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## Navy discharging dissident chaplain

09:48 AM EST on Friday, January 12, 2007

### Associated Press & 13News

 **PENTAGON (AP) -- The U.S. Navy is discharging the chaplain who staged public fasts and prayers for the right to pray in Jesus' name in uniform wherever and whenever he wished.**


 **Lieutenant Gordon Klingenschmitt -- who has been serving at Norfolk Naval Station -- has lost his church's chaplain certification. That came after his reprimand for disobeying an order by appearing in uniform at a news conference outside the White House.**


 **He obtained certification from another denomination, but a Navy spokesman says it wasn't accepted because of Klingenschmitt's record and performance as a naval officer.**

 **The discharge is effective at the end of this month.**

 **He'd served in the Navy for 15-and-a-half years.**

 **Klingenschmitt calls the dismissal a retaliation for his insistence that chaplains be allowed to pray in Jesus' name. He says he doesn't regret his actions and will continue to appeal the discharge.**

 **In an email received by 13News, he said, "This fight cost me everything. My career is over, my family is now homeless, we've lost a million dollar pension, but Congress agreed with me and rescinded the Navy policy, so chaplains are free again to pray in Jesus name. My sacrifice purchased their freedom. My**

 conscience is clear, the fight was worth it, and I'd do it all again. Because of my sacrifice other chaplains will have the liberty I was denied. Praise be to God, in Jesus name."

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