

Why did DoD leave out JIHAD in its “Extremism Stand Down”?

The events surrounding January 6th apparently served as a pretense for Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to initiate an “Extremism Stand Down” for the Department of Defense, a priority that – at the time – seemed to top every other priority in the Defense Department. Why did the training materials leave out any and all mentions of servicemembers that took part in jihad - acts of violence against their fellow servicemembers (or planned it) because of their adherence to the extremist ideology of sharia?

General Background:

The Secretary of Defense used the event on January 6th to initiate what he called an “Extremism Stand Down” where he issued the following video message:

<https://www.defense.gov/Watch/Video/videoid/784150/dvpcc/false/#DVIDSVideoPlayer581>

In Austin’s video he stated that the problem is “Extremism and Extremist Ideology” and “views and conduct that run counter to everything we believe in and tear at the fabric of the institution” but provided no detail on what was behind this “ideology” or specifics about those views.

He said:

“What is new is the speed and pervasiveness with which extremist ideology can spread due to social media due to the aggressive, organized, and emboldened attitude that many of these hate groups and their sympathizers are now applying to their recruitment and to their operations...(it) concerns me to think that anyone wearing the uniform would espouse these sorts of beliefs, let alone, act on them.”

Again, no mention of what these views are other than that “they run counter to everything we believe.”

This “Extremism Stand Down” took priority over nearly every other form of training and service chiefs such as the Marine Corps Commandant created their own video messages and materials, such as this:

<https://www.marines.mil/Standdown/>

Specific Background: Jihad and Sharia Absent in “Extremism” Training Materials:

Throughout the training material there were examples of “extremists in the ranks” that were provided to commanders to guide their discussions with the troops.

Despite having SIX examples of uniformed members of the U.S. Army either taking part in acts of violence against their fellow servicemembers or being convicted for planning them because of their own personal adherence to sharia, none of these examples were included.

Those examples are provided below:

In **2003, Army Sergeant Hasan Akbar** of the 101st Air Assault Division threw four fragmentation grenades into a tent, killing one and wounding fifteen.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_v._Hasan_K._Akbar

In **2009, Army Major Nidal Hasan** opened fire on fellow soldiers, killing 13 and wounding 30 at Fort Hood. Prior to the attack the FBI noted that Hasan was in contact with Al Qaeda leader Anwar Awlaki, but described Hasan's conversations with the terrorist ideologue as "research."

<https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/pressrel/press-releases/investigation-continues-into-fort-hood-shooting>

In **2012, Army PFC Naser Jason Abdo** was convicted in federal court on May 24, 2012, of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, attempted murder of federal employees, and weapons charges. He was sentenced on August 10, 2012, to two consecutive sentences of life in prison, plus 60 years. Abdo is alleged to have planned the bombing because of his opposition as a Muslim to the U.S. War in Afghanistan.

<https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/sanantonio/press-releases/2012/naser-jason-abdo-sentenced-to-life-in-federal-prison-in-connection-with-killeen-bomb-plot>

In **2015, Army National Guard Specialist Hasan Edmonds** was arrested for conspiring to support ISIS

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/us-army-national-guard-soldier-and-his-cousin-arrested-conspiring-support-terrorism-isis>

In **2018, Army SFC Ikaika Erik Kang** was sentenced today to 25 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), a designated foreign terrorist organization.

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/us-soldier-sentenced-25-years-prison-attempting-provide-material-support-isis>

January 19, 2021 - US Army PFC Cole James Bridges was charged by complaint with attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization and attempting to murder U.S. military service members.

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/us-army-soldier-arrested-attempting-assist-isis-conduct-deadly-ambush-us-troops>