, (b)(6)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this and, quite frankly, correct the record on some issues.

First, the Cadet Honor Oath remains unchanged. However, in the spirit enabling all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy made the final clause optional - cadets can choose to say that final clause or not.

Second, it seems the MRFF is confusing the facts and also does not understand the difference between 1) the commissioning Oath of Office, 2) the Cadet Honor Code, and 3) the Cadet Honor Oath, which remains unchanged.

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Final clause in cadet Honor Oath made optional

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 12:21 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) GS-12
USAF USAFA USAFA/PA/(b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/HC
Subject: BREAKING: Air Force Times

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/article/20131106/NEWS/311060013/Billboard-urges-academy-drop-God-language>

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRR (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 5:31 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CV (b)(6)
 B Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS
Cc: (b)(6) CMSgt USAF HQ USAFA/CCC
Subject: FW: 3 - FW: **Action Item** Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606, Reenlistment in the USAF
Signed By: (b)(6)

Col (b)(6) / Ms. (b)(6)

Please read below...this was received today. This is for the Active Duty Oath of Enlistment and it removes the option to omit the words "So help me God", if desired for

personal reasons.

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)

--

(b)(6) Capt, USAF

Executive Officer to the Vice Superintendent

DSN (b)(6) COMM: (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) MSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMP [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 1:13 PM
To: (b)(6) SSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMP; (b)(6) SSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSOXI;
 (b)(6) SrA USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSOXI; (b)(6) SrA USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMPD; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) A1C USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMPD; (b)(6) SrA USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMP; (b)(6) GS-05
 USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMPD; (b)(6) MSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSVS; (b)(6) A1C USAF
 USAFA 10 FSS/FSMPD; (b)(6) TSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSOXI; (b)(6) A1C USAF USAFA 10
 FSS/FSMPD; (b)(6) TSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMPD; (b)(6) GS-11 USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMPJ;
 10 MDG/CSS; (b)(6) MSgt USAF USAFA 10 MDSS/SGSR; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CSS;
 (b)(6) SSgt USAF USAFA ACADEMY DU/CSS; (b)(6) SSgt USAF USAFA 10 MDSS/SGSR; HQ USAFA/CSS;
 (b)(6) TSgt USAF AFPC USAFA DF/CSS; (b)(6) TSgt USAF USAFA USAFA/CSS; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) SrA USAF USAFA USAFA/RRR; (b)(6) TSgt USAF USAFA USAFA ACAD PREP SC/ (b)(6)
 Civ USAF USAFA 10 MDG/CCE; (b)(6) A1C USAF USAFA ACADEMY DU/CSS; 10 ABW/CCE (Org
 Mail); 306 FTG/CCE; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA COMMANDANT/CADETS UT/CWE; (b)(6) Capt USAF
 DIRCT OF ATHLETICS UT/ADP; (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/RRR; (b)(6) GS-09 USAF

USAF DEAN OF FACULTY UT/DFSP; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/DFXO; (b)(6) CAPT USAF
 USAFA ADP; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA 10 ABW/CCE; (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA
 USAFA/CWD; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/RR; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA
 USAF ACADEMY DU/CVE; USAFA/A1K (Org Mail); USAFA/AD (Taskers) (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY
 DU/CCE; (b)(6) GS-06 USAF USAFA USAF ACAD PREP SC/PLE
 Subject: 3 - FW: **Action Item** Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606, Reenlistment in the USAF

Please ensure widest dissemination...

Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment -- CANCELLED

Reference to Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment MUST READ:

"All Airmen enlisting or reenlisting must take the following oath: I, (State
 your full name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and
 defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign
 and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and
 that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the
 orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the
 Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

This removes the option to omit the words "So help me God", if desired for
 personal reasons.

V/r,

(b)(6) MSgt, USAF

Superintendent, Military Personnel

USAF Academy, CO

Comm: (b)(6)

DSN: (b)(6)

Click on the ICE link and tell us how we are doing:

http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&s=393&sp=103108&dep=*DoD
<http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&s=393&sp=103108&dep=*DoD>

"The information herein is For Official Use Only (FOUO) which must be protected under the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. Unauthorized disclosure or misuse of the PERSONAL INFORMATION may result in criminal and/or civil Penalties."

-----Original Message-----

From: AFPC/DPTSF Change Management

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 12:30 PM

To: AFPC/DPTSF FSS (CC, CD, OPS); AFPC/DPTSF MPF CC & MPS Chief; AFPC/DPTSF

Supt (FSS, MPF, MPS); AFPC/DPTSF MAJCOM Field Activities;

UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_PERSCO Deployed Dlist; UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_ANG Dlist;

UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_AFR Dlist; AFPC/DPTSF Other; 409 AEG Det 2/PERSCO ; 449

Persco; 768 EABS PERSCO; Capt (b)(6) (AETF-A) ;

(b)(6)

(b)(6) GS-15 DoD; FSS-CareerDevelopment; FSS-CustomerSupport;

FSS-EducationandTraining; FSS-ForceManagement; (b)(6) Capt;

(b)(6) Lt Col (b)(6) Lt

Col USAF ACC 495 FG AA/CD; (b)(6) MSgt 966 AES PERSCO; MSgt

(b)(6) (NDU-Ft McNair); (b)(6) CAPT USN

SOUTHCOM SCJ1 (US); (b)(6) SMSgt USAF AFOSI FSS/DPM; STRATCOM/J13,

3A8; (b)(6) Maj

Cc: (b)(6) CMSgt USAF AFPC DPSOA

Subject: ****Action Item**** Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606, Reenlistment
in the USAF

TO: MAJCOMs, FSS/CCs, MPS/Chiefs, MPS/Supts

SUBJECT: Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606, Reenlistment in the USAF

1. An administrative change has been posted to AF Publishing site:

<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/> <<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>> <<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>> <<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>> .

2. This admin change cancels paragraph 5.6 as it currently reads to the
language indicated in the referenced announcement. MPS personnel must
immediately download and comply with the change.

3. POC for MPS personnel is AFPC Reenlistments at DSN 665-2090 or email:

AFPC/DPSReenlistmentsDlist@us.af.mil <<mailto:AFPC/DPSReenlistmentsDlist@us.af.mil>> .

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 3:33 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: Cadet Honor Oath
Attachments: 146 Final clause of Cadet Honor Oath made optional.pdf
Signed By: (b)(6) 1006883784

Good Afternoon Ms. (b)(6)

I'm Major (b)(6) Director of Public Affairs at the Air Force's Academy.
 I just read your blog about "Sam Johnson, Pete Olson pledge to keep "so help me God" in Air Force honor oath," and per my discussion this afternoon with Mr. (b)(6) I wanted to point out that the Cadet Honor Oath remains unchanged and that clause is still part of the oath.

However, that clause is now optional and cadets can choose to either say it when they take the oath or not -- it is their individual choice. Pasted below is our story on the decision along with a history of both the Cadet Honor Code and the Cadet Honor Oath (link here: <http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123368388>) and attached is our release on the decision to make that part of the oath optional but to keep the oath as is.

As Mr. (b)(6) and I discussed, you might want to reach out to the offices of these elected officials to inform them that the oath remains unchanged -- seems that is not evidently clear. At any rate, I provide this information for your situational awareness ... please feel free to ask any questions, otherwise I hope you have a fantastic day!

Sincerely,

(b)(6)
 Maj, USAF
 Director, Public Affairs
 United States Air Force Academy

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

E-mail: (b)(6)

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation."

Final clause in cadet Honor Oath made optional

by Maj. Brus E. Vidal

Air Force Academy Public Affairs

10/25/2013 - U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. -- After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference -- or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character," Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

The Air Force Academy Honor Code, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does," was formally adopted by the Academy's first graduating class of 1959. It is the minimum standard of conduct which cadets expect of themselves and their fellow cadets.

In 1984, the Cadet Wing voted to add an "Honor Oath," for all cadets to take and it is administered to fourth class cadets (freshmen) when they are formally accepted into the Wing at the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training. Cadets retake the oath at the beginning of every school year. The oath consists of a statement of the Honor Code, followed by a resolution for cadets to live honorably and reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Retired Air Force brigadier general and now the Academy's Athletic Director, Dr. Hans Mueh was a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Academy's Chemistry Department.

"In 1984, we had a situation in a Physics 411 course that resulted in widespread allegations of cheating," he said. It was so widespread that the superintendent, Lt. Gen. Skip Scott, suspended the code and granted amnesty for a short period of time to allow all cadets to report previous violations of their personal honor.

"This was done to assess the state of the Code in the Wing. As a result of that feedback, the superintendent established an Honor Committee, chaired by Col. Jim Woody, Professor and Head of Management, to change the way we administer the Code."

Mueh was a member of that committee. He said the committee determined some additional clout was needed for this oath, which all cadets take, so the committee determined the phrase "we will not" was necessary to begin the code to drive home the collective responsibility of all cadets to not tolerate lying, cheating or stealing and personally accept the individual

mandate to live with honor, character and integrity.

Mueh said that addition led to the line "and furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably. "Then, to add more seriousness to the oath, we decided to mirror the commissioning oath and add the words, 'so help me, God,'" he said.

The existence of the Honor Code presents many privileges and responsibilities to each cadet. A cadet's word is accepted as the truth at all times. Academic scores can truly reflect a cadet's individual effort and knowledge because each cadet is expected to adhere to the Honor Code. This adherence extends to a responsibility to confront other cadets on suspected violations of the code. Such confrontations often result in a simple clarification of a misunderstanding, and each cadet learns the value of clear communications in all situations.

From the moment cadets enter the Academy, they begin an educational process designed to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations associated with the Honor Code. To emphasize the magnitude of leading a life of honor, character and integrity, cadets -- as potential future officers -- receive extensive character and leadership instruction, and those same values are inculcated into all military training and extracurricular activities.

The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development provides classroom, seminar, workshop and experiential-based learning programs to all cadets, beginning when they enter Basic Cadet Training and this continues each year through their final semester at the Academy.

The Center's programs, when coupled with the Honor Code and Honor System, establish a foundation for the "leaders of character" the Academy aspires to produce.

"Cadets must meet Academy standards -- honor, physical fitness, academics and military aptitude -- in order to be a cadet in good standing," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Lengyel, Commandant of Cadets. "Holding each cadet to these high standards promotes good order and discipline throughout the institution."

The Honor Code is a vital part of cadets' development as military professionals. It also represents a broader aspect of ethical maturity which will serve them throughout their lives. As the bearers of the public trust, both as cadets and as officers, it is the Honor Code which helps build a personal integrity able to withstand the rigorous demands placed upon them.



News Release United States Air Force

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, USAF ACADEMY, CO 80840

www.usafa.af.mil (719) 333-7731

News Release # 146

Oct. 25, 2013

FINAL CLAUSE OF CADET HONOR OATH MADE OPTIONAL

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. – After reviewing the Cadet Honor Oath, and in the spirit of determining a way ahead that enables all to be true to their beliefs, the Air Force's Academy has decided to make the final clause optional.

"Here at the Academy, we work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference – or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Academy Superintendent. "So, in the spirit of respect, cadets may or may not choose to finish the Honor Oath with 'So help me God.'"

"At the Air Force Academy, we produce Lieutenants for our Air Force and leaders for our Nation, so our focus here continues to be on developing leaders of character" General Johnson said. "This all begins by living honorably. The Honor Code and Honor Oath reinforce this fundamental value."

-30-

NOTE: Attached is a history of the Cadet Honor Code and Honor Oath.

"The Air Force's Academy, producing lieutenants for our Air Force and Leaders for our nation."

USAF FOIA

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:26 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/IG
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS;
(b)(6) CMSgt USAF HQ USAFA/CCC; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRR; (b)(6)
(b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: Recent IG complaints regarding the Honor Oath
Signed By: michelle.johnson@us.af.mil

Sounds good, (b)(6)!

Thank you, mdj

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/IG
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:02 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) CMSgt USAF
HQ USAFA/CCC; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA
USAFA/RRR; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: Recent IG complaints regarding the Honor Oath

Ma'am, these individuals learned about the situation via the media and wrote to our IG office imploring USAFA to keep the "So Help Me God" phrase in the Honor Oath. It was pre-emptive rather than reactive, but by our guidance since they wrote the IG office, we still log them as complaints. We will now reply to these individuals with your official news release and direct them to the USAFA website for the full article and background on the Honor Oath.

V/r (b)(6)

From: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:20 PM
To: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/IG
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CC; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) CMSgt USAF
HQ USAFA/CCC; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA
USAFA/RRR; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF
USAFA USAFA/PA
Subject: Re: Recent IG complaints regarding the Honor Oath

I'm not clear on what the complaints are about? We haven't taken any action yet, beyond taking down one 8x10 poster at the PL...?

Thanks!

mdj

From: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/IG
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 02:50 PM
To: Johnson, Michelle D Lt Gen USAF USAFA USAFA/CC
Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS; (b)(6) CMSgt USAF
HQ USAFA/CCC; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA
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Ma'am, we've received two complaints today concerning the information in the media regarding the Honor Oath. Both were from out-of-state civilians. I have spoken to Maj (b)(6) and I understand there's a strategic communication plan in the works and the USAFA position will be released when a final decision is made.

We will register these complaints in the IG's Automated Case Tracking System (ACTS). We'll then wait on your release of the coordinated strategic communications message before we respond to the complainants. We can expect to receive more complaints regarding this issue in the coming days.

v/r (b)(6)

(b)(6) Col, USAF

HQ USAFA/IG

DSN (b)(6) Comm (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

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Cc: (b)(6) Col USAF USAFA USAFA/CV; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/DS;
(b)(6) CMSgt USAF HQ USAFA/CCC; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
USAFA/HQ USAFA/CCE; Silva, Stephanie M Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRR; (b)(6)
(b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA
USAFA/PA
Subject: RE: Recent IG complaints regarding the Honor Oath
Signed By: (b)(6) 1076244380

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USAFA/RRR; (b)(6) GS-15 USAF USAFA USAFA/CM/CM; (b)(6) Lt Col USAF USAFA/PA
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v/r (b)(6)

(b)(6) Col, USAF

HQ USAFA/IG

DSN (b)(6) Comm (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

United States Air Force Academy

www.academyadmissions.com <<http://www.academyadmissions.com/>>

www.facebook.com/AcademyAdmissions <<http://www.facebook.com/AcademyAdmissions>>

<http://www.goairforcefalcons.com> <<http://www.goairforcefalcons.com/>>

From: (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRA

Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 10:26 AM

To: DRU_All; Harmon Hall_All

Subject: AF Weekly Announcements (28 Oct - 1 Nov)

HQ Staff,

Sir/Ma'am, attached are the announcements from the last week that relate to military and civilian members:

1. CY14 Medical Squadron Commander Matches (USAFA has one select that is projected inbound to 10MDSS: Lt Col

(b)(6)

2. The Rated Issues Branch at Headquarters Air Force Military Policy Division

(HQ AF/A1PPR) has approved an extension to UFT applicants seeking ETP

requests. The new suspense to submit ETP requests is 15 Nov 2013 (previously

31 Oct 2013). Please email afpc.dpalt3@us.af.mil with any questions. POC is

AFPC/DPALT email: AFPC.DPALT3@us.af.mil

3. Change to AFI 36-2606, Active Duty Reenlistment Oath – Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment – CANCELLED. This removes the option to omit the words "So help me God", if desired for personal reasons.

Reference to Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment MUST READ:

"All Airmen enlisting or reenlisting must take the following oath: I, (State your full name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will

bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

4. CY13 Captain Line of the Air Force Quarterly Selection Process – changed Para 2: this only applies to IPZ. All APZ officers will pin on 1 Jan 14. The remainder of this message is unchanged. POC for Promotions: HQ AFPC/DPSOO, DSN 665-2483 email : afpc.dpppo2@us.af.mil. POC for Separations/Retirements: HQ AFPC/DPSOR, DSN 665-2792 email: afpc.dpsor.retsepbranch@us.af.mil.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

--

(b)(6) Capt, USAF

Executive Officer to the Vice Superintendent

DSN: (b)(6) COMM: (b)(6)

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Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

--

(b)(6)

Capt, USAF

Executive Officer to the Vice Superintendent

DSN: (b)(6) COMM: (b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA USAFA/RRO
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 11:28 AM
To: (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRA
Subject: RE: AF Weekly Announcements (28 Oct - 1 Nov)
Signed By: (b)(6)

Really? From last week? I needed this info when it was pertinent/relevant...last week! Not sure how I survived all week without it! Ü

We miss you!

Maj (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRA
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 10:26 AM
To: DRU_All; Harmon Hall_All
Subject: AF Weekly Announcements (28 Oct - 1 Nov)

HQ Staff,

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(b)(6)

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Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

--

(b)(6) Capt, USAF

Executive Officer to the Vice Superintendent

DSN: (b)(6) COMM: (b)(6)

USAF FOIA

From: (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/CVE
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 5:00 PM
To: (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRR
Subject: FW: **Action Item** Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606, Reenlistment in the USAF
Signed By: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Before you send out the below email, I'd recommend you run it by Ms. (b)(6) and Col (b)(6). In fact, I'd recommend you do that today or early tomorrow because other ME execs will be sending out the information to their organizations. USAFA will probably very quickly hear back from concerned individuals/external orgs.

--
 (b)(6) Capt, USAF
 Executive Officer to the Vice Superintendent
 DSN (b)(6) Comm (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) MSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMP
 [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 2:13 PM
To: (b)(6) SSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMP; (b)(6)
 SSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSOXI; (b)(6) SrA USAF USAFA 10
 FSS/FSOXI; (b)(6) SrA USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMPD; (b)(6)
 J A1C USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMP; (b)(6) SrA USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMP;
 (b)(6) GS-05 USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMP; (b)(6) MSgt USAF
 USAFA 10 FSS/FSVS; (b)(6) A1C USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMPD;
 (b)(6) TSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSOXI; (b)(6) A1C USAF
 USAFA 10 FSS/FSMPD; (b)(6) TSgt USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMPD; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) GS-11 USAF USAFA 10 FSS/FSMP; 10 MDG/CSS; (b)(6) MSgt
 USAF USAFA 10 MDSS/SGSR; (b)(6) Civ USAF USAFA USAFA/CSS; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) SSgt USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CSS; (b)(6) SSgt USAF USAFA 10
 MDSS/SGSR; HO USAFA/CSS; (b)(6) TSgt USAF AFPC USAFA DF/CSS;
 (b)(6) TSgt USAF USAFA USAFA/CSS; (b)(6) SrA USAF
 USAFA USAFA/RRR; (b)(6) TSgt USAF USAFA USAF ACAD PREP SC/PLEA;
 (b)(6) CIV USAF USAFA 10 MDG/CCE; (b)(6) A1C
 USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CSS; 10 ABW/CCE (Org Mail); 306 FTG/CCE; (b)(6)
 Capt USAF USAFA COMMANDANT/CADETS UT/CWE; (b)(6) Capt USAF DIRECT OF
 ATHLETICS UT/ADP; (b)(6) LtCol USAF USAFA USAFA/RRR; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) GS-09 USAF USAFA DEAN OF FACULTY UT/DFSP; (b)(6) Capt USAF
 USAFA USAFA/DFXO; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA ADP; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Maj USAF USAFA 10 ABW/CCE; (b)(6) LtCol USAF
 USAFA USAFA/CWD; (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/RRR;
 (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAF ACADEMY DU/CVE; USAFA/A1K (Org Mail);
 USAFA/AD (Taskers); (b)(6) Maj USAF USAF ACADEMY DU/CCE; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) GS-06 USAF USAFA USAF ACAD PREP SC/PLE

Subject: FW: **Action Item** Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606,
Reenlistment in the USAF

Please ensure widest dissemination...

Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment -- CANCELLED

Reference to Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment MUST READ:
"All Airmen enlisting or reenlisting must take the following oath: I, (State
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defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign
and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and
that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the
orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the
Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

This removes the option to omit the words "So help me God", if desired for
personal reasons.

V/r,

(b)(6) MSgt, USAF
Superintendent, Military Personnel
USAF Academy, CO
Comm: (b)(6)
DSN: (b)(6)

Click on the ICE link and tell us how we are doing:
http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&s=393&sp=103108&dep=*DoD

"The information herein is For Official Use Only (FOUO) which must be
protected under the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. Unauthorized disclosure
or misuse of the PERSONAL INFORMATION may result in criminal and/or civil
Penalties."

-----Original Message-----

From: AFPC/DPTSF Change Management
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 12:30 PM
To: AFPC/DPTSF FSS (CC, CD, OPS); AFPC/DPTSF MPF CC & MPS Chief; AFPC/DPTSF
Supt (FSS, MPF, MPS); AFPC/DPTSF MAJCOM Field Activities;
UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_PERSCO Deployed Dlist; UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_ANG Dlist;
UDG_AFPC_DPTSF_AFR Dlist; AFPC/DPTSF Other; 409 AEG Det 2/PERSCO ; 449
(b)(6) 768 EABS PERSCO; Capt (b)(6) (AETF-A) ;
(b)(6)
(b)(6) GS-15 DoD; FSS-CareerDevelopment; FSS-CustomerSupport;
FSS-EducationandTraining; FSS-ForceManagement; (b)(6) Capt;
(b)(6) Lt Col (b)(6) Lt

Col USAF ACC 495 FG AA/CD; (b)(6) MSgt 966 AES PERSCO; MSgt
(b)(6) NDU-Ft McNair; (b)(6) CAPT USN
SOUTHCOM SCJ1 (US); (b)(6) SMSgt USAF AFOSI FSS/DPM; STRATCOM/J13,
3A8; (b)(6), Maj
Cc: (b)(6) CMSgt USAF AFPC DPSOA
Subject: **Action Item** Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606, Reenlistment
in the USAF

TO: MAJCOMs, FSS/CCs, MPS/Chiefs, MPS/Supts

SUBJECT: Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606, Reenlistment in the USAF

1. An administrative change has been posted to AF Publishing site:
<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/> <<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>> .
2. This admin change cancels paragraph 5.6 as it currently reads to the language indicated in the referenced announcement. MPS personnel must immediately download and comply with the change.
3. POC for MPS personnel is AFPC Reenlistments at DSN 665-2090 or email: AFPC/DPSReenlistmentsDlist@us.af.mil.

Sir/Ma'am, attached are the announcements from the last week that relate to military and civilian members:

1. CY14 Medical Squadron Commander Matches (USAFA has one select that is projected inbound to 10MDSS: Lt Col (b)(6))

2. The Rated Issues Branch at Headquarters Air Force Military Policy Division (HQ AF/A1PPR) has approved an extension to UFT applicants seeking ETP requests. The new suspense to submit ETP requests is 15 Nov 2013 (previously 31 Oct 2013). Please email afpc.dpalt3@us.af.mil with any questions. POC is AFPC/DPALT email: AFPC.DPALT3@us.af.mil

3. Change to AFI 36-2606, Active Duty Reenlistment Oath – Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment – CANCELLED. This removes the option to omit the words "So help me God", if desired for personal reasons.

Reference to Paragraph 5.6. Active Duty Oath of Enlistment MUST READ:

"All Airmen enlisting or reenlisting must take the following oath: I, (State your full name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

4. CY13 Captain Line of the Air Force Quarterly Selection Process – changed Para 2: this only applies to IPZ. All APZ officers will pin on 1 Jan 14. The remainder of this message is unchanged. POC for Promotions: HQ AFPC/DPSOO, DSN 665-2483 email : afpc.dpppo2@us.af.mil. POC for Separations/Retirements: HQ AFPC/DPSOR, DSN 665-2792 email: afpc.dpsor.retsepbranch@us.af.mil.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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(b)(6) Capt, USAF

Executive Officer to the Vice Superintendent

DSN: (b)(6) COMM: (b)(6)

USAFA FOIA

From: (b)(6) Capt USAF USAFA USAFA/RRA
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 10:26 AM
To: DRU_All; Harmon Hall_All
Subject: AF Weekly Announcements (28 Oct - 1 Nov)
Attachments: 1 - PSDM 13-102, CY14 Medical Squadron Commander Matches (126 KB); 2 - ***UPDATE*** PSDM 13-81, Announcement of the 14 - 17 January 2014 Ai... (8.98 KB); 3 - **Action Item** Administrative Change to AFI 36-2606, Reenlistment i... (11.3 KB); 4 - ***UPDATE ***CY13C Captain Line of the Air Force (LAF) Quarterly Sel... (5.55 KB)
Signed By: (b)(6)
Categories: CV Exec

HQ Staff,

Sir/Ma'am, attached are the announcements from the last week that relate to military and civilian members:

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(b)(6)

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Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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(b)(6) Capt, USAF

Executive Officer to the Vice Superintendent

DSN (b)(6) COMM: (b)(6)