

# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

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March 3, 2011

SENT VIA MAIL & FAX  
(910-643-3980)

LTC Nelson Van Eck, Jr.  
Staff Judge Advocate  
2175 Reilly Road, Stop A  
Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5000

Re: Disparate Treatment of Rock Beyond Belief

Dear Colonel Van Eck:

I am writing on behalf of soldiers at Fort Bragg and military members of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) regarding serious constitutional violations by Colonel Stephen Sicinski in his treatment of the proposed "Rock Beyond Belief" event. FFRF previously objected to Army support provided to the evangelical "Rock the Fort" event, which occurred at Fort Bragg on September 25, 2010. In response to our complaint, Lieutenant General Frank Helmick said:

[I] am willing to provide similar support to comparable events sponsored by similar non-Federal entities that address the needs of the Soldiers on this Installation.

In response to further questioning by FFRF of the support provided to the Billy Graham Evangelical Association event, we received a letter from you dated February 17, 2011. You said:

With regards to support for future events comparable to the Rock the Fort event, Fort Bragg continues to be willing to provide the same level of support to comparable events proposed by non-federal entities.

These assurances appear to be empty, as Colonel Sicinski has made clear that Rock Beyond Belief will not receive the same support. This unequal treatment violates the Establishment Clause, Free Speech Clause, Equal Protection under the law, and DoD regulations. We request that you address this matter immediately. May we hear from you at your earliest convenience?

Sincerely,



Patrick C. Elliott  
Staff Attorney