

Chaplain Klingenschmitt's response to the so-called "new" Air Force prayer guidelines...

1. Although I'm now a Navy Chaplain (no longer an Air Force officer), I recall that Secretary Rumsfeld stated (long ago) that the OLD Air Force prayer guidelines might soon be implemented across all branches of the military, including the Navy and Army. So yes, these NEW guidelines will directly affect my freedom to pray "in Jesus name" at some time in my near future. I have a right to comment here.

2. 75 Congressmen already wrote to President Bush (along with 200,000 Americans and 29 pro-family lobbyist groups representing between 50 and 80 million evangelicals), expressing grave concern over the OLD Air Force prayer guidelines, which already suppressed chaplains right to pray "in Jesus name." They all said to President Bush in October:

"The current demand in the guidelines for so-called "non-sectarian" prayers is merely a euphemism declaring that prayers will be acceptable only so long as they censor Christian beliefs."

Did President Bush listen to their concerns?

3. Now the NEW Air Force guidelines say: "FURTHER, NON-DENOMINATIONAL, INCLUSIVE PRAYER OR A MOMENT OF SILENCE MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR MILITARY CEREMONIES OR EVENTS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE WHEN ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS NOT THE ADVANCEMENT OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. MILITARY CHAPLAINS ARE TRAINED IN THESE MATTERS."

So nothing has changed! They want prayers, but no religious beliefs. Huh? Non-religious prayers? The NEW guidelines and the OLD guidelines are practically identical, so even now Air Force Chaplains cannot pray "in Jesus name" in public ceremonies! Blatant censorship continues! **These new guidelines are a sham, they're deceptive, they're not NEW at all, and they still prohibit prayers "in Jesus name" and authorize commanders to exclude chaplains who pray "in Jesus name" solely based on the content of their prayers.** Here's more proof:

"WE WILL RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF CHAPLAINS TO ADHERE TO THE TENETS OF THEIR RELIGIOUS FAITHS AND THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING PUBLIC PRAYER, INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR FAITHS."

In other words, we won't require them to participate (nor allow them to participate) if they're unwilling to pray to the false neutered god of civic-religion. But if chaplains insist on praying publicly "in Jesus name" we support their right to not participate. THESE GUIDELINES CONTINUE TO EXCLUDE EVANGELICAL CHAPLAINS! Nothing new here. At all.

But this ABROGATES federal law, US Code 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" (and yes, public prayers are an expression of public worship).

And these guidelines completely abrogate the First Amendment, by establishing a civic religion, and excluding many diverse faiths. Muslim Chaplains still cannot pray publicly to Allah, for example. Mr. President, when will you sign an executive order letting chaplains pray publicly to their civilian bishop's god, instead of forcing them to pray government-sanitized prayers to their commander's god, or face exclusion? Mr. President, if indeed you've promised to take decisive

action to protect chaplains rights to free religious expression, WHEN WILL YOU INTERVENE?
Sir, please help us.

4. Even worse, just two days after my hunger strike ended (because the Navy let me pray publicly in Jesus' name) the Chief of Navy Chaplains executed a classic "bait and switch" by immediately issuing BRAND NEW NAVY PRAYER GUIDANCE between 9 and 19 Jan 06, authorizing Commanders to censor, exclude, or even punish chaplains (for disobeying orders) if we refuse to pray to the Commander's God as ordered. Read here:

<http://www.persuade.tv/NewNavyPrayerPolicy.pdf>

While many today are reporting about the "NEW" Air Force prayer guidance (which still requires "non-sectarian" public prayers...nothing in Jesus name allowed in public)...NOBODY HAS REPORTED ABOUT THE SHOCKING NEW NAVY PRAYER GUIDANCE JUST ISSUED. Visit the link above.

5. So the Chief of Navy Chaplain remains steadfast in his position that praying publicly in Jesus name "denigrates other faiths." (See Appendices N and Z at www.persuade.tv). So instead of protecting his fellow chaplains freedoms, he fully empowers Commanders to censor, punish, and exclude us.

6. Is it any wonder 65 current and former evangelical chaplains are suing the Navy, denied promotion because of their faith? Email me at chaplaingate@yahoo.com and I'll give you their contact info.

7. Now the CHIEF OF ARMY CHAPLAINS agrees, stating in his December 05 newsletter that chaplains must "fetter themselves" during public prayers, to self-censor Jesus right out of their prayers!

8. CONCLUSION: Although the White House promised to protect "free speech" and "freedom of religious expression" for military chaplains, the President has not taken action to allow public prayers "in Jesus name," in fact the opposite has now occurred. Air Force guidelines, Navy guidelines, and Army guidelines all now agree, to completely ignore the First Amendment, by establishing a "civic-non-sectarian" religion as the official religion of everybody in uniform, and exclude any public expression of diverse prayers. They've established religious conformity, and punished religious diversity. ALL THREE BRANCHES OF THE ARMED SERVICES NOW AUTHORIZE THE EXCLUSION OF CHAPLAINS WHO PRAY PUBLICLY "IN JESUS NAME."

Contact your Congressman and request Congressional hearings, especially requesting they contact Chairman Duncan Hunter (House Armed Services Committee) and Senator Lindsay Graham (Senate Armed Services Subcommittee for Personnel), to REQUEST HEARINGS for the 65 Navy chaplains punished for their prayers and sermons, and the 130 other chaplains now identified by Congressman Jones.

Call the White House at 202-456-1414 and express your outrage at these new guidelines that still forbid chaplains to pray publicly "in Jesus name." Ask President Bush to sign an executive order protecting chaplains right to pray according to their faith.

Read more details at: www.persuade.tv (Especially block 4 on the left side, at www.persuade.tv)
Email Chaplain Klingenschmitt for interviews: chaplaingate@yahoo.com

Or call Chaplain Klingenschmitt's cell phone: 719-360-5132