

**WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN STILL EVASIVE ABOUT
MILITARY BAN AGAINST JESUS-PRAYERS...**

13 Feb 06

Q WorldNet Daily has just reported that Navy Chaplain James Klingenschmitt's statement that under the new guidelines the Air Force will continue to punish and exclude chaplains who pray in Jesus's name, while Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff points out, "the bottom line has not changed; clergy may not invoke the name of Jesus Christ while offering prayers at official government ceremonies."

MR. McCLELLAN: Les, I don't know about those specific --

Q And my question -- my question: Why is a devout Christian like the Commander-in-Chief continuing to allow this censorship of Jesus?

MR. McCLELLAN: I don't know about that specific report that you reference. We believe it's important to value the contributions of our military chaplains that they provide to our men and women in uniform. Our men and women in uniform ought to be able to express their religion freely. And that's what our view is, and that's what we --

Q But they're not allowed to in certain prayers.

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Q Page 1 of this morning's Washington Times reports, 'Army silences chaplain after prayer criticism,' for which Republican Congressman Walter Jones is demanding an investigation into whether Chaplain Jonathan Stertzbach was illegally forbidden to preach in Iraq. And my question: How long will the spokesman of a devout Christian like President Bush go on dodging the question of why the commander in chief is allowing Christian chaplains to be ordered not to mention Christ?"

MR. McCLELLAN: "I think you need to check with the military to get the specific facts. They're the ones who implement these rules. The President believes very much that our men and women in uniform ought to be able to freely express their religious views. The President also very much appreciates the role military chaplains play and the contributions they make to help our men and women in uniform do so. That's what our view is. In terms of specific issues and policies and rules, I think you ought to direct those questions to the Department of Defense."

Chaplain Klingenschmitt's rhetorical Q: If the President "believes very much that our men and women in uniform ought to be able to freely express their religious views," WHY DOES POLICY STILL CONTRADICT THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW?