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23 December 2005

NAVY BLUES

A US navy chaplain is on hunger strike outside the White House - after military bosses banned him using the word "Jesus".

Lt Gordon Klingenschmitt believes navy chiefs plan to discharge him for refusing to drop Christian-specific language from his public comments. He has filed a lawsuit to keep his post.

He said: "They praise you if you pray just to God. But if you pray in Jesus's name, they counsel you."

The Navy said rules did not limit what chaplains could say at religious ceremonies but specify at other events they should "focus on practices faiths have in common"

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