

U.S. academy rapped for terrorism speakers

by UPI

COLORADO SPRINGS -- The U.S. Air Force Academy is drawing fire for hosting three speakers critics say are evangelical Christians falsely claiming to be ex-Muslim terrorists. The three men were invited as part of a weeklong conference on terrorism organized by cadets at the academy's Colorado Springs, Colo., campus because "they offered a unique perspective from inside terrorism," U.S. Air Force Maj. Brett Ashworth, an academy spokesman told *The New York Times*. But, their appearance was criticized by Muslims and religious freedom organizations. "Their entire world view is based on the idea that Islam is evil," Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for the Council on Islamic American Relations, said to the *Times*. "We want to provide a balancing perspective to their hate speech." Members of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, referring to the trio as part of "the endemic evangelical infiltration."

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