



Written by [Veronika Kyrylenko](#) on March 4, 2026

Troops Report Biblical “End Times” Rhetoric in Iran War Briefings

For decades, one of the key justifications for U.S. hostility toward Iran has been the claim that the country is ruled by unhinged “religious fanatics.” Now, some U.S. troops say their own commanders are invoking the Book of Revelation as justification for war in the Middle East.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF), a nonprofit advocacy group that monitors religious extremism in the armed forces, [reported](#) more than 200 new complaints since Saturday’s initial strikes against Iran. Service members across all branches say high-ranking officers are framing the mission as part of a Christian prophecy.



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The complaints span every branch of service and more than 50 installations, suggesting the message may be spreading through command channels.

The situation raises an urgent point: Wars framed as prophecy rarely end in negotiated settlements. After all, if the mission is Armageddon, escalation is not a risk to avert, but the objective.

“Part of God’s Divine Plan”

[One of the complaints](#) reported by the nonprofit came from a Christian noncommissioned officer (NCO) serving in a unit stationed just outside Iran. Though not currently deployed, it is in a Ready-Support status, meaning it could be sent to the combat zone at any moment. The NCO contacted the MRFF on behalf of 15 troops.

The group included Christians, a Muslim, and a Jew.

During a readiness briefing on Monday, the NCO wrote, their commander urged the unit “to not be ‘afraid’ as to what is happening with our combat operations in Iran right now.” According to the email, the commander framed the conflict in explicitly religious terms:

He urged us to tell our troops that this was “all part of God’s divine plan” and he specifically referenced numerous citations out of the Book of Revelation referring to Armageddon and the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

The commander then allegedly portrayed President Donald Trump as a figure chosen to set that prophecy in motion:

He said that “President Trump has been anointed by Jesus to light the signal fire in Iran to cause Armageddon and mark his return to Earth.”



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The NCO said the remarks disturbed many in the room.

“Our commander would probably be described as a ‘Christian First’ supporter,” the officer wrote. “But what he did this morning was so toxic and over the line that it shocked many of us.”

The NCO also suggested such messaging may not be isolated. The email continued:

Our commander feels as though he is fully supported and justified by the entire ... chain of command to inflict his Armageddon views of our attack on Iran on those of us beneath him.

The serviceman closed with a plea that the complaint would expose the situation:

I hope by sending this email to you that this will help expose these wrong actions which destroy morale and unit cohesion....

Complaints Across the Military

MRFF founder Michael Weinstein, a U.S. Air Force veteran, [told](#) independent journalist Jonathan Larsen the reports are pouring in:

Since the start of the unprovoked American and Israeli war on Iran ... the Military Religious Freedom Foundation has been literally inundated with desperate calls for help from military members across all branches.

According to Weinstein, the complaints share a common theme:

Our MRFF clients report the unrestricted euphoria of their commanders and command chains as to how this new “biblically-sanctioned” war is clearly the undeniable sign of the expeditious approach of the fundamentalist Christian “End Times.”

Weinstein warned that merging religious prophecy with military operations has dangerous consequences, telling [Military.com](#):

If you look back in history whenever you’ve merged any sort of religious fanaticism with the machinery of the state that conducts war, we do not end up with little babbling brooks.... We end up with one thing: oceans and oceans of blood.

MRFF says it is protecting the identities of complainants because they fear retaliation.

Pentagon Deflects the Question

The Pentagon did not directly address the allegations when asked for comment. Instead, officials referred the outlet to general statements by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth about the goals of the Iran operation.

The United States, [Hegseth said](#) Monday, is “laser-focused” on “destroy[ing] Iranian offensive missiles, destroy[ing] Iranian missile production, destroy[ing] their navy and other security infrastructure.”

Quoting President Trump, he [added](#) that “crazy regimes like Iran, hell-bent on prophetic Islamist



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delusions, cannot have nuclear weapons.”

Religious Messaging

The allegations emerge amid increasingly visible religious messaging from the Pentagon itself.

Since last May, Hegseth has hosted monthly Christian prayer gatherings inside the Pentagon, with invitations reportedly sent not only to military personnel but also to defense contractors. The events have featured figures associated with Christian nationalist circles, including pastor Doug Wilson, [controversial](#) founder of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches.

Hegseth has also attended weekly White House Bible studies led by preacher Ralph Drollinger, who teaches that God commands nations to support Israel.

At a Pentagon prayer meeting in September, Hegseth [urged](#) a return to Christian faith in public life. [He reinforced](#) that message in February at the White House. Defense Department social media accounts have also shared posts pairing images of troops with Bible verses, psalms, and prayers.

Neutrality and Professionalism

The U.S. military includes Christians of various denominations, Jews, Muslims, atheists, and members of many other faiths. For that reason, the armed forces have long tried to maintain a careful boundary between personal belief and official authority.

The [Uniform Code of Military Justice](#) and long-standing Department of Defense regulations attempt to reinforce that balance. Commanders may hold personal religious beliefs and service members are free to practice their faith. But officers are expected to avoid using their authority in ways that pressure subordinates to adopt those beliefs.

The principle is less about theology than professionalism. A modern military depends on discipline, cohesion, and trust across ranks and backgrounds. Service members from many beliefs must operate as a single unit under a common mission.

For that reason, commanders are expected to ground orders and briefings in strategy, law, and national interest, not personal belief. When religious language enters official messaging, especially in a hierarchical institution where subordinates cannot easily object, it risks creating pressure where none should exist.

Critics, including [those cited](#) by the *National Catholic Reporter*, warn that such rhetoric risks religious pressure within the ranks and blurs the boundary between personal faith and official military authority.

Finally, framing military operations in prophetic or sectarian terms can also change how conflict itself is understood. Wars presented as policy can be debated, limited, and eventually ended. Holy wars framed as destiny or divine mandate follow a completely different logic.

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