

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

April 12, 2013

Honorable John M. McHugh  
Secretary of the Army  
The Pentagon  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary McHugh,

We were deeply concerned to learn of an Army Reserve training brief that lists Catholics, evangelical Christians, Sunni Muslims and some Jews in a “religious extremism” category along with groups like Al Qaeda, Hamas and the KKK. This is astonishing and offensive and we urge you to immediately rescind this briefing.

Religious extremism is a very serious topic, but equating these major world religions with violent extremist groups is simply not acceptable. As you know, the Army is a microcosm of our country and is filled with faithful and peace-loving Catholics, Jews, Muslims and evangelical Christians who are proudly serving our country. This briefing reveals an anti-religion bias rather than a rational approach to religious extremism.

While initial reporting has portrayed this as an isolated incident, we would appreciate a full accounting of this briefing to include who received this briefing, the specific information sources on which the briefing was based, and what the Army is doing to ensure that this sort of offensive briefing is not given again.

Our nation needs to have an honest conversation about religious extremism and what we can do to avoid religious violence. However, labeling these major world religions as extremists is wrong and hurtful. We call on you to rescind this briefing and set the record straight on the Army’s view on these faith groups by providing a balanced briefing on religious extremism.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



John Fleming  
Member of Congress

*Robert Pittenger*

Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress

*Scott Garrett*

Scott Garrett  
Member of Congress

*Alan Nunnelee*

Alan Nunnelee  
Member of Congress

*Tim Huelskamp*

Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress

*Trent Franks*

Trent Franks  
Member of Congress

*Walter B. Jones*

Walter Jones  
Member of Congress

*Vicky Hartzler*

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

*Jack Kingston*

Jack Kingston  
Member of Congress

*Steve King*

Steve King  
Member of Congress

*Gus Bilirakis*

Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

*Vern Buchanan*

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress

*Tim Walberg*

Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

*Michele Bachmann*

Michele Bachmann  
Member of Congress

*Bill Huizenga*

Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

*Mike Kelly*

Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

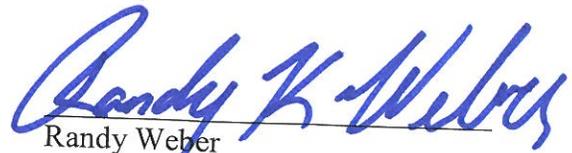
*Duncan Hunter*

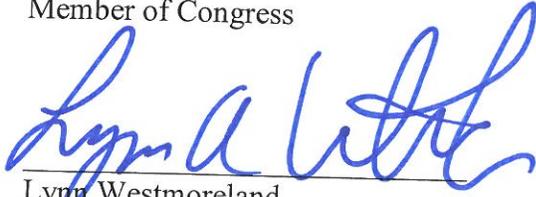
Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress

  
Dan Lipinski  
Member of Congress

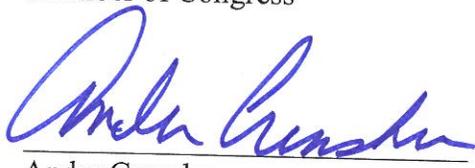
  
Lynn Jenkins  
Member of Congress

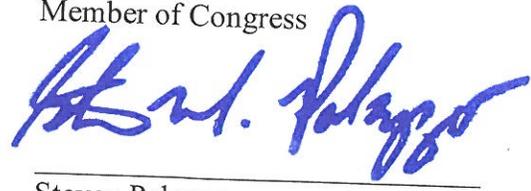
  
Ron DeSantis  
Member of Congress

  
Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

  
Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress

  
Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress

  
Ander Crenshaw  
Member of Congress

  
Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress

  
Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress

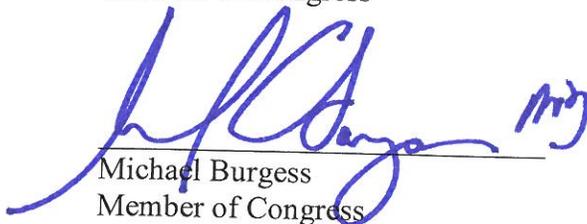
  
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

  
James Lankford  
Member of Congress

  
Patrick McHenry  
Member of Congress

  
Stephen Fincher  
Member of Congress

  
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

  
Michael Burgess  
Member of Congress

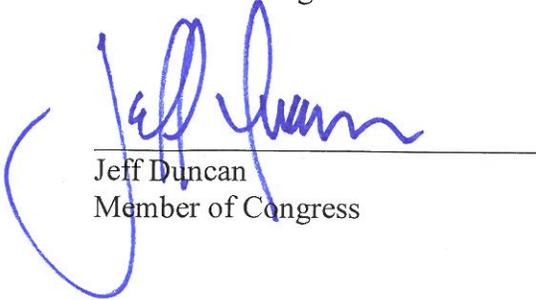
  
Paul Broun  
Member of Congress



Frank Wolf  
Member of Congress



Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



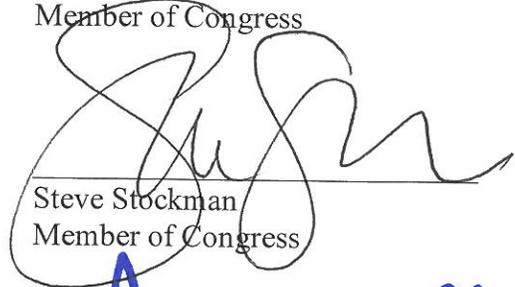
Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress



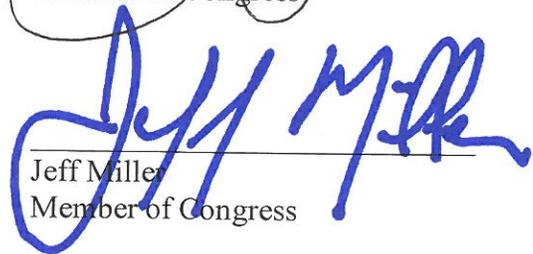
Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress



Steve Stockman  
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress