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US naval chaplain dismissed after challenge to "non-sectarian" policy [RSS](#)

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Washington, Mar. 2, 2007 (CWNews.com) - A US Navy chaplain who was disciplined for praying "in Jesus' name" has been dismissed from the military.

Chaplain Gordon Klingenschmitt ended his 16-year military career on March 1, after months of battling with his Navy superiors over a policy that required chaplains to use only "non-sectarian" terms when leading prayers outside their own chapels. Klingenschmitt had openly and repeatedly challenged that policy, drawing a series of reprimands for disobeying orders.

Although he was fined and ultimately removed from the Navy, the Protestant chaplain says that his struggle was vindicated when the US Congress ordered Navy officials to allow chaplains to pray "according to the dictates of their conscience." The Navy subsequently rescinded the orders requiring "non-sectarian" prayer.

"My conscience is clear, the fight was worth it, and I'd do it all again," Klingenschmitt said.

Glossary Terms: None

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Posted by: depeccatoradvitam - Mar. 03, 2007 12:27 AM ET USA

Absolutely absurd. This redefines a conscientious objector. What dis they think a Chaplain was? Shame on the Navy and this foolishness. Maybe there is a smoldering of a flame still left in our Congress.

Maybe the commanding officers need to be on the front lines since the men there know exactly who their maker is.

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