

11 May 05

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fleet Forces Command Inspector General (Acting)
FROM: LT G. J. Klingenschmitt
Naval Station Norfolk Chapel, 1530 Gilbert St Ste 2000, Norfolk VA 23511-2727

SUBJECT: Concern over perceived bias of your Fleet Forces Inspector General Team.

Ma'am, I'm the Navy Chaplain your "impartial" inspection team compared to a barking dog.

I'm writing to express concern over perceived bias already exhibited by your Fleet Forces Inspector General Team, even before meeting me.

I've been called as a witness to help you investigate (and prepare your response to inquiries already made by the United States Congress) my well-documented and publicly available claims of religious discrimination by the US Navy, which I personally endured at the hands of my Commanding Officer CAPT James Carr, and four senior chaplains who advised him to discipline me for my manner of prayers, preaching, church attendance, and advocating for Sailors religious needs: CAPT Chaplains Steve Gragg, Bob Evans, Jane Vieira, and Bert Moore. Proof documents are posted online at: <http://www.persuade.tv>. My attorneys and I take religious discrimination seriously, it's caused great emotional hardship to my family, it's hurt my Sailors, and religious discrimination now threatens to end my 14-year active duty career.

I want to testify, and even initiate my own formal IG complaint against senior leaders, but I'm not sure I can trust your team to conduct an impartial investigation. On Monday, 2 May, four members of your IG team called my home on speakerphone, and (apparently not realizing they were being recorded), left an insulting voice-mail, comparing me to a barking dog, making rude comments about my wife and marriage, and disclosing office jokes they made about me even before calling me for an interview.

My outgoing answering machine records my dog barking, and my wife says "leave a message." Following is a transcript of the voice mail message your Inspection Team left me:

"Monday May 2nd 1:12 pm Sent by telephone number (757) 836-3571.

Inspector A: That was it?

Inspector B: Ha ha ha ha

Inspector A: Who let the dogs out?

Inspector B: Ha ha ha ha

Inspector C: Do you think that was him?

**[Inspector C insinuates the chaplain is the dog.]

Inspector D: Probably so.

**[Inspector D agrees, the chaplain is the dog.]

Inspector D: He probably forced her to do that.

**[Inspector D insinuates I treat my wife poorly.]

Inspector B: He's not a Pepsi machine, he's a dog.

**[Inspector B directly calls me a dog, and discloses the inspection team's previous joke comparing me to a Pepsi machine. Apparently they started mocking me even before the call.]

Inspector A: He's a Cappacino machine

**[Inspector A tries to top B's insult.]

Inspector B: Ha ha ha ha

Inspector C: Alrighty!

Inspector B: (Gasp.) Alright."

NOTICE (ABOVE) ALL FOUR NAVY IG INSPECTORS
MAKE COMMENTS BELITTLING THE CHAPLAIN.

“Next message: Monday May 2nd 1:15 pm Sent by telephone number (757) 836-3571.
Inspector B: Yes this message is for Chaplain Klingenschmitt, this is D.... A.... calling from Fleet Forces Command IG’s office. Can you please call me? My number is 836-3571, that’s a local number (757) 836-3581. We are conducting an IG investigation, and you’re a witness in the investigation, we would like to set up an interview with you. Again, D.... A...., Fleet Forces Command IG’s office, 836-3571. Thank you.”

Ma’am, I disappointed, and find their conduct personally insulting and highly unprofessional. To me it reveals the bias this team already has against me, and my claims, even before they interview me. I’m sure they don’t joke this way about the five senior Naval officers whose misconduct they’re supposed to be investigating. I’ve already been victimized by senior leaders, and now I’m concerned the IG team may join them in mistreating me.

Did you know, over 60 Navy chaplains are now involved in class-action lawsuits against the Navy, citing cases of religious discrimination cases similar to mine? But the Navy Inspector General investigating their claims found “nothing wrong” in any of their cases, and “nothing wrong” with the mistreatment junior chaplains received from abusive senior chaplains. Do you think there’s “nothing wrong” ma’am? The numbers alone (60 in lawsuit, but nothing wrong) suggest a strong institutional bias of previous Navy IG teams. It suggests previous Inspector Generals have vowed to “defend the bureaucracy” and “defend the institution” and “discredit the complainers.” Is this what I should expect from your team?

Ma’am, I know you care about the Navy, and you care about Sailors, and I’m asking you to show your team (and the entire Navy) some true leadership. I realize I’m not popular with Navy leaders right now, and nobody wants your team to “find something wrong with the Navy” but I’m telling you there is something wrong, *it was wrong before I got here*, it’s a wide-spread problem, and I’m asking for your help to expose it, so good leaders can actually fix the problems your team finds, to help avoid future lawsuits against the Navy, and render future Congressional inquiries unnecessary.

I’m eager to cooperate and tell my story to impartial investigators. But what assurances are you willing to give me, that your investigators will act impartially, and deliver a truly unbiased report to the US Congress? I need such assurances before I can request my own IG investigation.

I’m regrettably postponing my requested interview with your inspection team until 1. I receive a written apology from the senior ranking member of the four inspectors who left the voice mail, 2. I receive your written assurance that your office will take my claims seriously, and conduct all investigations of my claims professionally and impartially, 3. I consult my attorney about my legal rights, when cooperating with an internal investigation I didn’t initiate, 4. I consult the DoD Inspector General about their willingness to examine your team’s potential bias, and 5. I contact my Congressman to express concern over your team’s bad start. After appropriate corrective measures are taken, I’ll be eager to sit for interviews with your team.

Very respectfully,

//signed//

Gordon James Klingenschmitt
LT, CHC, USNR