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MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 108, Folder 32, Department of the Army [Fort Riley, Kan.]. 5-6 February 1981.



# ARMY ROTC

COLONEL BENJAMIN L. ABRAMOWITZ  
AREA 4 COMMANDER (AL/MS)  
HQ THIRD ROTC REGION  
FORT RILEY, KS 66442

ATOC-AC4

25 February 1981


Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
Interreligious Affairs Department  
American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Just a note to thank you and express my appreciation for participating in the events at Fort Riley two weeks ago. You were an inspiration to the Jewish community here and also provided the "majority" a lot to think about. I hope what you learned here will provide you a better understanding of the volunteer Army and the environment in which a Jew lives in an isolated military community.

Again, Irene and I enjoyed your visit. I hope that we will meet again.

Sincerely,

  
BENJAMIN L. ABRAMOWITZ  
Colonel, Infantry



*F. Ft. Riley*

23 February 1981

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

Received your very kind and thoughtful note. Mary joins me in sincere thanks.

We thoroughly enjoyed your visit to Fort Riley. Your Prayer Breakfast message was indeed special.

We wish you good health and great success in your future endeavors.

Warm regards,

*Nathan C. Vail*  
NATHAN C. VAIL  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10022



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION (MECH) AND FORT RILEY  
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442

11 February 1981

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
Interreligious Affairs Department  
American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

You have my sincere appreciation for taking time out of your busy schedule to spend a few days at Fort Riley. Your presence at this post has done much to stimulate improved interreligious relations and a deeper commitment to social justice by all who came in contact with you. Your prayer breakfast message concerning the plight of the Vietnamese "Boat People" and the need for recognizing the fundamental rights of human dignity made a profound impression on all who were present.

As a spokesman for the Fort Riley Jewish Community I would like to thank you for bringing us closer as Jews, and reinforcing our traditional Jewish concept of brotherhood and social justice. Your presence within our community has given us a new surge of religious strength and fellowship. I am sure that I speak for the entire Jewish Community when I say thank you for enlightening us with your knowledge of world affairs and the status of civil and religious rights of Jews and all people, both here in America and abroad.

Again, I would like to extend a personal thanks for all you have done. I will long cherish the time I was able to spend with you and the discussions we had. I hope to be able to meet with you again in the not too distant future. I wish both happiness and health to you and your family for many years to come.

Sincerely yours,

*David S. Niekirk*

DAVID S. NIEKERK  
1LT, AGC  
Jewish Lay Leader

Vail, Gen  
→ my father

February 10, 1981

Brigade General Nathan C. Vail  
Department of the Army  
Fort Riley, Kansas 66442

My dear General Vail,

It was a very genuine privilege and pleasure to come to know you.

My visit to Fort Riley was an exceedingly meaningful experience for me, and no small measure of that richness was due to the opportunity it afforded me to spend some time with you and your impressive colleagues.

Please express to Mrs. Vail my warmest appreciation for the lovely luncheon we shared together.

As a token of appreciation, I am enclosing a paperback I wrote dealing with some of the themes I presented during my talk at the National Prayer breakfast. I hope you find it interesting and useful.

With warmest good wishes, and my prayers for God's care over you, Mrs. Vail, and your associates, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Enclosures (Hartford Courant) Religious Values Paperback



# The American Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

*Partain*

*→ mtg folder*

February 10, 1981

General Edward Partain  
Office of the Commanding General  
Department of the Army  
Fort Riley, Kansas 66442

My dear General Partain,

It was a wonderful and stimulating experience sharing the weekend with you and your colleagues.

I was particularly grateful for the privilege of spending some time with you. It was especially gratifying to know that such a major and critical phase of our nation's defense is lodged in the care of such a wise, perceptive, and humane person as yourself. I will sleep better at night knowing that important reality.

My meetings with the chaplains under the skillful and prudential leadership of Chaplain Edmond Speitel also meant a great deal to me. They are a tremendous moral and spiritual resource for serving the religious pluralism of our men and women in uniform as well as our nation.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing a paperback that deals with some of the themes that I presented during my talk at the National Prayer breakfast. I hope you find it interesting and useful.

If there is any way that I ever can be helpful to you and your colleagues either professionally or personally, I hope you will feel free to call on me.

With every good wish and with my heartfelt prayers for God's richest blessings over you, Mrs. Partain, and all your associates, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

*Religious questions*

Enclosure

*pc Speitel, C. Reuter, B. Gold, B. Jacob, L. Green, Herbert S. Indakoff*

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# The American Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

*Speitel*

*→ Mrs. Felder*

February 10, 1981

Chaplain Edmond Speitel  
Chaplain (COL) USA  
Department of the Army  
Office of the Command Chaplain  
Building Number 178  
Fort Riley, Kansas 66442

My dear Ed,

It was a great and most meaningful weekend, thanks entirely to you.

I am particularly grateful, Ed, to you for all your expressions of friendship and and courtesy. Despite the grueling schedule, it was one of the most meaningful experiences that I have had in a very long time.

Enclosed please find a copy of my letter to General Partain. I hope it will prove useful.

After experiencing first-hand the brilliance of your program, I came away from Fort Riley with a renewed appreciation of the chaplaincy.

Again, with much gratitude and my prayers for God's richest blessings over you in your viatal ministry, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Enclosures

*Partain letter  
Relig Values  
Mrs. House/Chaplain Ed - Cantor idea  
Hartford Council*



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT RILEY  
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442

AFZN-CH

16 June 1980

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
The American Jewish Committee  
Institute of Human Relations  
165 East 56 Street  
New York, NY 10022

- Moral Aspects of Leadership
- Moral Dilemma in uniform
- Welfare of Soldiers - accomplishing mission (to embrace soldier)

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

My colleague, Chaplain Standley, has given me the good news regarding your acceptance of our invitation for you to visit Fort Riley on 5-6 February 1981. I am delighted!

You would be serving as guest speaker for the early morning National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, 5 February. That same afternoon, we will most likely invite you to address all of our senior commanders at a luncheon in our Officer's Club. Major General | lieutenant Col.

On Friday afternoon, you will be invited to provide a special ministry to our Jewish community which includes individuals and families from Junction City, Manhattan and Fort Riley. Due to the high cost of travel, I am suggesting a contract for \$1500 to cover all of your expenses and honorarium.

*are doing this on  
the part*

Please send a vita that I may use for advanced publicity and coordination with selected leaders on this installation.

Again, thank you for accepting our invitation.

Sincerely,

*Edmond J. Speitel*

EDMOND J. SPEITEL  
Chaplain (COL), USA  
Command Chaplain

*Prayer Breakfast 2/5 7AM  
Commander  
Lunch hour 5H*

*913 - 239- 3534*

*b...*



"MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE"

1. My country 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing; Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrim's pride,  
From every mountainside Let freedom ring.

2. My native country, thee, Land of the noble free,  
Thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills,  
Thy woods and templed hills;  
My heart with rapture thrills like that above.

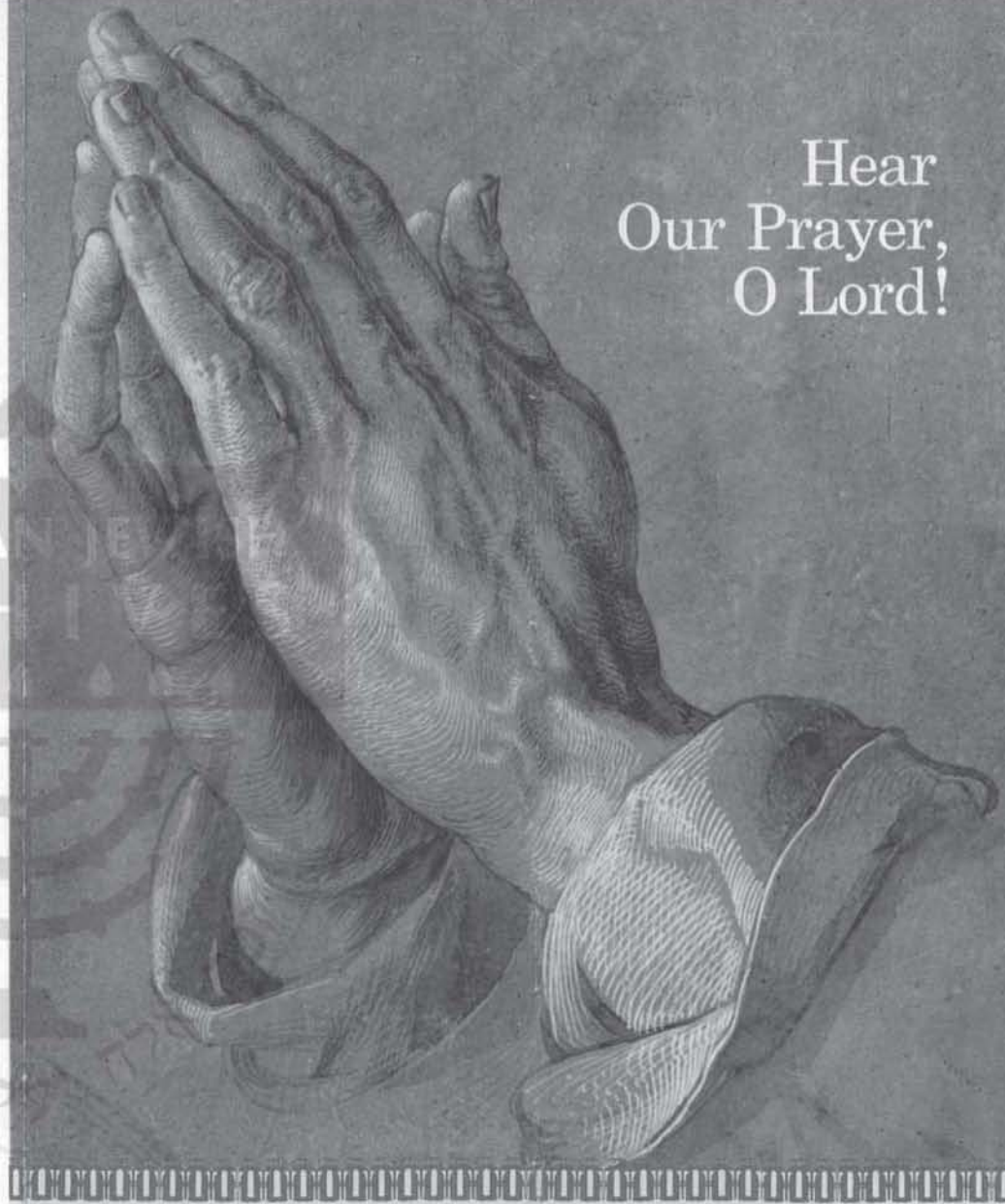
3. Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees  
Sweet freedom's song; Let mortal tongues awake;  
Let all that breathe partake;  
Let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong.

4. Our fathers' God to thee, Author of liberty,  
To thee we sing; Long may our land be bright  
with freedom's Holy light; Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God, our King. Amen.

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We are grateful for the musical support given us this morning by the Brass Ensemble of the 1st Div Band, Mrs. Rebecca Puchy and the Fort Riley Jr. High Chorus, directed by Mr. Ferrell Miller.

Hear  
Our Prayer,  
O Lord!



NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST  
Fort Riley, Kansas

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, has been a pioneering leader and thinker in interreligious relations and social justice movements during the past 30 years. A modern historian, writing recently in Commentary magazine, characterized Rabbi Tanenbaum as "the leading figure among Jewish ecumenists" in fields of interreligious relations and social justice. Newsweek magazine recently devoted its Religious section to an interview with Rabbi Tanenbaum describing him as "the American Jewish community's foremost apostle to the gentiles...who has been able to solicit support from all factions of the Jewish community." In a cover story entitled "The Ten Most Powerful Rabbis," New York magazine (January 22, 1979) described Rabbi Tanenbaum as "the foremost Jewish ecumenical leader in the world today."

A poll of America's religion newspaper editors published in the Christian Century in January 1978, voted Rabbi Tanenbaum one of the ten most respected and influential religious leaders in America (he was ranked fourth after Dr. Billy Graham, Dr. Martin Marty, and President Jimmy Carter.) Sacred Heart University of Bridgeport, Connecticut, conferred an honorary doctorate on the rabbi - his tenth doctorate - characterizing him as "The Human Rights Rabbi of America."

0700 hours	5 February 1981
PRELUDE	Brass Ensemble
WELCOME	MG Edward A. Partain CG, 1st Inf Div (Mech)
*HYMN:	"My Country, 'Tis of Thee" Stanza 1,2
*INVOCATION	SSG Frank M. Johnson President, PMOC
OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 4:1-5	PFC Elvin J. Ledet HHC, 1st Bde
NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 5:1-16	SP5 Katherine A. King HHC, USAG
PRAYER FOR THE NATION	LTC Martin R. Hurwitz Cdr, 2nd Bn 51st ADA
MUSICAL SELECTION	Chorus Ft Riley Jr High School
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	CH (COL) Edmond J. Speitel Command Chaplain
ADDRESS	Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
*HYMN:	"My Country, 'Tis of Thee" Stanza 3,4
*BENEDICTION	Mrs. Lucy Bourgeois President, MCCW
POSTLUDE	Brass Ensemble

PRAYER BREAKFAST MESSAGE  
FROM  
CHAPLAIN (MG) KERMIT D. JOHNSON  
USA, ARMY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS

Prayer has always been our most important resource in guiding the destiny of our nation. Even as our forefathers deliberated the conception of this nation, they turned for guidance to almighty God through prayer. Time and again we continue to invoke and rely on divine wisdom. At every moment of crisis, in every hour of trial, we have prayed for guidance and strength from our creator. Through prayer it is essential that our nation reaffirm that our God is great and good, that the Lord made us and not we ourselves, and that we beseech that God guide and protect us. As you gather for fellowship and prayer, I ask that you join me in vigorous concern for those who now endure suffering of body, mind or spirit, and that we rededicate ourselves to the moral and spiritual values that strengthen the fabric of our lives, the qualities of our leadership, and the hope of peace and security for our nation.

\* \* \* \* \*

\*Standing

February 8, 1981

"FORT RILEY AND DEFENSE OF LIBERTY"

WINS RELIGION COMMENTARY

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM\* OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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Fort Riley, Kansas, is the site of the historic cavalry post that dates back to the frontier days of General Custer, the flamboyant Indian fighter. Founded in the 1850s as a military fort on the Great Western Plains, Ft. Riley is filled with monuments and symbols that recall the turbulent history of the settlement of the West. Nearby are scattered milestones recalling the daring and heroism of pioneer Jews from Central Europe who came in the 1840s to the Plains States to escape what the Founding Fathers termed "that religious and political intolerance under which mankind so long bled and suffered." In Kansas and Missouri, the Cahns, Blocks, and Speyers established the first trading posts that helped build "the commerce of the Prairies" and the settlement of the frontier. Today, Ft. Riley symbolizes the turbulent history of the 1980s and the determined efforts of the American government and people to respond to current threats to our nation's liberties. Last week, Commanding General Edward Partain invited me to address the line officers, the chaplains, and representatives of the 20,000 men and women stationed at Ft. Riley on the moral and spiritual values of American democracy. From long conversations with the generals and in field trips with the tank, missile, and engineer corps, I learned that the famed First Infantry Division here can be deployed to Europe in 48 hours to defend European civilization from attack. But I also learned from battalion commanders how much advanced the Soviet Union now is over us in many forms of defense. The surest deterrent to Soviet aggression it becomes increasingly clear, will be our nation's recovery of that prairie spirit of daring, heroism, and pride in liberty - the indispensable new frontier spirit of the 1980s.

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\*Rabbi Tanenbaum, who is National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, presents a weekly religion commentary over WINS-Westinghouse Broadcasting System.

Feb 6 1981



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

HEADQUARTERS 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION (MECH) AND FORT RILEY  
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442

AFZN-CH

10 June 1980

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
The American Jewish Committee  
Institute of Human Relations  
165 East 56 Street  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Thank you for your expeditious reply regarding our invitation to you. Your secretary indicated that she would tentatively schedule 5 and 6 February 1981 for your visit to Fort Riley.

We have in mind for you to be our guest speaker for the National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday morning. Later that afternoon you would possibly address the commanders at a specially designed luncheon. Friday evening we would like for you to provide a ministry to the members of our Jewish community. I suggest a contract for \$1000 to cover all costs for transportation, lodging, meals and honorarium. Would this amount meet your expectations?

Thank you again for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

MEREDITH R. STANDLEY  
Chaplain (LTC), USA  
PPP/Deputy Command Chaplain

*Prayer*

F.V. Feb  
future mtg

May 27, 1980

Meredith R. Standley  
Chaplain (LTC), USA  
PPP/Deputy Command Chaplain  
Department of the Army  
Headquarters 1st Infantry Division  
(MECH) and Fort Riley  
Fort Riley, Kansas 66442

Dear Chaplain Standley,

Thank you very much for your warm and gracious letter of May 12th.

Barring any unforeseen developments in terms of overseas travel, at present I could consider accepting your thoughtful invitation to be the keynote speaker at your National Prayer Breakfast some time during February 1981.

Why not suggest a few dates and let me see what I can work out?

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Enclosures

*Red*

*Wins - Histories*



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION (MECH) AND FORT RILEY  
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442

AFZN-CH

12 May 1980

Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum  
165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tannenbaum:

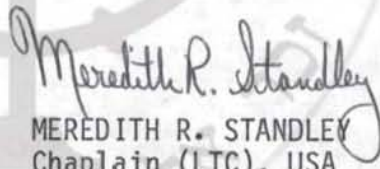
The purpose of this brief letter is to cordially invite you to visit Fort Riley during the month of February. Preferably, during the first or second week and be the keynote speaker for our National Prayer Breakfast.

In addition to this particular address, you are invited to visit with our Jewish community and conduct a three-hour workshop during the evening of the same day for the adults of our Jewish community.

If this particular calendar date appears in conflict with other projected events, could you suggest another occasion? Perhaps during Hanukkah or Passover.

Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,



Meredith R. Standley

MEREDITH R. STANDLEY  
Chaplain (LTC), USA  
PPP/Deputy Command Chaplain