

PRESS RELEASE (3 Jan 05) – Navy Chaplain stripped of uniform, continues hunger fast, Day 15.

Chaplain Lieutenant Gordon James Klingenschmitt, who faced termination of his 14 year career without retirement, partly because he prays publicly “in Jesus name,” has finally accepted a new 3-year contract with the US Navy.

After 9 months of being told he was ineligible for contract renewal without a “positive endorsement” from his commanding officer, Klingenschmitt began a hunger strike in front of the White House on December 20<sup>th</sup>, and appeared on national TV December 21<sup>st</sup>.

His speech outside the White House, and TV interviews with MSNBC and 700 Club are viewable at his web-site: [www.persuade.tv](http://www.persuade.tv)

Within 24 hours of his appearance on national TV, the Chief of Navy Chaplains renewed Klingenschmitt’s contract.

Reversing the Navy policy that threatened to terminate Klingenschmitt’s career, the Chief of Navy Chaplains announced this week that Chaplains no longer require a “positive endorsement” from their commanding officer, making Klingenschmitt legitimately eligible for continuation.

“I now accept the Navy’s offer to let me finish my career,” Klingenschmitt said, “but I still can’t wear my uniform in public. I won’t end my fast until they give me back my uniform, and let me pray publicly in Jesus name.”

The Chief of Navy Chaplains has stated in writing, that if Klingenschmitt prays publicly “in Jesus name” that he’s denigrating other faiths.

Two weeks ago, Admirals from the Pentagon, claiming to represent the President’s position, stripped Klingenschmitt of his uniform for all public appearances, and even today they won’t let him talk about Jesus in public, unless he’s wearing civilian clothes.

\*\*\*The attached letter from the Chaplain’s commanding officer explains their reasons for taking away his right to wear a uniform in public.\*\*\*

Until that’s resolved, Klingenschmitt continues to drink water only, now entering Day 15 of his fast.

Please join over 200,000 Americans and 74 Congressman who’ve now petitioned President Bush to intervene. Call the White House at 202-456-1414 or email [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov) and ask the President to sign an executive order enforcing the law since 1860 that permits ALL military chaplains to pray according to their diverse faith traditions.

Attached: Navy letter stripping Klingenschmitt’s uniform



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK  
1530 GILBERT STREET SUITE 2000  
NORFOLK VA 23511-2722

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5800  
Ser N01L/  
16 DEC 05

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Station Norfolk  
To: LT Gordon J. Klingenschmitt, CHC, USN

Subj: WEARING OF NAVAL UNIFORM AT PUBLIC VENUES

Ref: (a) Your letter of 15 Dec 05  
(b) U. S. Navy Uniform Regulations, Para 1401.3.b

1. It has come to my attention by reference (a), that you intend to appear on the Bill O'Reilly TV Show on Fox Television on Monday evening, 19 December 2005. It is clear that the purpose of your appearance is to support personal or partisan views on political, social, or religious issues.

2. In accordance with reference (b), I direct you not to wear your uniform for this appearance or for any other media appearance without my express prior permission.

→ Is talking about Jesus too partisan?

3. Violation of this order may result in disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

  
L. E. PYLE, JR.

★ Reference (b)?

★ Here's what uniform regs actually say:

1401.3.b.(4).(b). Members of the Navy and Marine Corps, including retired members and members of reserve components are prohibited from wearing uniforms of the naval service while attending or participating in a demonstration, assembly, or activity knowing that a purpose of the demonstration, assembly, or activity supports personal or partisan views on political, social, economic, or religious issues, except as authorized in advance by competent authority: or  incident to attending or participating in a bona fide religious service or observance.

US Code, Title 10, Section 6031. 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. 

★ Question: If a Navy chaplain, who wears a cross on his uniform, cannot pray publicly "in Jesus name" even during public worship, can any chaplain worship in uniform? WHY CAN'T I? Please give me back my uniform, and let me pray publicly "in Jesus' name."