



Open Letter to Members of the United States Senate
Re: the Nomination of Air Force General Charles Q. Brown, Jr. to be
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
July 10, 2023

In addition to strongly endorsing the letter initiated by Elaine Donnelly, Founder and President of the Center for Military Readiness, Members of Stand Together Against Racism and Radicalism in the Services, Inc. (STARRS) would like to provide the following background information for the hearing of Gen C.Q Brown to become the next Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff.

We first became aware of a subtle and insidious ideological infiltration of our military on July 7, 2020, with the publication of a 3-minute video by US Air Force Academy football coaches. Concerned about its pro Black Lives Matter sentiment justified by five inaccurate allegations of racial discrimination, members of STARRS approached the Superintendent and received great pushback. Since then we have filed nearly three dozen Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to better understand the facts and circumstances justifying the claim of “systemic racism.” Most have remained unanswered despite the law’s 20-day response requirement.

Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit on our behalf (and a federal court compelled a response.) The first one was issued in February, including a 167-page document originally marked For Official Use Only (perhaps to keep it shielded from the public domain) and 52 entire pages fully redacted. A review of the unredacted material revealed no discrimination, let alone systemic racism. See Judicial Watch’s press release: <https://www.judicialwatch.org/air-force-academy-focus-on-crt/>

Judicial Watch recently received an additional set of records this past week. See their press release here: <https://www.judicialwatch.org/air-force-academy-instructional-materials-include-presentations-on-critical-race-theory/>. Most disturbing is the extent of ideological indoctrination in classroom materials.

On July 7, 2023, an American Spectator article provided substantive details of the indoctrination across all the Service Academies. See <https://spectator.org/the-military-academies-have-turned-into-woke-wastelands/>.

The above material focused on the Academies, but they are just a sampling of what has occurred across the entire Department of Defense. Most importantly, the apparent ideological indoctrination affects military readiness, and given the substantial feedback we have collected over the last 39 months, recruiting as well. Other organizations are coming to similar conclusions. Here is a link to a recently-released Heritage Foundation report: <https://www.heritage.org/defense/report/report-the-national-independent-panel-military-service-and-readiness>

Stand Together Against Racism and Radicalism in the Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 468, Monument, Colorado 80132
www.starrs.us

In another Heritage Foundation Assessment, Index of American Strength, the US Air Force received the lowest readiness assessment. Here is a link to the report: <https://www.heritage.org/military-strength/executive-summary>

An example of direct ideological effect on merit-based readiness is a memorandum establishing racial, ethnic, and gender goals (quotas). See memorandum here: https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2022SAF/Officer_Source_of_Commission_Applicant_Pool_Goals_memo.pdf

A group known as Flag Officers 4 America has approached House leaders with their plea for meritocracy as an antidote to the ideological (CRT/DEI) cancer. Their letter is attached along with 181 flag officers who endorse this action.

In closing, we believe it is extremely harmful for our military leaders to support this Marxist-based ideology when many (most probably the majority of) people experiencing the indoctrination (both the alleged "oppressed" and "oppressors") don't buy into it, find it divisive, demotivating, or demeaning. We have overwhelming documentation this is the case. We sincerely hope our elected representatives will at a minimum hold Gen Brown accountable to ending his overemphasis on DEI, return our military to a meritocracy-based organization and restore the selfless servant warrior ethos so critical for a successful armed force. Unity, not diversity, is our greatest strength.

Please let us know if we can offer any additional information.

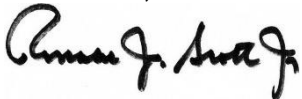
Very respectfully,



Robert D. Bishop, Jr.
Lieutenant General, USAF, Retired
Chairman, STARRS



Joseph W. Arbuckle
Major General, USA, Retired
Vice Chairman, STARRS



Ronald J. Scott, Jr., Ph.D.
Colonel, USAF, Retired
President & CEO, STARRS



John C. Brockman
Colonel, USAF, Retired
Chairman's Group



LaVoy M. "Sam" Thiessen, Jr.
Colonel, USA, Retired
Vice President, Education

Attachment: FO4A Letter to House Leaders



May 20, 2023

Flag Officers 4 America

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-0520

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-3208

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
2205 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-0103

Speaker McCarthy, House Minority Leader Jeffries, Chairman Rogers and Chairman Calvert

We respectfully request that Congress, pursuant to its constitutional powers "...to raise and support Armies..." and "... to provide and maintain a Navy..." take legislative action to remove all diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs from the Department of Defense (DoD). Additionally, we ask that you ensure no DEI related policies, programs, and funding are included in the 2024 NDAA.

As our Nation faces looming threats from "foreign" adversaries/enemies, our military is under assault from a culture war stemming from "domestic" ideologically inspired political policies and practices. If not stopped now, they will forever change the military's warrior ethos essential to performing its mission of deterring aggression and failing that, to fight and win our Nation's wars. Our military must be laser focused on one mission—readiness, undiminished by the culture war engulfing our country.

For generations, our military was a meritocracy, which simply defined means selection and advancement based solely on merit and ability. Service Members (SMs) were judged not by the color of their skin but by their character, duty performance, and potential. Meritocracy, coupled with equal opportunity, created conditions for all to advance and excel, which stimulates healthy competition, thereby raising standards. Historically, our military has been one of, if not the most, diverse and inclusive institution in America.

The domestic cultural threat has an innocuous name: "diversity, equity, and inclusion" (DEI). But, in reality DEI is dividing, not uniting, our military and society. DEI's principles derive from critical race theory, which is rooted in cultural Marxism, where people are grouped into identity classes (typically by race), labeled as "oppressed" or "oppressors," and pitted against each other. Under the guise of DEI, some people are selected for career enhancing opportunities and advancement based on preferences given to identity groups based on race, gender, ethnic

3420 Pump Road #187 Richmond Virginia 23233
PH 202 982 5763 FlagOfficers4America.com

background, sexual orientation, etc. For example, the DoD twice admitted to using race in service academy admissions in its 2022 amicus brief in the pending Supreme Court college admissions cases.

Our military has practiced “equality” by giving equal opportunities for all to achieve. The equality approach ignores skin color, gender, or ethnicity seeing all SMs as equal, with a common set of values and mission. This does not diminish their individuality, but rather celebrates their dedication to duty and a higher noble calling of selfless service to our Nation.

DEI’s “Equity” sounds benign, but in practice it lowers standards. While equality provides equal opportunities, equity’s goal is equal outcomes. To achieve equal outcomes using identity group characteristics, standards must be lowered to accommodate the desired equity outcomes. Lower standards reduce performance where even slight differences in capability impact readiness and can determine war fighting mission success or failure.

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) practices use identity-based preferences in selections for career schools and promotions. As with equity, D&I lowers standards by not always selecting the best qualified to become pilots, academy cadets, leaders at all ranks, etc. Identity based preferences create friction and distrust in the ranks, damaging unit cohesion, teamwork and unity of effort, further degrading readiness.

The “One Team, One Fight” battle motto describes a meritocracy-based military characterized by:

- a common mission and purpose;
- unqualified loyalty to the team and not to an individual’s identity group;
- total trust and confidence in each other for their very lives from the foxhole to the highest level;
- teamwork/camaraderie resulting in the unit cohesion essential for warfighting readiness.

Meritocracy is essential for winning. In professional sports - where the mission is to win games - the best players are fielded to win, no matter their skin color. If meritocracy is used in sports where the consequence of losing a game is minor, why is it not essential in the military where the worst-case consequences of losing a major war are unimaginable losses of life, destruction, and perhaps our Nation? To win, the best qualified SMs must be selected to lead America’s sons and daughters into life and death situations. Meritocracy wins games and it wins wars!

We have fought for our Nation and are sounding the alarm that DEI poses a grave danger to our military warfighting ethos and is degrading warfighting readiness. Social engineering, commonly called “wokeism,” has no place in our military. China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are not distracted by DEI programs; no doubt they are watching us. Equal opportunity and merit-based performance have been battle tested for generations and proven essential for success. DEI policies and practices must be eliminated from the DoD to protect our critical warfighting readiness.

Respectfully submitted,

MG Anders B. Aadland, USA (ret)
BG Dale F. Andres, USA (ret)
RADM Philip Anselmo, USN, (ret)
MG Joe Arbuckle, USA (ret)
BG Edwin J. Arnold, Jr. USA (ret)

BG John C. Arick, USMC (ret)
BG Ernest C. Audino, USA (ret)
RADM Jon Bayless, USN (ret)
RDML James Best, USN (ret)
LTG Rod Bishop, USAF (ret)
BG Stephen M. Bliss, USA (ret)
BG William Bloomer, USMC (ret)
BG Don Bolduc, USA (ret)
MG William Bowdon, USMC (ret)
LTG William G. Boykin, USA (ret)
MG Edward Bracken, USAF (ret)
MG Pat Brady, USA MOH (ret)
RADM Bruce Bremer, USN (ret)
RADM Peter J. Brown, USCG (ret)
LTG Richard "Tex" Brown III, USAF (ret)
BG Frank Bruno, USAF (ret)
VADM Toney Michael Bucchi, USN (ret)
MG David P. Burford, USA (ret)
MG Bobby Butcher, USMC (ret)
RADM John T. Byrd, USN (ret)
MG Henry Canterbury, USAF (ret)
RADM James J. Carey, USN (ret)
BG Jim Cash, USAF (ret)
LTG Dennis Cavin, USA (ret)
LTG James E. Chambers, USAF (ret)
MG Carroll D. Childers, USA (ret)
BG Lawrence L. Christensen, USAF (ret)
RDML Ronald Christenson, USN (ret)
RADM Arthur Clark, USN (ret)
MG Peter Clegg, USA (ret)
MG Jay Closner, USAF (ret)
MG Tom Cole, USA (ret)
MG Richard L. Comer, USAF (ret)
MG David Commons, USAF (ret)
BG Keith B. Connolly, USAF (ret)
BG James N. Coombes, USAF (ret)
Gen. Terrance R. Dake, USMC (ret)
BG Duane Deal, USAF (ret)
BG Howard DeWolf, USAF (ret)

MG Robert Dickerson, USMC (ret)
BG James Dienst, USAF (ret)
MG James L. Dozier, USA (ret)
BG Philip M. Drew, USAF (ret)
General Michael Dugan, USAF (ret)
MG Felix Dupre, USAF (ret)
MG Neil L. Eddins, USAF (ret)
RADM Ernest Elliot, SC, USN (ret)
VADM George W. Emery, USN (ret)
MG Wade Farris, USAF (ret)
BG Steven J. Feldmann, USA (ret)
RADM James H. Flatley III, USN (ret)
LTG Michael Flynn, USA (ret)
BG Rufus Forrest, USAF (ret)
MG Larry D. Fortner, USAF (ret)
BG Jerome Foust, USA (ret)
BG Jimmy E. Fowler, USA (ret)
BG C. William Fox, Jr. M.D., USA (ret)
RADM J. Cameron Fraser, USN (ret)
MG John T. Furlow, USA (ret)
MG Brian I. Geehan, USA (ret)
MG Francis C. Gideon, Jr. USAF (ret)
MG Lee V. Greer, USAF (ret)
MG Thomas Griffith, USAF (ret)
RDML M.R. Grootousen, Sr, USN (ret)
BG John H. Grueser, USAF (ret)
MG Otto K. Habedank, USAF (ret)
MG Kenneth Hagemann, USAF (ret)
RADM D.M. Hagen, USN (ret)
Gen. Alfred Hansen, USAF (ret)
BG Murray A. Hansen, USAF (ret)
RDML John g. Hekman, USN (ret)
VADM Peter M. Hekman, USN (ret)
RADM Larry L. Hereth, USCG (ret)
MG Harald G. Hermes, USAF (ret)
BG James M. Hesson, USA (ret)
MG William b. Hobgood, USA (ret)
BG Stanislaus J. Hoey, USA (ret)
Admiral James Hogg, USN (ret)
MG Bob Hollingsworth, USMC (ret)
BG Thomas W. Honeywill, USAF (ret)
BG Francis A. Hughes, USA (ret)
MG Jim Hunt, USAF (ret)
MG Dewitt T. Irby, Jr., USA (ret)
MG Donald L. Jacka, USA (ret)
MG Alan Johnson, USA (ret)
LTG James H. Johnson, Jr. USA (ret)
BG James M. Johnston III, USAF (ret)
BG Charles Jones, USAF (ret)
BG Robert R. Jordan, USA (ret)

RDML Herbert C. Kaler, USN (ret)
MG Anthony R. Kropp, USA (ret)
RADM Chuck Kubic, CEC, USN (ret)
BG Jerry L. Laws, USA (ret)
RDML Bobby C. Lee, USN (ret)
VADM Dean Lee, USCG (ret)
MG James E. Livingston, USMC, MOH
MG John D. Logeman, USAF (ret)
MG Donald Logeais, USAF (ret)
BG John Lotz, USAF (ret)
BG Robert W. Lovell, USAF (ret)
RDML John T. Lyons III, USN (ret)
MG James C. McCombs, USAF (ret)
LTG Fred McCorkle, USMC (ret)
LTG Thomas McInerney, USAF (ret)
RADM John H. McKinley, USN (ret)
MG Tim McMahon, USAF (ret)
BG Michael P. McRaney, USAF (ret)
BG Ronald Scott Mangum, USA (ret)
BG Jeffrey Marshall, USA (ret)
BG Joe Mensching, USAF (ret)
RADM William F. Merlin, USCG (ret)
MG John F. Miller, Jr, USAF (ret)
RDML James Alan Morgart, USN (ret)
RADM John A. Moriarty, USN (ret)
RADM David R. Morris, USN (ret)
BG Benton Murdock, USA (ret)
RADM William E. Newman, USN (ret)
RADM Phillip R. Olson USN (ret)
MG Ray O'Mara, USAF (ret)
MG Joe Owens, USA (ret)
VADM Jimmy Pappas, USN (ret)
RADM Russ Penniman, USN (ret)
MG Richard Perraut, USAF (ret)
BG Christopher J. Petty, ARNG (ret)
RADM William W. Pickavance, Jr. USN (ret)
RADM Leonard Picotte, USN (ret)
VADM John Poindexter, USN (ret)
MG David S. Post, USAF (ret)
RDML J.J. Quinn, USN (ret)
MG Bentley B. Rayburn, USAF (ret)
LTG Clifford Rees, Jr., USAF (ret)
MG Ron Richard, USMC (ret)
LTG James C. Riley, USA (ret)
BG Teddy Rinebarger, USAF (ret)
MG H. Douglas Robertson, USA (ret)
RDML William D. Rodriguez, USN (ret)
MG Edward Sauley, USAF (ret)
RADM Norman T. Saunders, USCG (ret)

BG Mark Scheid, USA (ret)
MG John P. Schoepner, Jr. USAF (ret)
LTG Richard M. Scofield, USAF (ret)
RADM Paul S. Semko, USN (ret)
LTG E.G. "Buck" Shuler, Jr. USAF (ret)
MG Paul M. Van Sickle, USAF (ret)
BG Tracey Siems, USAF (ret)
MG Darwin H. Simpson, USA (ret)
BG Donald Smith, USAF (ret)
LTG Hubert G. Smith, USA (ret)
BG Ralph Smith, Jr. USAF (ret)
MG Ronald C. Spivey, USAF (ret)
LTG Tom Spoehr, USA (ret)
BG Mark Stearns, USAF (ret)
MG James N. Stewart, USAF (ret)
MG Gerald Still, USAF (ret)
BG Joseph Stringham, USA (ret)
MG Kevin J. Sullivan, USAF (ret)
RADM Jeremy D. Taylor, USN (ret)
LT Gen. David Teal, USAF (ret)
VADM Howard B. Thorsen, USCG (ret)
LTG William Thurman, USAF (ret)
LTG Garry Trexler, USAF (ret)
BG Richard J. Valente, USA (ret)
MG Paul Vallely, USA (ret)
RADM Larry G. Vogt, USN (ret)
BG David B. Warner, USAF (ret)
LTG Ronald L. Watts, USA (ret)
MG Kenneth W. Weir, USMCR (ret)
BG Bill Welch, USAF (ret)
BG David L. Weeks, USA (ret)
MG John M. White, USAF (ret)
BG Robert E. Windham, USA (ret)
RADM H. Denny Wisely, USN (ret)
LTG John Woodmansee, JR. USA (ret)
BG Robert V. Woods, USAF (ret)
LTG John L. Woodward, Jr. USAF (ret)
RADM Robert O. Wray, Jr., USN (ret)
