



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A.

National Headquarters
441 North Lee Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone (703) 549-3622
Fax (703) 684-5196
www.cwv.org

Press Release

Contact:
Jose Garcia
National Executive Director
Phone: (512) 560-6091

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2009

CWV EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER HOMELAND SECURITY REPORT

ALEXANDRIA, VA: On April 7, 2009 the federal Department of Homeland Security issued a threat assessment report in which they assert a definition of "Rightwing Extremism" in the United States. The broad definition includes language that says, "It may include groups and individuals that are dedicated to a single issue, such as opposition to abortion or immigration." Further the document specifically points out that returning military veterans of the United States are particularly of interest because of their combat experience and training, and because of, "... the return of military veterans facing significant challenges reintegrating into their communities could lead to the potential emergence of terrorist groups..." Further, the same paragraph states that "Rightwing Extremists" may include persons who, "...are mainly antigovernment, rejecting federal authority in favor of state or local authority, or rejecting government authority entirely."

~ MORE ~

Using this nonspecific language would categorize our Nation's founding fathers as "Rightwing Extremists"!

The CWV is very concerned that this threat assessment, whose original intent is to inform law enforcement personnel of particular domestic cultural trends that may lead to potential violent criminal activity, uses language that an ordinary person could very easily misinterpret. The result being that the activities of legitimate, law abiding veterans and religious organizations might become suspect, and the organization summarily characterized without cause as "Rightwing Extremists".

To clarify our organization's position, the CWV supports the institutions of our federal government, our United States Constitution, and our duly elected representatives. We do not condone the use of violence as a means of protesting specific issues or policies of the United States government at any time.

We would like to remind all of our nation's law enforcement officers and military personnel that they are sworn to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the rights it guarantees to all citizens first and foremost. The citizens of our great nation rightfully expect that all of their constitutionally guaranteed liberty will be equally protected at all times. We strongly recommend that the Department of Homeland Security revise this threat assessment document in order to clarify for readers the significant differences between legitimate and lawful "Issue and Advocacy" organizations, and true "Rightwing Extremists" and terrorists.

-End-

Founded in 1935, the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, Inc. is the preeminent national veterans service organization representing the Catholic military veterans of our nation. The CWV is the only Catholic organization to have been granted an official charter by the U.S. Congress. The CWV is a private, non-profit organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under IRC 501(c)4.