

Chief of Navy Chaplains Creates Shocking New Prayer Policy (all by himself, without policy authority)!

- Declares “open-hunting-season” on chaplains who pray insensitively “in Jesus name”
- Empowers Commanders to censor, exclude, or punish junior chaplains who decline to pray to the Commander’s god when ordered (for disobeying orders)
- Replaces one 1998 “non-sectarian” prayer policy with 1,000 different prayer-policies Navy-wide
- Army Chief of Chaplains agrees chaplains should be censored
- Air Force Chief of Chaplains disagrees, but may be overruled by Secretary of Defense
- Now three different prayer policies for Army, Navy, and Air Force.

**(Read all three prayer policies, including NEW Navy policy,
in 6 page press release just posted online!)**

BREAKING NEWS AT THIS LINK:

www.persuade.tv/frenzy/NewNavyPrayerPolicy.pdf

BONUS! THREE hot RELATED breaking news ITEMS (click web-links to read more):

1) 29 pro-family groups (80 million evangelicals) ask President Bush to help Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt (the Navy Chaplain who staged an 18-day hunger-strike in front of the White House)... <http://persuade.tv/frenzy/29Groups.pdf>

2) Jay Sekulow’s ACLJ petition drive for Presidential Executive Order tops 200,000 (and that doesn’t include the THOUSANDS of calls to the White House switchboard generated by Chaplain Klingenschmitt’s guest appearance on 30+ different radio shows)... <http://www.aclj.org/News/Read.aspx?ID=2078>

3) White House Spokesman promises Presidential action... <http://persuade.tv/frenzy/WhiteHouseSpokesmanForChaps.pdf>

But Executive Order Not Yet Signed...

So keep emailing president@whitehouse.gov

And keep calling the White House at 202-456-1414...

And keep asking President Bush to “Please sign Executive Order and let military chaplains to pray according to their diverse faith...”

And forward this press release to everybody you know....



Chief of Navy Chaplains
Official Statement on Public Prayer in the Navy (distributed 19 Jan 06)
(Chaplain Klingenschmitt's rebuttal in Arial Bold Italics)

Title 10 of the United States Code, Section 6031, requires commanders to cause Divine Services to be performed and protects chaplains' rights to conduct those Services "according to the manner and forms" of their religious organization.

Notice Rear Admiral Iasiello entirely omits mention of the First Amendment, which Constitutionally protects our prayer content in ALL settings, and instead he starts by immediately trying to limit the scope of Federal Law Title 10, confining Jesus to the chapel. OUTSIDE THE CHAPEL HE CLAIMS THE FIRST AMENDMENT DOES NOT PROTECT OUR PRAYERS. OUTSIDE THE CHAPEL HE CLAIMS WE HAVE ZERO PROTECTION UNDER FEDERAL LAW. Congress, do you realize what he's saying? Mr. President, will you protect our right to pray publicly in Jesus name in the daylight, without punishment by senior chaplains and commanding officers, who routinely censor and punish our prayers? Mr. President and all members of Congress, I reasonably allege these senior chaplains and commanding officers have failed to uphold their commitment to the oath of service, they've violated laws and regulations, unlawfully discriminated, and abused their power. And (despite my sincere respect for their rank and position), as a declared whistleblower I hereby report their wrongdoing, in this very memo addressed to the President and Members of the United States Congress, through any lawful media, as is my lawful right (and duty) under US Code Title 10 Section 1034 and DoDD 7050.6.

Navy policy on prayer recognizes the distinction between Divine Services and other command functions that customarily or traditionally may contain elements commonly held to be religious, such as invocations or benedictions. **What Navy policy makes any such distinction, or says anything about "prayer at command functions?" Please show me the policy. It doesn't exist. Who signed any such policy? SECNAV or CNO? NO. This entire document is the OPINION of the Chief of Navy Chaplains, who has NO LAWFUL AUTHORITY to create, write, or sign Navy policy. Even today it's not been proven to me that Chief of Navy Chaplains has "by direction authority" to create Navy policy (note he claims this a statement, not a policy), neither has CNO signed any policy, since CNO's still debating what policy to sign, if any. Congress, please consider this my formal complaint of a FALSE OFFICIAL STATEMENT by Chief of Navy Chaplains, for claiming such a policy exists, when it does not.**

Navy chaplains who serve in Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard commands are trained to distinguish between Divine Services and other command functions at which they may be invited to offer prayer. ***He admits guilt for authorizing illegal prayer lectures at Naval Chaplain School (see App. J at www.persuade.tv) which intimidate us not to pray "in Jesus name" in public, when senior chaplain instructors with clipboards evaluate, criticize, and censor our prayers.***

Our nation encompasses a diversity of faiths and beliefs as do our Navy communities. ***But this statement discourages diversity, and enforces conformity to one government civic religion called "pluralism," the polar opposite of diversity. Diversity would let Muslims pray to Allah, Catholics pray in the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit, Jews pray to Adonai, and Evangelicals pray in Jesus name. Pluralism forbids any such thing!***

DoD policy requires commanders to accommodate individual religious practices consonant with the best interests of the unit (DoDD 1300. 17).

If policy really requires accommodation, why does he now tell commanding officers to force their government-sanitized faith upon all junior Sailors, and refuse accommodation of diverse faith expressions? He's abrogating the spirit and intent of accommodation.

Tolerance and mutual respect guide Navy policy, doctrine and practice

I tolerate his prayers, why doesn't he tolerate mine? Instead he told me in writing that if I pray "in Jesus name" that I'm "denigrating other faiths" and so he defames my prayers in Jesus name as "errors in judgment," see Appendix Z at www.persuade.tv. He remains INTOLERANT OF MY FAITH, when I advocate for HIS right to pray however he wishes.

in order to recognize and balance both the rights of chaplains and the rights of those who attend command functions, such as changes of command, retirement ceremonies and other functions that commonly incorporate religious elements. ***There can be no balance, unless we take turns. To enforce the commanding officer's civic religion upon all the Sailors, or allow just one chaplain's faith, entirely IMBALANCES the diversity of faiths in the crowd. TAKE TURNS, SHARE THE PRAYER. Let the Sailors appoint lay-leaders to take turns with the chaplain, to say DIVERSE prayers at recurring events. At singular (non-recurring) events let one person pray according to his or her conscience, as a symbol of the First Amendment freedoms we all value, even if we disagree. DON'T CENSOR THE PRAYER or the prayer-giver.***

Recognition that religious ministry in the military takes place in a pluralistic setting is a prerequisite for service as a Navy chaplain. To be considered for appointment to military chaplaincy, religious ministry professionals must be "willing to function in a pluralistic environment..." and follow the orders given by those appointed over them (DODI 1304.28: 6.1.3 and 6.4.2).

WOW. Chief of Chaplains here establishes a commander's right to ORDER me to pray to the commander's god? If I decline to pray to the commander's god, must I exclude myself from participation? Commanders can now force one civic-religion on all Sailors? I'm willing to pray "in Jesus name" in a pluralistic environment, just as I advocated for my Jewish Sailor's right to pray to Adonai, my Muslim Sailor to pray to Allah, my Roman Catholic to pray to the Trinity, BUT INSTEAD MY COMMANDER DIRECTED ME TO PRAY JEWISH PRAYERS. Even when I obeyed his orders, and prayed only from the Psalms for 8 months, he told a Navy board to end my career, saying I "over-emphasized my own faith system" because I claimed a right to pray "in Jesus name" at Chaplain School.

In settings other than Divine Services, chaplains are encouraged to respect the diversity of the community as they facilitate the free exercise of religion guaranteed by the Constitution and military policy (DoDD 1304.19). ***We're not "encouraged," we're ordered by commanders to censor our prayers and sermons! If we fail to obey their "encouragement" Chief of Chaplains here claims we have NO LEGAL TITLE 10 PROTECTION to stop a commander from punishing us, when senior chaplains ADVISE THEM TO PUNISH US (even during "Divine Services") just like Chaplain Gragg openly advised CAPT Carr to punish me for quoting the Bible during an optionally-attended "Christian Memorial Service" in the chapel, and so they dishonored the Christian faith of a deceased member of my flock, who deserved a Christian burial.***

Commanders retain the responsibility to provide guidance for all command functions.

WOW. Chief of Chaplains (without authority) here authorizes Commanding Officers to directly control our prayer content. Never in history has the First Amendment granted such power to a C.O. THIS IS FAR WORSE THAN ENFORCING ONE POLICY OF "NON-SECTARIAN" PRAYERS. We now have 1,000 prayer policies across the Navy, each defined by the unique personal sensitivity-requirements of 1,000 diverse Commanding Officers. If I report to a Jewish commander, must I pray Jewish prayers? If I report to a Muslim commander, will I have to pray Muslim prayers? If I report to Rear Admiral Iasiello, will I have to pray to his false god of Pluralism? Why can't I pray how my civilian bishop and seminary taught me?

In planning command functions other than Divine Services that incorporate religious elements, commanders, with the advice of their chaplains, should assess the setting and context of the function. **Forget the advice of the Chaplain, the commander (apparently) has ABSOLUTE POWER. Also forget the chaplain's obligation to pray as his civilian bishop requires. The price of participation is that we DISOBEY our bishops and pray only to the commander's god. (And force all junior Sailors to pray to the commander's god too.) Why not take turns, share the prayer, and celebrate religious diversity OF THE SAILORS not the commander?**

The diversity of faith that may be represented among the participants and whether the function is mandatory for all hands should be taken into consideration in the planning process.

Mandatory attendance is the precise reason commanders MUST NEVER control the content of the prayers, to make all their junior Sailors pray to the commander's god. Chaplains don't write Sailors fitness reports, commanders do. The commander controls their lives, should he also control the content of all the prayers they're allowed to hear?

The chaplain, once informed of the commander's guidance, may choose to participate based on his or her faith constraints. If the chaplain chooses not to participate, he or she may do so with no adverse consequences.

POPPYCOCK. Exclusion is itself an adverse consequence. And chaplains who pray to the commander's god are never excluded, they're promoted. But chaplains who pray "in Jesus name" are routinely excluded, passed over for promotion, 65 are suing, most no longer in uniform, many punished in writing for their prayers AND sermons, because they refused to pray and preach the commander's faith. This is religious freedom? And Chaplain lasiello today (without authority) directly grants more prayer-censoring power to commanders? IN DOING SO HE'S DECLARED "OPEN HUNTING SEASON" ON ALL JUNIOR CHAPLAINS, AND EMPOWERED COMMANDING OFFICERS TO PUNISH OUR PRAYERS, IF WE REFUSE TO "FOLLOW ORDERS" OF OUR COMMANDERS, AND PRAY TO THE COMMANDER'S GOD. What if I refuse? I won't remain in uniform long...

By emphasizing mutual respect, cooperation, and inclusiveness in delivering prayers at command functions, chaplains encourage recognition of values and virtues which are crucial to military life.

My suggested policy (taking turns) shows more respect, cooperation, and inclusiveness for ALL faiths, when his policy authorizes ONLY THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S faith to be expressed outside the chapel. Forget diversity, and forget the First Amendment, his policy directly establishes ONE civic religion for the entire ship. The Supreme Court already ruled against that! 1991 Lee vs. Weisman (read Press Release #7 at persuade.tv)

When chaplains are invited to pray in command functions other than Divine Services, and do so in a context-sensitive manner, they provide participants of different faiths the opportunity to give assent to what is said.

Nobody can say a prayer to which everybody assents. And AGAIN he makes the novel distinction between "command function prayer" (at which I must pray to the commanding officer's god) and "Divine Service prayer" (at which I can pray to my bishop's god.) Is the price of Chaplaincy that I must daily switch gods? NEVER IN AMERICAN HISTORY HAS THIS BEEN POLICY. But today I reasonably believe (despite my respect for his rank and position) that Chaplain lasiello has effectively taken a black-magic marker to the Constitution, entirely blotted out the First Amendment, and assumed HIS unlawful authority holds more power than Federal Law since 1860. And as a declared whistleblower, exercising my rights under US Code Title 10 Section 1034 and DoDD 7050.6, in this very memo addressed to the President and Members of Congress, I reasonably allege that Chaplain lasiello has religiously harassed me, abused his rank, personally disregarded the Constitution and considered himself above the law.

They also model positive behavior and provide a concrete example that mirrors the rich heritage of strength through diversity that is a hallmark of our nation.

Here he directly defames my prayers “in Jesus name” as “not modeling positive behavior” and unpatriotic. Above he called them insensitive. In Appendices N and Z at www.persuade.tv he also characterizes prayers “in Jesus name” as errors in judgment, denigrating, lacking discretion, offensive, irresponsible, and incompetent. Wow.

MR. PRESIDENT, HOW LONG WILL YOU LET YOUR ADMIRALS ABUSE THEIR POWER and RELIGIOUSLY DISCRIMINATE? WHEN SIR, WILL YOU ORDER THEM TO RESPECT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF JUNIOR CHAPLAINS, AND OBEY FEDERAL LAW? Mr. President, in my duties as a whistleblower I respectfully allege these men have abrogated the Constitution and violated Federal law. Today more than ever, we need an executive order, to end their religious harassment and force them to honor their oath.

Chaplain Klingenschmitt’s suggested Navy policy (or Executive Order verbiage):

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: All Commanding Officers and Chaplains
Subj: PRAYER CONTENT, FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND RELIGION

It shall not be the official business of the United States Navy to evaluate, censor, or suggest the content of any Navy Chaplain’s prayers. Neither commanding officers nor senior chaplains shall provide official guidance about prayer content, and all such existing guidance is hereby rescinded. When chaplains or lay-leaders say public prayers, they do so as representatives of their respective churches, not as representatives of the government.

When invited to pray, Chaplains are encouraged to use their autonomous discretion in composing prayers, regardless of context and setting, and Navy policy shall mirror the First Amendment and Federal law, Title 10 Section 6031 Chaplains: “An officer in the chaplain corps may conduct public worship according to the manner and forms of the church of which he is a member.”

Commanding officers shall neither require nor forbid the public expression of prayer in various settings, but shall impartially consider requests by event organizers, to allow chaplains and lay-leader representatives of many diverse faiths, to take turns whenever practical, representing their faith or non-faith. Groups who feel unrepresented are welcome to organize and appoint lay-leaders, or even ordain chaplains, to represent their views. The Navy will not discriminate against any faith, nor forbid all religious speech, nor establish a neutral civic religion to suppress the free exercise of many diverse faiths among us.

Our Sailors and Marines exert great personal sacrifice to grant religious liberty to others around the world. We shall therefore make every reasonable effort to grant those same religious liberties to our men and women in uniform.

//DRAFT - NOT SIGNED//

M. G. MULLEN

The above proposal by Chaplain Klingenschmitt has been sitting on the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO’s) desk since August 2005, awaiting his decision.

1) BRAND-NEW ILLEGALLY INTIMIDATING, DISCRIMINATORY NAVY PRAYER GUIDELINES (written personally by Chief of Navy Chaplains Rear Admiral Iasiello)



Chief of Navy Chaplains Official Statement on Public Prayer in the Navy

Title 10 of the United States Code, Section 6031, requires commanders to cause Divine Services to be performed and protects chaplains' rights to conduct those Services "according to the manner and forms" of their religious organization. Navy policy on prayer recognizes the distinction between Divine Services and other command functions that customarily or traditionally may contain elements commonly held to be religious, such as invocations or benedictions.

Navy chaplains who serve in Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard commands are trained to distinguish between Divine Services and other command functions at which they may be invited to offer prayer. Our nation encompasses a diversity of faiths and beliefs as do our Navy communities. DoD policy requires commanders to accommodate individual religious practices consonant with the best interests of the unit (DoDD 1300.17). Tolerance and mutual respect guide Navy policy, doctrine and practice in order to recognize and balance both the rights of chaplains and the rights of those who attend command functions, such as changes of command, retirement ceremonies and other functions that commonly incorporate religious elements.

Recognition that religious ministry in the military takes place in a pluralistic setting is a prerequisite for service as a Navy chaplain. To be considered for appointment to military chaplaincy, religious ministry professionals must be "willing to function in a pluralistic environment..." and follow the orders given by those appointed over them (DODI 1304.28 6.1.3 and 6.4.2). In settings other than Divine Services, chaplains are encouraged to respect the diversity of the community as they facilitate the free exercise of religion guaranteed by the Constitution and military policy (DoDD 1304.19).

Commanders retain the responsibility to provide guidance for all command functions. In planning command functions other than Divine Services that incorporate religious elements, commanders, with the advice of their chaplains, should assess the setting and context of the function. The diversity of faith that may be represented among the participants and whether the function is mandatory for all hands should be taken into consideration in the planning process. The chaplain, once informed of the commander's guidance, may choose to participate based on his or her faith constraints. If the chaplain chooses not to participate, he or she may do so with no adverse consequences.

By emphasizing mutual respect, cooperation, and inclusiveness in delivering prayers at command functions, chaplains encourage recognition of values and virtues which are crucial to military life. When chaplains are invited to pray in command functions other than Divine Services, and do so in a context-sensitive manner, they provide participants of different faiths the opportunity to give assent to what is said. They also model positive behavior and provide a concrete example that mirrors the rich heritage of strength through diversity that is a hallmark of our nation.

See next pages for Army and Air Force guidelines, now all three illegally suppressive of chaplains' First Amendment freedoms of public faith expression, prayer, worship, religion, and speech. And **why do we have three different policies, for each of the three armed services departments?** Who can fix this, writing ONE uniform policy to mirror the First Amendment? Mr. President? Who sir?

2) ILLEGALLY INTIMIDATING AND DISCRIMINATORY ARMY GUIDELINES:
In his December 2005 newsletter to Army chaplains, the Army Chief of Chaplains, Chaplain (Major General) David H. Hicks wrote:

“Prayer and Pluralism: The Army values the free exercise of every Soldier to include Chaplains. Chaplains are trained to work within a pluralistic environment. The very definition of pluralism suggests that we fetter our own needs to enhance the needs of others. Therefore it is incumbent upon professional Chaplains to understand the needs of the audience before which they pray. In public ceremonies the needs of the audience may need to be considered over the needs of the Chaplain who stands as a representative of the command.”

Source: <http://danielsparks.com/blog/2006/01/01/email-to-senator-richard-shelby-about-religious-liberty-in-the-military/>

(In other words, censor your prayers and don't pray "in Jesus name" in public. Chaplains can't represent their civilian bishop, only the commander's faith.)

3) ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATORY OLD AIR FORCE PRAYER GUIDELINES (Aug 05)
(to which Air Force Chief of Chaplains Maj Gen Charles Baldwin has voiced public opposition, but SECDEF hinted may soon be enforced military-wide...)

“B. Public prayer outside of voluntary worship settings.

(1) Public prayer should not usually be included in official settings such as staff meetings, office meetings, classes, or officially sanctioned activities such as sports events or practice sessions.

(2) Common sense--and mutual respect--should always be applied and extraordinary circumstances may drive exceptions. (note: for example, there may be extraordinary circumstances where the potential benefits for the welfare of the command outweigh the potential of causing discomfort. These circumstances might include mass casualties, preparation for imminent combat, and natural disasters.)

(3) Consistent with long-standing military tradition, a brief nonsectarian prayer may be included in non-routine military ceremonies or events of special importance, such as a change-of-command, promotion ceremonies or significant celebrations, where the purpose of the prayer is to add a heightened sense of seriousness or solemnity, not to advance specific religious beliefs. Military chaplains are trained to deal with such events.

(4) In addition, a moment of silence for personal reflection does not require the same considerations as public prayer and may be appropriate in official settings.”

Source: <http://www.af.mil/library/guidelines.pdf>

4) ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATORY NEW AIR FORCE PRAYER GUIDELINES (Feb 06)
(Hint: They still require “non-denominational” prayers, in other words, censor your prayers and don't pray “in Jesus name” in public. Read my rebuttal here: <http://www.persuade.tv/frenzy/KlingenschmittResponseToAirForce.pdf>

More news at www.persuade.tv Email for interview: chaplaingate@yahoo.com