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Navy chaplain complains about prayer rules

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Navy chaplain complains about prayer rules

WASHINGTON: A Navy chaplain says a new policy recommending non-sectarian prayers is a violation of First Amendment rights.

"I'm very disappointed with the secretary of the Navy," Lt. Gordon James Klingenschmitt told The Washington Times. "He's doing the opposite of what President Bush wants."

Klingenschmitt has asked the president to sign an executive order that would reverse rules from Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter that asks chaplains to consider the religious views of their audience during public prayer.

Klingenschmitt has signed a "formal whistleblower complaint" against the secretary and the chief of Navy chaplains.

The chaplain received a reprimand for a service in the summer of 2004 attended by about 50 people serving on the USS Anzio and a number of spouses, after some members of the congregation complained.

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