



A nation in which all chaplains and those whom they serve freely exercise their God-given and constitutionally-protected religious liberties without fear of reprisal.

DOD and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

In February 2014, a DOD spokesman told an online news service that it would “continue to use the liberal SPLC as a resource for its training materials despite numerous complaints about the SPLC’s biases....” The DOD statements amounted to a DOD endorsement of the SPLC as an acceptable reference.

You need to know: Morris Dees founded the SPLC, located in Montgomery, AL, in 1971. The SPLC has an annual budget of about \$35 million with a staff of 200+ employees while managing an endowment fund of \$245.3 million. SPLC’s website features a “hate map” that lists pro-family groups based on their opposition

to same-sex marriage. This list was used by a pro-gay activist to find his targets as part of an act of domestic terrorism. Experts in the field have questioned the SPLC’s “hate” methodology even in its area of supposed expertise – race (e.g., the Klan, Skinheads, etc.).

Some DOD briefings and documents use SPLC “data” and raise concerns. For example:

- March 2012: Pennsylvania Army Reserve Equal Opportunity (EO) training labels Evangelicals and Catholics “extremists.”

- October 2013: Fort Hood, TX - Soldiers were told that evangelical Christians and Tea Party members threatened the country. They were informed that soldiers who

could be subject to discipline under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The instructor spent approximately thirty minutes discussing the ways evangelical Christians, generally, and groups like American Family Association (AFA), specifically, were “tearing the country apart.”

- October 2013-Army Training at Camp Shelby: Approximately 50 U.S. Army active duty soldiers and reservists at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, were told during an anti-discrimination briefing that the AFA should be considered to be a hate group, per the SPLC’s “advice.”

(Continued on 2d page...)

Did you know?

The **Chaplain Alliance (CALL)** speaks on behalf of over half of the nation’s uniformed chaplains. CALL exists to ensure that chaplains can defend and provide for the freedom of religion and conscience that the Constitution guarantees all chaplains and those whom they serve.



More DOD and SPLC news:

- In August 2013, Judicial Watch released documents from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), obtained through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. DEOMI's lesson on "Extremism" dated January 2013 told EO advisors of "additional sources for current extremism information" including the SPLC website. "Teaching Tolerance," The K-12- focused arm of SPLC, was also listed.

- October 2013: Army Secretary John McHugh Pledges to Standardize Training: After news of the events at Camp Shelby and Fort Hood broke, Secretary McHugh wrote a memo on equal opportunity training that was distributed to all Army headquarters. McHugh observed that instructors had erred in supplementing courses with "information or material that is inaccurate, objectionable and otherwise inconsistent with current Army policy."

- On November 12, 2013, DoD's Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Jessica L. Wright, issued a memo to the military services informing them that DEOMI had been instructed to develop templates that would produce uniform military equal opportunity (MEO) training. She noted that this step was based on recent "public incidents calling into question some of the information and materials used in MEO training." Some of these "items seem[ed] to be outside the [DoD guidelines]." These steps by McHugh and Wright seemed to indicate DoD would eliminate reliance on materials by politically motivated organizations which designate peaceful mainstream organizations as extremist groups.



Chaplains Continue to “Nurture the Living; Care for the Wounded; Honor the Fallen.”

WASHINGTON — Since 1775, US Military chaplains have cared for those serving their country with passion, tenderness, and attentiveness. Every day, a chaplain may be called on to do all three of those duties mentioned in the headline above.

Nurturing the Living is what they do the most. From advising the Commander, to visiting troops in the field, to formal and informal counseling...a chaplain's day is filled to the brim with human interaction. It's what a chaplain lives for and they work long days to effect that nurturing of America's finest.

When chaplains are deployed far from home, this activity consumes them as life and death issues become real for many troops.

Caring for the Wounded is a team effort with the chaplain, the medical community, the unit, the Commander, the wounded's peers, the family...who all pitch in to assist the wounded person. As spiritual matters surface, the chaplain is right there to listen or talk through the issues.

Honoring the Fallen is considered the most important task of many chaplains. The chaplain is a critical part of the burial team ensuring the extreme sacrifice of that person is revered. Together, they do their best to ease the pain of such an event and highlight the inherent dignity of this human being whose life will now be a memory for the living.

Contact the CALL Editor for fact checking all stories in this newsletter: dlee@chaplainalliance.org