



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF EVANGELICAL  
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## ICECE Press Release

13 March 14

The International Conference of Evangelical Chaplain Endorsers (ICECE) strongly condemns the Air Force Academy's reported removal of a Bible verse posted on a Cadet's white board outside his/her room at the request of an anti-Christian activist.

The media reports Mr. Weinstein, whose objective is to remove Christianity from the military public square, objected to a Bible verse on an Air Force Cadet's whiteboard which the Academy then removed. See "Some Air Force Cadets so angry over what happened with Bible verses on campus they have staged a 'revolt'," *The Blaze*, <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/03/12/>, March 12, 2014; "Air Force Academy Orders Cadet to Remove Bible Verse," *Foxnews.com*, <http://radio.foxnews.com/toddstarnes/top-stories/air-force-academy-orders-cadet-to-remove-bible-verse.html>, March 11, 2014.

This is another display of the Air Force Academy's and Mr. Weinstein's deliberate or negligent ignorance of the Constitution. If the cadet's whiteboard was in the hallway, it's a public forum (which Mr. Weinstein reportedly admits) where the government cannot normally censor private speech. *Capitol Square Review & Advisory Bd. v. Pinette*, 515 U.S. 753 (1995). Mr. Weinstein requested and the Academy exercised unconstitutional content and viewpoint based censorship over private speech. See *Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of Univ. of VA.*, 515 U.S. 819 (1995).

Mr. Weinstein and the Air Force are either ignorant of or wilfully blind to the Free Speech Clause's corollary: the right to speak and write (the Speech Clause protects writing and other modes of expression) carries with it the right to be offended by what one hears and/or sees, including religious speech. The Academy, at the request of Mr. Weinstein, apparently seeks to replace the Constitution's Free Speech and Free Exercise Clauses with the principle of "toleration", where the ruling elite determines and enforces what is orthodox in matters of speech and religion and tolerates minor deviations according to the elite's goodwill or magnanimity. Mr. Weinstein, by his actions, seeks to establish himself as the "chief tolerator", *i.e.*, he determines what is and is not appropriate speech.

While Mr. Weinstein is free to express his unfounded opinions, the Air Force Academy is a government agency and has the duty to respect and obey the limitations the Constitution places on its actions and those of its officials. The Air Force's latest reaction to Mr. Weinstein is yet another indicator the Air Force, which pledges to support and defend the Constitution, needs a refresher course in its understanding of the First Amendment's breadth and scope, especially concerning religious liberty and speech. This is especially true at the Air Force Academy which has the mission of preparing tomorrow's Air Force leaders.

ICECE requests Congress investigate the state of religious liberty at the Air Force Academy in particular and in the Air Force at large. For inquiries, call Art Schulcz at 703-645-4010.

Chairman, ICECE

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"But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Gal. 6:14