

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0506

March 6, 2026

## **The Honorable Platte B. Moring III**

Inspector General

U.S. Department of Defense

4800 Mark Center Drive

Alexandria, VA 22350

Dear Inspector General Moring:

We write regarding recent reports of disturbing discourse within the military that the current war in Iran is justified by biblical end-times prophecies. We write to request a full investigation into any alleged incidents to reassure the American people that their military officers are serving as professionals accountable to the Constitution.

Some commanders have reportedly told subordinates that the American and Israeli attacks will hasten the return of Jesus Christ, and have cited passages from the Book of Revelation and instructed officers to tell their troops that current combat operations are all part of God's divine plan.<sup>1</sup> If accurate, these outrageous statements—justifying a war based on interpretations of biblical prophecies, and informing troops that they are risking their lives to advance a specific religious vision—raises not only glaring Constitutional concerns, but potential violations of Department of Defense regulations regarding religious neutrality and breaches of professional obligations and standards expected of military leadership. Members of the United States Armed Forces swear an oath to support and defend our secular Constitution—not any specific religious doctrines—and servicemembers must be able to carry out their duties free from coercive religious messaging by their chain of command.

Our military, like our nation, reflects a diversity of religious beliefs and perspectives including many non-Christians and non-religious individuals. The Department of Defense has long recognized that proselytizing by commanders can undermine trust within units and erode the professionalism that is essential to effective military operations.<sup>2</sup>

These allegations are also part of a broader political climate in which Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and senior civilian officials have publicly framed Middle East policy in explicitly religious terms.<sup>3</sup> Public statements by administration officials and allies invoking biblical claims about Israel and the region—along with rhetoric suggesting a prophetic or religious dimension to geopolitical conflicts—risks emboldening similar messaging within military ranks.

We urge you to assess whether Secretary Hegseth's extreme religious rhetoric has metastasized into segments of the military chain of command in ways that contravene constitutional protections, departmental rules and standards, or professional military norms. We specifically request that the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General investigate the following:

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/mar/03/us-israel-iran-war-christian-rhetoric>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cdn.factcheck.org/UploadedFiles/2013/08/General-Order-1B1.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://jonathanlarsen.substack.com/p/us-troops-were-told-iran-war-is-for?utm\\_campaign=post&utm\\_medium=web&triedRedirect=true](https://jonathanlarsen.substack.com/p/us-troops-were-told-iran-war-is-for?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web&triedRedirect=true)

1. **Whether military commanders or other officers have made statements to subordinates asserting that U.S. military operations against Iran are part of a religious prophecy, divine plan, or apocalyptic religious event, and if so, where such communications originated within the chain of command.**
2. **Whether any such statements constitute violations of Department of Defense policies, including DoD Instruction 1300.17 “Religious Liberty in the Military Services,” regarding religious neutrality, improper proselytizing, or abuse of command authority.**
3. **The scope and geographic distribution of complaints received within the Department of Defense regarding religiously framed messaging related to the Iran conflict.**
4. **Whether servicemembers who reported these concerns experienced retaliation or fear of retaliation within their units.**
5. **What training, guidance, or oversight currently exists to ensure commanders maintain religious neutrality in operational briefings, command communications, and other official settings.**
6. **Whether additional guidance or action is warranted to ensure that personal religious beliefs are not used to justify or frame U.S. military operations.**

At a time when billions of dollars and untold numbers of lives hang in the balance while the Trump administration wages a war of choice in Iran, the imperative of maintaining strict separation of church and state and protecting the religious freedom of our troops is especially critical. We must ensure that military operations are guided by facts and the law, not end-times prophecy and extreme religious beliefs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to accountability within the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



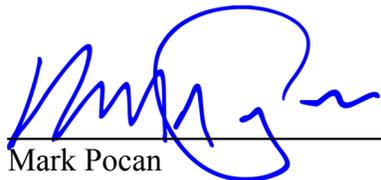
---

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



---

Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



---

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



---

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



---

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



---

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



---

Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



---

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



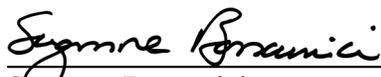
---

Dave Min  
Member of Congress



---

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



---

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



---

Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



---

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



---

Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



---

Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



---

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



---

Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



---

Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



---

Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



---

Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



---

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



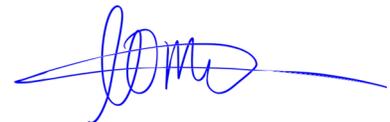
---

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



---

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



---

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

*Jesús G. García*

---

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress