

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2012

Honorable Leon E. Panetta  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta,

Religious freedom is an integral component of America's greatness and has been a vital pillar of our nation from the very beginning. Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that the United States Air Force (USAF) has taken a series of steps signaling hostility towards religious freedom. We ask that you investigate this matter and issue clear guidance in writing to formally assure active duty servicemembers and those considering future service that they need not leave their faith at home when they volunteer to serve.

In recent months, the USAF has made various changes regarding the religious freedom of individuals bravely serving in the military. Most of these changes occurred following a September 1, 2011 memorandum issued by General Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the USAF, imposing a stringent policy with regards to religion. The memo stated that Gen. Schwartz expected "chaplains, not commanders, to notify Airmen of Chaplain Corps programs," suggesting that the mere mention of these programs is impermissible. We believe this statement exemplifies the troubling "complete separation" approach that is creating a chilling effect down the chain of command as airmen attempt to comply.

While we agree that leaders should not use their positions to impose their religious beliefs or to extend preferential treatment to those who share their beliefs, the decisions that have been made in reliance upon this policy go beyond what is required by the U.S. Constitution. The First Amendment prohibits the establishment of religion; however, the mere discussion of religion or reference to God certainly does not rise to that level. Censorship is not required for compliance with the Constitution, and should not be required for compliance with military directives.

The USAF repeatedly has succumbed to demands from organizations that seek to remove all references to God and faith in our military. Recent USAF capitulations in this area include:

- Suspending an ethics briefing for nuclear missile officers, due to its discussion of Bible references and St. Augustine's "Just War" theory;
- Removing a Latin reference to "God" from the Rapid Capabilities Office motto;
- Removing an article from a Squadron Officer School distance-learning curriculum because it referenced chapel attendance;
- Removing Bibles from Air Force Inn checklists; and
- Modifying the presentation of the Air Force Academy's involvement with the charity "Operation Christmas Child."



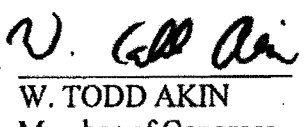
These modifications go beyond the requirements of the Constitution, and appear to have been influenced by the more stringent guidance issued by Gen. Schwartz in September 2011. The changes lend credence to the notion that the Air Force will remove any reference to God or faith that an outside organization brings to its attention.

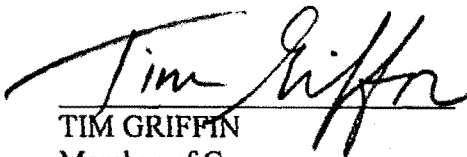
Mr. Secretary, the combination of events mentioned above raises concerns that the Air Force is developing a culture that is hostile towards religion. We request that you investigate what may have led to this series of incidents and issue clear Department of Defense policy guidance, consistent with our Constitution, to preserve the place of religious expression in the military at large. We trust that you will ensure that all analysis of these sensitive issues is being conducted in a deliberative and thoughtful manner, with special respect given to our military's legacy of honoring the place of faith among its members. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to receiving your prompt response.

Sincerely,

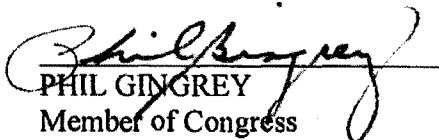
  
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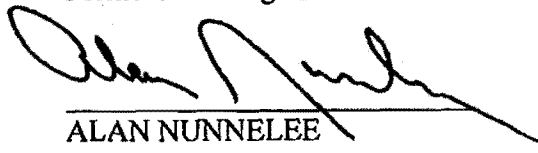
  
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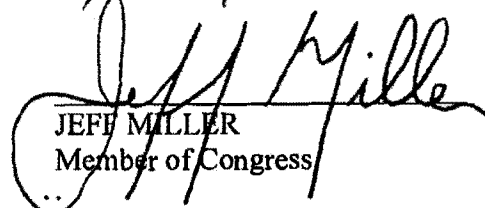
  
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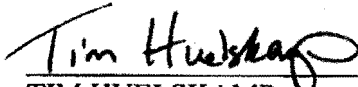
  
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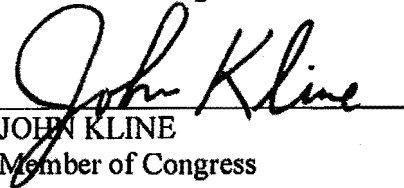
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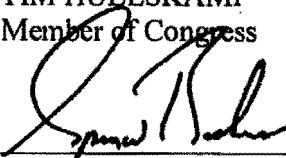
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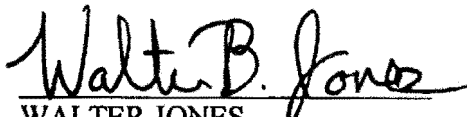
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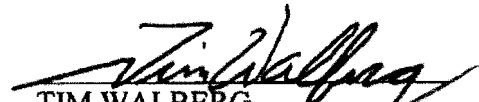
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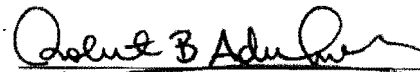
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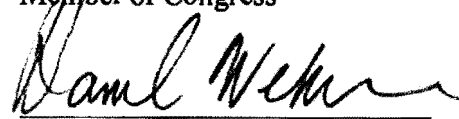
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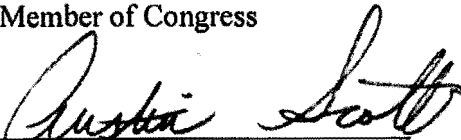
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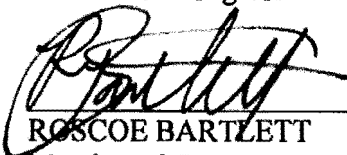
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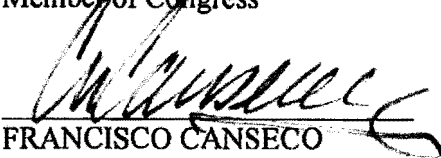
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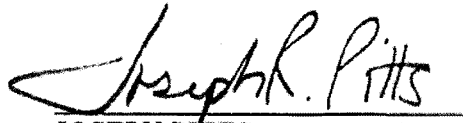
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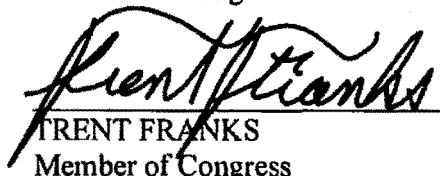
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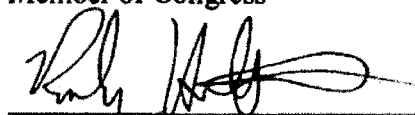
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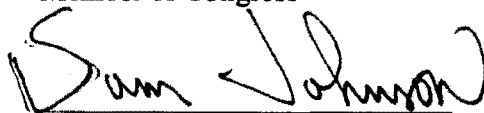
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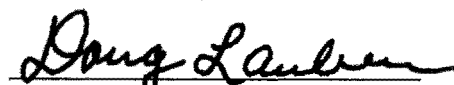
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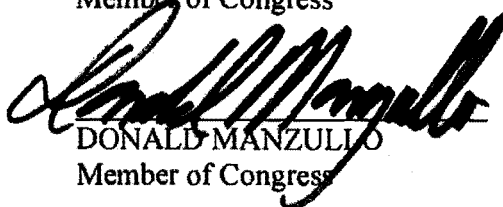
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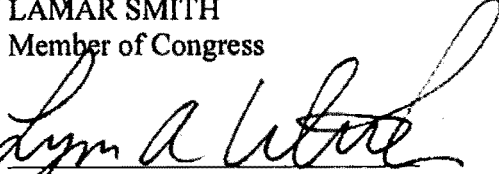
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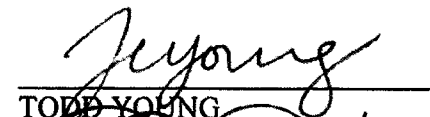
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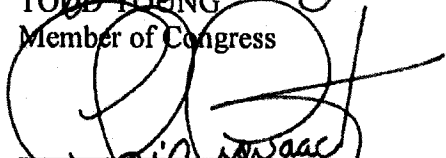
  
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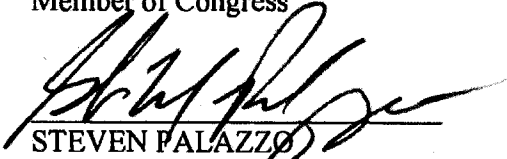
  
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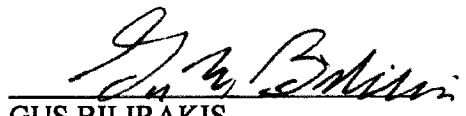
  
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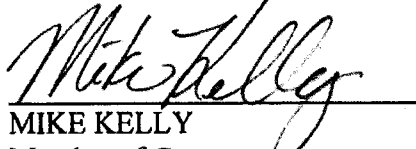
  
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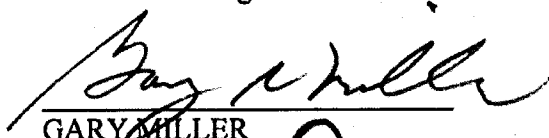
  
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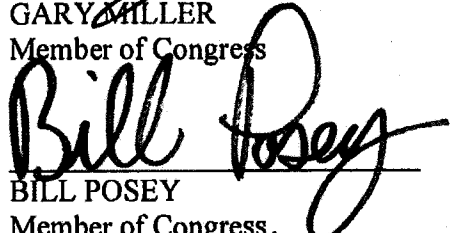
  
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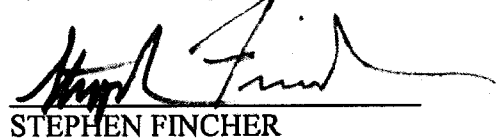
  
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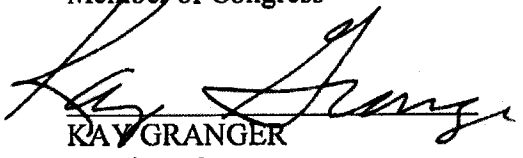
  
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COMMITTEE ON RULES

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4001

May 27, 2011

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Ms. Elizabeth King  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs  
U. S. Department of Defense  
1300 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

FACSIMILE

FAXED TO: (703) 693-5530

TOTAL PAGES FAXED: 2 (Including Cover Sheet)

RE: Mr. Gregory H. Ivey

MESSAGE:

Good morning. Can someone please assist us in answering Mr. Ivey's questions as posed in his email to me (attached)?

Regards,  
Earl

Contact of Sender:  
B. Earl Copeland  
(843) 852-2222  
[earl.copeland@mail.house.gov](mailto:earl.copeland@mail.house.gov)

OSD 06612-11



**Copeland, Earl**

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**Subject:** FW: information regarding ombudsperson

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**From:** Gregory Hugh Ivey [mailto:gregoryhughivey@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 26, 2011 4:52 PM

**To:** Copeland, Earl

**Subject:** Information regarding ombudsperson

Dear Mr Copeland,

I spoke to a representative in Congressman Scotts Charleston office today about general information regarding who and what an ombudsperson is and who is the authoritative office over such individual, who governs them and what role they play when it involves gov't contractors for the DOD contracts.

They directed me to contact you either by phone or email and I chose email.

My question is this in many parts:

1. When dealing with DOD contractors in the states or overseas, is the contractor the entity that employs the ombudsperson or is the ombudsperson employed by the DOD itself or is the ombudsperson a entity of a private?
2. In what capacity does an ombudsperson act as when dealing with DOD contractors employee working enviroments? Are they considered a legal advisor?
3. And finally, to whom does the ombudsperson answer?

I know this may seem redundant however I am just needing to know the ombudsperson's capacity with a DOD contractor.

Thank you for you time and information.

Sincerely

--  
Gregory H Ivey

Regional Director

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