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Navy Chaplain Told No Jesus

December 21, 2005 04:39 PM EST

By Sher Zieve – Appearing on The Sean Hannity show Wednesday, Navy Chaplain Lt. Gordon Klingenschmitt said that he was told by his Commanding Officer that he could not use the name of Jesus, while in uniform. Klingenschmitt advised that, when conducting Bible study or prayer, he could only quote from the “Jewish portion” (Old Testament) of the Bible.

Lt. Klingenschmitt said that although official military policy allows for any type of prayer, in practice any evangelical Protestant prayers are suppressed. Klingenschmitt also said: “They have clipboards and evaluators who evaluate your prayers, and they praise you if you pray just to God. But if you pray in Jesus’ name, they counsel you.”

At this point, only Christian Chaplains praying in the name of Jesus are being censored. The World Peace Herald reported that the Rev. Billy Baugham, Executive Director of the Greenville, S.C. based International Conference of Evangelical Chaplain Endorsers said that any restrictions on other religions [in the military] have “yet to be tested”.

Klingenschmitt also said that he has fought for the rights of non-Christians, including the rights of Jewish soldiers to be served kosher meals. Lt. Klingenschmitt said that he has been severely disciplined and is in jeopardy of being fired from the Navy.

UPDATE: Later in the program, Klingenschmitt's Commanding Officer, Navy Chaplain Cpt. Holcomb, spoke on the Hannity show to say that Klingenschmitt's claims are false. Cpt. Holcomb further said that Lt. Klingenschmitt has not been told to eliminate the name of Jesus and that he is not in jeopardy of losing his job.

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