

Appendix M: How religious discrimination denied me Air Force Chaplaincy



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER  
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS

12 Jul 01

Chaplain, Colonel James A. Schiffer  
HQ AFPC/DPAH  
550 C Street West Ste 28  
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4730

Captain Gordon J. Klingenschmitt  
NORAD/USSPACECOM J2 AF  
Petersen AFB CO 90914-3190

Dear Captain Klingenschmitt

I received your letter dated 28 June in today's military mail delivery. Thank you for sharing your great desire to be a minister of the Lord in the military. As you are aware, AFI 36-2106 makes you ineligible for a competitive category transfer without a waiver.

My instructions in granting waivers are very clear. I am asked to grant them only if the Air Force Chaplain Service has a special need. At this time and for the foreseeable future, we are blessed with an abundance of qualified Protestant chaplain applicants who are eligible to meet our Accessions Board without needing any waivers. With your great desire to serve as a Military Chaplain, may I suggest that you consider our sister services?

I know my response will be disappointing but I must regretfully decline your request for a waiver reconsideration.

Sincerely

JAMES A. SCHIFFER, Ch, Col, USAF  
Chief, Chaplain Personnel Assignments

★ ↑  
Roman Catholic Priest

★ This begs the question, why are senior chaplains in charge of personnel decisions ruling junior chaplains? They took solemn vows to promote their own faith, and we expect them to be "impartial" when governing the selection, assignments, and promotion ratings of other chaplains who don't share their faith? Does anybody see a blatant conflict of interest here?