

**Press Release (26 Dec 05): NAVY CHAPLAIN OFFERED ILLEGAL CONTRACT  
EXTENSION, HUNGER STRIKE CONTINUES**

([www.persuade.tv](http://www.persuade.tv)) Reversing their position of the last 10 months, the Chief of Navy Chaplains today offered to renew the contract of Chaplain Klingenschmitt, who faces termination of his 14-year career without retirement because he prays publicly "in Jesus name."

In doing so, the Chief of Navy Chaplains violated his own rules of eligibility, which still require a "positive endorsement" from a commanding officer, when Klingenschmitt's C.O. recommended against contract renewal, telling a Navy board that "Chaplain Klingenschmitt over-emphasized his own faith system" in his sermons and prayers.

Chaplain Klingenschmitt responded, "I still want to re-enlist, and I appreciate the Navy's offer, but I cannot accept with a clear conscience until the Navy proves I'm technically eligible, and the Navy judge overrules my C.O.'s religious discrimination, to give me that same positive endorsement all other chaplains required and received. I don't want special favors, just because I'm on TV."

A Navy judge has been investigating Klingenschmitt's religious discrimination complaint since April, but has yet to issue any ruling or comment. That ruling may be issued any day.

Meanwhile, Klingenschmitt's hunger strike continues, now entering the second week, since he still can't pray publicly "in Jesus name" unless he's wearing civilian clothes. "I'm still asking the President of the United States to give me back my uniform, and let me pray publicly in Jesus name," he said.

Klingenschmitt has been interviewed on 6 nationally syndicated radio shows, 3 national TV shows and 50 local TV news stations, 8 national newspapers, and even the former Soviet Union newspaper Pravda ran his story under the headline, "U.S. Army made atheistic?" Unconfirmed reports suggest the White House switchboard has been lit up 8 times with calls supporting the Chaplain.

No longer standing outside the White House, Klingenschmitt returns to work tomorrow at Naval Station Norfolk, but fears retaliation by Navy leaders, despite his protected status under the Whistleblower Protection Act.

Reverend Pat Mahoney, joining Klingenschmitt in his fast, added, "173,000 Americans and 74 Congressmen have asked the President to enforce the law that's been on the books since 1860, letting chaplains conduct public worship according to their own faith, instead of the government's civic religion. But the President has yet to lift his pen."

To voice your opinion, call the White House at 202-456-1414, or email [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov) and ask the President to issue an executive order allowing military chaplains of all diverse faiths to pray according to their own conscience.

(Two proof documents follow...)

**Kaprow, Maurice CDR FFC N02G1**

**From:** Smith, Lyman M. CAPT OPNAV FOB2, 1, 1056  
**Sent:** Wed 27 April 2005 09:11  
**To:** Kaprow, Maurice CDR FFC N02G1  
**Cc:** Gragg, Stephen T CAPT CNSL  
**Subject:** FW: Chaplain Indefinite Extension Board

RROC Colleagues -

The below is the proposed text of a message that I anticipate will be issued by PERSCOM within the next several days to inform all in receipt of the recent message on the indefinite extension board that no board will be held. We have learned also that those chaplains selected by the indefinite selection board held in November will be offered extension on active duty.

This turn of events is purely procedural and has nothing to do with the individuals selected in November, the way that board was run, the membership of that board, or any other on going actions related to the Chaplain Corps.

The Navy nearly two years ago changed policy with regards to indefinite extension after the minimum obligated service agreement expires. We proceeded with everyone's concurrence on the basis that we could still do a competitive board. When the time came to issue release orders however, the individuals responsible for issuing the release orders identified a policy conflict.

The way ahead is to develop a certification or qualification that all chaplains will have to achieve in order to continue in their military chaplain ministry. If a chaplain does not do this, he or she then becomes a candidate to return to the civilian work force. This will be in parallel to other communities, e.g. surface officers not completing their SWO qual are not retained.

More to follow but for now - no indefinite extension board. Requirements still in place as outlined below for any of our folks desiring to remain on active duty beyond their initial service agreement.

Vr, Lyman

1. Ref (A) cancelled.

2. Chaplain Corps end strength requirements and Chaplains Corps Human Care Strategy permit retention of all chaplains previously scheduled for review by the subject board.

3. Chaplains previously scheduled for review by the subject board desiring to remain on active duty must still request indefinite extension in writing, secure their Commanding Officer's positive endorsement, and have on file ecclesiastical endorsement for extended active duty. The package specified in the reference will satisfy this requirement if already submitted.

4. Chaplains not desiring to remain on active duty beyond their minimum service agreement must request release from active duty.

5. All requests must be received by 27 May.

CAPT Lyman M. Smith, CHC, USN  
Office of the Chief of Navy Chaplains (N097A)  
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2 Navy Annex  
Washington, DC 20370-0400  
Phone: 703.693.5406  
DSN: 223.5406

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

**FAX TRANSMITTAL** # of pages **1**

To: <b>CHAPLAIN HOLCOMB</b>	From: <b>CHAPLAIN KAPROW</b>
Dept/Agency: <b>N097A</b>	Phone #: <b>836-5504</b>
Fax #: <b>444-7362</b>	Fax #: <b>836-7928</b>

NSN 7546-01-217-7088 5095-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

QUESTION: WHY DID CHAPLAIN HOLCOMB (NAVY SPOKESMAN) CLAIM ON HANNITY'S RADIO SHOW THAT KLINGENSCHMITT WOULD NEVER BE FIRED, WHEN HE RECEIVED THIS DOCUMENT (BY FAX) PROVING KLINGENSCHMITT IS TECHNICALLY INELIGIBLE FOR CONTRACT RENEWAL? AND WHY ALL SUMMER LONG DID HOLCOMB TELL KLINGENSCHMITT HE'D LIKELY BE FIRED?

-----Original Message-----

From: Seely, Gerald D. CAPT Pers-4  
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2005 11:19 \*\*\*[RECEIVED 26 DEC 05]\*\*\*  
To: Klingenschmitt, Gordon James LT Norfolk Chapel  
Cc: Smith, Lyman M. CAPT OPNAV FOB2, 1, 1056  
Subject: INDEFINITE EXTENSION LETTER

Chaplain Klingenschmitt,

Attached is a copy of your indefinite extension letter. The original is being mailed to you.

Congratulations,

Chaplain Seely



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE  
MILLINGTON TN 38055-0000

1000  
NPC 4414/106

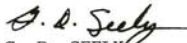
From: Commander, Navy Personnel Command  
To: LT Gordon J Klingenschmitt, USNR,  
Via: Commanding Officer, Naval Station Norfolk, VA

Subj: INDEFINITE EXTENSION APPROVAL

Encl: (1) Certificate of Ecclesiastical Endorsement

1. Based on enclosure (1), your request for Indefinite Extension on active duty has been approved. An entry in your official record will reflect this change. Please provide your Endorsing Agent with a copy of this letter.

2. Congratulations and continued best wishes for the future.

  
G. D. SEELY  
By direction

Copy to:  
N971  
Major Claimant

**QUESTION: WHY DID THE NAVY ISSUE THIS LETTER, WHEN CHAPLAIN KLINGENSCHMITT IS STILL INELIGIBLE UNDER CURRENT CRITERIA, WITH NO POSITIVE C.O. ENDORSEMENT?**