

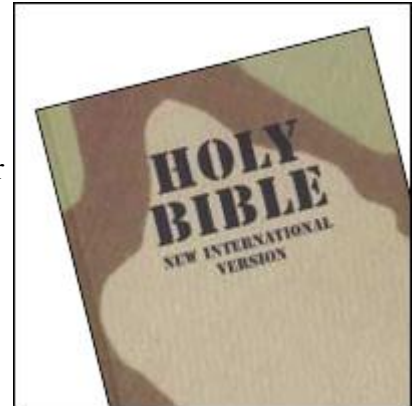
## Military Bows to ACLU Demand Against Preaching

Associated Press - 1/17/2009 4:10:00 AM

Americans entering the military often receive Bibles, courtesy of the Gideons International. But the Gideons have been told that while they can leave complimentary Bibles at most military induction stations, they cannot stay there to proselytize or preach to the recruits.

Daniel Trew, public information officer for the Military Entrance Processing Command, says the policy was recently established after concerns were raised by the American Civil Liberties Union.

"Our legal person went with a representative from the ACLU to one of our stations, and we actually found where the Gideons' individual at that station was getting up and talking to applicants who had just enlisted," he explains. "We could not allow that to go on because the applicants could perceive that this talk was given under the auspices of the Department of Defense."



Trew says the Gideons have agreed to abide by the policy.

## ACLU Targets Minister Over City Council Prayer

Charlie Butts - OneNewsNow - 1/18/2009 4:00:00 AM

The ACLU recently pounced on Roanoke, Virginia, Vice Mayor Sherman Lea over a prayer.

Lea, who is also an associate pastor at a church there, made an indirect reference to Jesus in his prayer at a city council meeting. A person in attendance objected, claiming it is illegal and offensive. The ACLU of Virginia has threatened a lawsuit.



The city's attorney, who has advised dropping mention of a deity in prayer, has mistakenly interpreted the law, according to Mat Staver of Liberty Counsel and dean of Liberty University's Law School.

"Obviously saying the name of God, saying the name of Jesus, does not violate the Constitution," he points out. "Despite the ACLU's rants [and] even the misguided legal opinion of the governmental attorney in this case, the name Jesus is still constitutional."

Staver says America's foundation is based on Judeo-Christian ideas, and Founding Fathers practiced it. "From the very history of our country, in fact the Constitution was indeed birthed on the platform of prayer by government officials -- and not just some 60-second prayer before a meeting, but a three-day prayer in a church," he adds.

Lea has requested the removal of his name from the rotation of ministers who pray at city council meetings. Liberty Counsel's website provides information for the public and government officials with "dos and don'ts" concerning prayer.