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Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty to testify before Congress

WASHINGTON — Chaplain (COL) Ron Crews, USA Retired, executive director of Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty will testify before the House Armed Services Committee Friday concerning the need for strong religious protections and accommodations in the military.

The Military Personnel Subcommittee chaired by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and ranking member Susan Davis (D-CA) extended the invitation to Crews to testify at the hearing, which will be held on Friday, Sept. 19 at 8 a.m. in Room 2118 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing will be [broadcast live on the Web](#).

“No American, especially those who serving in the armed forces, should be forced to abandon their religious beliefs. For that reason, I am honored to represent our military chaplains and those they serve before the House Armed Services Committee,” said Crews.

Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty is a leading voice on religious freedom issues for U.S. military personnel. It has presented issues of concern to many HASC members. It has also assisted in writing language that became section 533 of the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act known as the “Right of Conscience Protection.”

Recent religious liberty problems in the military have included an [Air Force Academy cadet forced to remove a Bible verse](#) from his personal whiteboard, [the Navy’s removal of Gideons Bibles](#) from guest lodges, and an Army chaplain counseled because he preached a message deemed “inappropriate” by a supervisory chaplain.

The Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty is an organization of chaplain endorsers, the faith groups that provide chaplains for the U.S. military and other agencies needing chaplains. The endorsers in the Chaplain Alliance speak for more than 2,600 chaplains serving the Armed Forces.

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