

Web

NewsMax.com

Powered by 

**Click Here
to Watch
a Video That
May Surprise
You**



**Quick-
Learn
Impaling
Tricks**

**Health
Secrets Can
Slow Aging**

[Click Here](#)

**How to Live
100 Years
in
Perfect
Health**
[Click Here](#)

banner

▶ [Decision Time: Should We Bomb Iran?](#)

With Carl Limbacher and NewsMax.com Staff

For the story behind the story...

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2006 12:24 a.m. EST

Air Force Religion Policy Under Attack

The U.S. Air Force's controversial new policy dealing with religious tolerance is being blasted by a member of Congress and a Navy chaplain who say the policy will ban chaplains from using the name of Jesus when praying at official gatherings.

"I'm very disappointed that they're still trying to censor the content of our prayers," Navy chaplain, Lieutenant Gordon Klingenschmitt told the New York Sun.

According to the Sun, while the new Air Force guidelines issued just last week do not explicitly ban sectarian prayers at military ceremonies, a Jewish chaplain told the Jewish Week newspaper that such prayers would be banned. The rules indicate that it may be appropriate to offer "non-denominational, inclusive prayer, or a moment of silence."

Story Continues Below

"To me the word non-denominational is a code word for no Jesus," said Lieutenant Klingenschmitt, an Episcopal priest who the Washington Times reports once mounted a brief hunger strike over the issue at the White House last year. "I have to pray a Muslim, Christian, Jewish prayer at the same time. I don't know how to do that," he complained.

Not only chaplains are upset by the new policy. Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., said he too is troubled by such recent incidents where chaplains have been asked not to mention Jesus in public prayers. He added that he has urged Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to set a military-wide policy allowing chaplains to deliver whatever prayers they see fit.

TOOLS

 [Print Friendly Version](#) [Forward this Page](#) [E-mail NewsMax](#) [RSS Feed](#)[Reprint Information](#)

TOP NEWS

▶ [Bush Urges Tougher
China Trade Policy](#)

▶ [Actor Gary Sinise:
Positive Support for
Iraq](#)

▶ [Ohio School Board
Votes Out Evolution](#)

▶ [Sen. Collins Would
Advise McCain in 2008](#)

▶ [Batman to Battle Bin
Laden](#)

Asked by the Sun if the Air Force rules should be adopted by the other services, Jones said, "I would hope not."

Rep. Jones, who led a petition drive by 74 members of Congress to allow chaplains to pray as they wish, called the guidelines "a step in the right direction," but also said: "I think more progress can be made in assuring that Christian military chaplains can pray in the name of Jesus Christ and all military chaplains can pray according to their faith."

"They should be able to pray as their faith and tradition calls upon them," he told The Sun.

- ▶ [Gold: The 500% Solution](#)
- ▶ [Are You Sure Cancer Hasn't Hit You?](#)
- ▶ [3 Ways To Profit From The China Miracle!](#)
- ▶ [Can Pheromones Fix Your Relationship?](#)

The Rev. Chip Harper, a San Antonio minister told the San Antonio Express-News that he had recently gone to a local Air Force base to offer the invocation at an old friend's retirement.

"Everything was in place — America's finest in dress uniforms," he told the Express-News. "Flags. Tears. Salutes. Talk of duty, honor, and country. I loved it. Of course, one reason I was called to do the invocation was because my friend and I are close. The second — he's Christian and wanted a Christian prayer. An Air Force chaplain can't render that. It's prohibited by Air Force policy.

"This is how things have changed for Air Force chaplains these days; even if they are Christian, they are prohibited from invoking the name of Jesus Christ in public prayer," Rev. Harper told the newspaper. "Think about that. Christian ministers prohibited — by Air Force policy — from praying as they were trained."

If the Navy is subjected to the same rules as the Air Force policy requires, Lt. Klingenschmitt pledged he will go to court.

"I will definitely sue," he told the Sun.

Editor's note:

- [Become a member of NewsMax's "Land of the Free, Home of the Brave" Club – get the T-shirt – Click Here Now](#)
- [Ronald Reagan & God – Get the true story and the book FREE – Click Here Now!](#)
- [Pope Benedict XVI – Find Out What He Really Believes – Click Here Now](#)

Inside Cover Stories

- [Willie Nelson Releases 'Gay' Cowboy Song](#)
- [Ex-Pentagon Official May Challenge Hillary](#)
- [Schwarzenegger Spared GOP Fight](#)
- [Ohio School Board Votes Out Evolution](#)
- [Sen. Collins Would Advise McCain in 2008](#)
- [Batman to Battle Bin Laden](#)

banner

Homeland Security News

If you do not have an emergency radio, please check out our free offer for a radio that doesn't even need batteries!

[Click Here Now](#)

How Women Will Approach YOU First...

[Click here now](#)



- [Polls Distort U.S. Views on Abortion](#)
- [DeLay Won't Seek Leadership Role](#)
- [Cheney's Shooting Victim Has Heart Attack](#)
- [Wal-Mart Must Stock 'Morning After' Pill](#)
- [Clinton Impeachment Dogs Hutchinson](#)
- [Air Force Religion Policy Under Attack](#)
- [More Inside Cover Stories](#)

SITES TO CHECKOUT

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ▶ The Real Viagra, Cialis and Levitra Deal on the Internet 10 Tablets \$99, Free Shipping | ▶ Married or Single: Get Athena Pheromones and get more romance. | ▶ 200% Gold Profits? Learn why experts call gold "Buy Of A Generation." Free Gold Guide |
| ▶ Invest in Switzerland You can Legally open a bank account, invest in gold and more offshore! | ▶ Avoid Blood Pressure Meds Doctor says natural remedy has no side effects. See More Here | ▶ Stunning Discovery for Diabetes! Lower You Blood Sugar, Lower Your Cholesterol and Get More Energy Now - 100% Natural |
| ▶ Grow an A+ Brain in 30 Days | ▶ It's a good time to bank on Iraq's currency; now only fractions of a cent. | ▶ There Is No Salvation, No Everlasting Eternal Life, No Real Love Without Receiving God's Spirit. |

[Home](#) [Money](#) [Jokes](#) [Links](#) [Advertise](#) [Search](#) [Cartoons](#) [Classifieds](#) [Contact](#) [Shop](#)

All Rights Reserved © 2006 NewsMax.Com