



- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Health](#)
- [10 On Your Side](#)
- [Community](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [JobFinder 10](#)
- [WAVY People](#)
- [Programming](#)
- [Experts On Your Side](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [About WAVY](#)
- [Contact 10](#)
- [FOX 43](#)

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[🖨 Print](#)

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Chaplain ends fast for right to pray

NORFOLK, Va. A Navy chaplain is 14 pounds lighter after ending his 18-day fast for the right to pray publicly in Jesus' name while he's in uniform.

On his Web site, Lieutenant Gordon Klingenschmitt posts a letter from his base commander in Norfolk, stating that such prayers may be permissible at a "bona fide religious service or observance."

That was enough for Klingenschmitt to claim victory and break his water-only fast with a communion service Saturday outside the White House, although his commander warned the chaplain against taking part in "a demonstration or assembly to promote personal or partisan views."

Klingenschmitt says he still hopes President Bush signs an executive order allowing all military chaplains to pray according to their faith.

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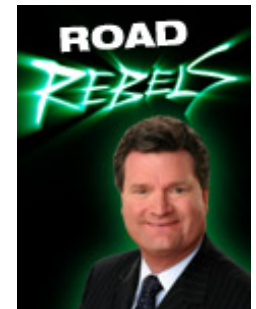


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