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Subject: Army Gives General the Boot

Date: Thu, Feb 2, 2012 3:16 pm



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## Army Gives General the Boot

Lieutenant General William Boykin has stared cowards in the face before, and he won't hesitate to do so now. Not even when the same Army he served is trying to take away the freedom he fought to protect. Boykin, an outspoken Christian and Delta Force hero, had been looking forward to speaking at the West Point Prayer Breakfast since the Academy invited him. In the days leading up to the event, the General Boykin settled on a topic: the importance of leaders seeking God. But it was a speech he never got to deliver. The Academy withdrew the invitation when a handful of atheist and Muslim cadets complained about Boykin's beliefs. The message to this elite, three-star warrior was obvious: you and your faith aren't welcome.



Lieutenant General William Boykin

In an [op-ed defending Boykin](#), FRC's Ken Blackwell and Ken Klukowski explain that "As a private citizen retired from the Army, General Boykin has cast America's war against radical Islamic terrorists as fighting Satan... Evidently it's not politically correct to suggest that blowing up children is the devil's work." And while the Academy was desperate to distance itself from Boykin's faith, it hasn't budged from comments made by his Muslim detractors. The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) not only called Boykin an "[Islamaphobe](#)" but compared his views to the KKK's. "It was an ecumenical presentation," Boykin said about his speech. "It had nothing to do with Islam." But even he sees the writing on the wall. "People of faith and conservative Americans are losing our voice to a very well-organized and very well-funded group of passionate people--those being the atheists and Muslims. They want to change the nature of our culture--and they're succeeding."

Unfortunately, this is part of the long shadow cast on religious freedom by the Obama administration. In three years, the White House has created an environment where hostility toward orthodox Christianity is not only tolerated, but encouraged. Franklin Graham was a target. So was I. We

were all disinvited from military events for the same reason: because we live and embrace our faith. By censoring these leaders, the military is depriving young soldiers of the wisdom of a highly decorated veteran. General Boykin could have helped these cadets as they wrestle with how to integrate their beliefs with military service. Instead, the Academy is suggesting to these young soldiers that living out their faith proudly is a barrier to advancement.

Is that what our country wants--a nation of one-dimensional warriors with no moral compass? Of course not. That's why this march to obliterate faith is as dangerous as it is offensive. General Boykin survived being shot by a .50-caliber gun, and he will survive this. What concerns him, and what should concern all of us, is not whether Christianity will endure--but whether our freedom to practice it will. Without it, what would these cadets be fighting for?

## **If You Can't Exercise Your Conscience, Vote it!**

President Obama told the crowd at this morning's National Prayer Breakfast, "[We can't leave our values at the door.](#)" That's ironic, since the administration is ordering the church to do exactly that when it comes to contraception and abortifacients. Under his new mandate, religious groups have no choice but to set aside their convictions and pay for drugs that can end or prevent a pregnancy. For some people, the decision is bringing the perils of ObamaCare in sharper focus. Coercion like this is at the center of Obama's law, which already forces taxpayers to cover the cost of abortion.

If the White House thought the storm would blow over, they were mistaken. Priests, pastors, and church leaders across the country took to their pulpits Sunday to blast the administration, warning that the end to religious liberty could be near. More than 135 Catholic Bishops have publicly lashed out at the mandate, and even the administration's biggest defenders, like columnists E.J. Dionne, accused the President of throwing his progressive allies "under the bus."

And Catholic leaders aren't the only ones opposed. Sixty evangelical leaders [sent a letter](#) to the Department of Health and Human Services expressing their outrage over the decision, which affects any charity or school that opposes drugs like Plan B and Ella. "We believe that the federal government is obligated by the First Amendment to accommodate the religious convictions of faith-based organizations of all kinds, Catholic and non-Catholic," they wrote.

In the end, say White House aides, the decision was President Obama's--and President Obama's alone. He agreed to the rule, Politico [notes](#), even over opposition from his own Vice President. History may record that President Obama was, in fact, the great unifier--the unifier of Catholics and Protestants who came together to defend religious freedom in America. For more on the debate, check out my interview with Lou Dobbs.



## Girl Scouts Use Cookie Dough for Political Activism

It looks like liberals finally got caught with their hands in the cookie jar! After people like FRC's Cathy Ruse started [exposing the connection](#) between the Girl Scouts and Planned Parenthood, more customers are pulling their support from the annual fundraiser. One news outlet in Idaho, says more than 200 people have complained, bringing cookie sales to one of their lowest points. Shelli Rambo Roberson, the CEO of the local Council, claims there's no partnership. It's just a "rumor," [she told reporters](#).



Not so, says Cathy, who has plenty of documentation from a special U.N. "Girls Only" workshop co-hosted by Planned Parenthood and the Girl Scouts. The workshop included a graphic sex manual called "Healthy, Happy, and Hot," full of ideas too pornographic to repeat. It's part of a joint project to bring "better sexual health" to girls as young as 10. And while some troop leaders are committed to raising women of integrity, we can't turn a blind eye to the Girl Scout headquarters, which is bombarding girls with topics like abortion, contraception, and homosexuality.