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## U.S. army made atheistic?

17:59 2005-12-21

A U.S. Navy chaplain has begun a hunger strike in Washington to protest a military policy that bans mentioning Jesus in Christian prayer.

Navy Lt. Gordon Klingenschmitt believes he may lose his job next month and be evicted from military housing, because during the summer of 2004 aboard the USS Anzio, he preached an evangelistic sermon at the funeral of a Catholic sailor in a base chapel. The lieutenant said he was reprimanded by two senior chaplains and, in March, sent ashore to Norfolk.



Official military policy allows any sort of prayer, but Klingenschmitt admits that in reality, evangelical Protestant prayers are censored, UPI reports.

The American Center for Law and Justice has gathered 173,000 signatures on a petition seeking an executive order, and 73 members of Congress have signed on, saying in an Oct. 25 letter to the president: "In all branches of the military, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Christian chaplains to use [the name of Jesus](#) when praying."

V.Y.

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### Society

17:59

## U.S. army made atheistic?

A U.S. Navy chaplain has begun a hunger strike in Washington to protest a military policy that bans mentioning Jesus in Christian prayer. Official military policy allows any sort of prayer, but in reality evangelical Protestant prayers are censored. The American Center for Law and Justice has gathered 173,000 signatures on a petition seeking an executive order, and 73 members of Congress have signed on, saying in an Oct. 25 letter to the president [More details...](#)

18:53

## Cheney defends Bush. Bush defends spying

Vice President Dick Cheney on Tuesday vigorously defended the Bush administration's use of secret domestic spying and the expansion of presidential powers, saying "it's not an accident that we haven't been hit in four years." Talking to reporters aboard his government plane Cheney said he believes the power of the presidency has indeed contracted since the Vietnam and Watergate era [More details...](#)

17:56

## New York transit shut down by strike

New York City's 6,300 subway cars and 4,600 buses were still Tuesday morning as Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union went out on strike. Although the strike is illegal under state law, the union decided to pull its 37,000 members from service over the issue of pension and health benefits for future employees [More details...](#)

19:17

## Pentagon watches after United States

A Department of Defense counter-terrorism unit has been compiling information from both inside and outside the United States. The Counterintelligence Field Agency is a 3-year-old unit whose exact staffing and budget are secret. CIFA "started with force protection from terrorists but when you go down that road you soon are into everything ..." [More details...](#)

17:19

## Bush administration stands its ground over spying

Responding to a congressional uproar, the Bush administration said Monday that a secret domestic surveillance program had yielded intelligence results that would not have been available otherwise in the war on terror. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said Congress had essentially given President George W. Bush the authority for domestic surveillance after the Sept. 11 attacks [More details...](#)

19:13

## Battle over renewed USA Patriot Act

By a 251-174 vote Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives agreed to renew 16 of the provisions in the Patriot Act that were set to expire at the end of the year. The bill now heads to the Senate, where a larger battle is expected. Among the provisions the House proposes to extend is one allowing the FBI, with a court order, to place wiretaps on every phone a suspect uses [More details...](#)

17:34

## U.S. government warns banks against North Korea

The Bush administration has issued a warning to U.S. banks that North Korea may try to use them to carry out illicit activities. The advisory from the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network represents the latest effort by the United States to financially clamp down on North Korea. "U.S. financial institutions should take reasonable steps to guard against the abuse of their financial services by North Korea..." [More details...](#)

19:46

## White House backs marshals' reaction

U.S. air marshals who shot and killed an American Airlines passenger acted "consistent with their training" and an investigation will determine if any changes are needed in operating procedures, the White House said on Thursday. Florida resident Rigoberto Alpizar, 44, was killed on Wednesday in Miami as he ran from an aircraft

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08:57

## Manhattan subway tunnel work uncovers pre-Revolution fortifications

Workers extending a subway tunnel have unearthed a section of stone wall believed to be part of fortifications from New York's pre-Revolutionary War era, city parks officials said. The mortared stone wall is more than 40 feet (12 meters) long and 7 feet (2.1 meters) thick and is 10 feet (3 meters) below the surface of Battery Park near the southern tip of Manhattan, according to preliminary inspections. [More details...](#)

22:44

## Chicago bans public smoking, offers bars two years to comply

The City Council approved a ban on smoking in nearly all public places Wednesday but gave a two-year grace period to taverns and to bars inside restaurants. The measure was approved 45-1 after months of debate and aggressive lobbying on both sides of the issue by groups such as the American Cancer Society and the Illinois Restaurant Association. [More details...](#)

19:58

## Marine pilot rescued from Atlantic crash

A U.S. Marine pilot, whose AV-8B Harrier plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean, is recovering at a Florida hospital after the Coast Guard rescued him. The plane crashed off the coast of St. Augustine, Fla., and the pilot had been in the water for more than four hours before being rescued [More details...](#)

18:12

## DeLay still accused of money-laundering

A judge dismissed a conspiracy charge Monday against Rep. Tom DeLay but refused to throw out the far more serious allegations of money-laundering, dashing the congressman's hopes for now of reclaiming his post as House majority leader. When he was indicted in September, DeLay was required under House rules to relinquish the leadership post he had held since 2003 [More details...](#)

17:46

## Prisoners hidden before Rice confesses

The CIA evacuated two secret terror prisons in Europe before U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's visit this week. Current and former CIA officers speaking on the condition of confidentiality said 11 top al-Qaida suspects were moved to a new CIA facility in the North African desert. Rice met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin Tuesday to discuss the claims [More details...](#)

08:53

## Manhattan art dealer sold fakes on Internet

A Manhattan art dealer pleaded guilty Monday to selling forged artworks over the Internet. [More details...](#)

06:25

## Man executed for 1991 Baltimore County murder

A convicted murder sentenced to die for the 1991 killing of a woman in Maryland was executed late Monday, just hours after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected three appeals by the man and Maryland's governor said he would not intervene. [More details...](#)

05:08

## U.S. trial begins for two British soldiers

A woman testified Monday that two British soldiers raped her and that one of the men urinated on her one night in July after the soldiers had sneaked away from Camp Guernsey, a Wyoming National Guard base where they were stationed for a training mission. [More details...](#)

23:18

## Suicide threat delays hearing for U.S. killer-boy

A hearing that could mean a return to prison for convicted killer Lionel Tate, once the youngest person in modern U.S. history sentenced to life behind bars, was postponed Monday after he sent the judge a letter

threatening suicide. [More details...](#)

18:11

### **Katrina aftermath show political bureaucracy**

As Hurricane Katrina roared ashore and thousands of people waited days amid the floodwater for rescue, a series of letters passed between the governor and the White House that reveal delays, claims that requests for federal help weren't received, and concerns on both sides about public relations [More details...](#)

17:12

### **U.S. military to expand ship fleet**

The U.S. Navy intends to expand its fleet of ships by more than 10 percent in order to be better prepared for emerging adversaries. Top military officials have been meeting to discuss the Pentagon's budget in preparation for President Bush's 2007 budget plan, which is to be issued in February [More details...](#)

07:55

### **California man linked to Lake Tahoe casino shootout**

A California man with a previous drug arrest was identified as the gunman killed in a shootout with sheriff's deputies inside Harrah's Tahoe casino, but what set off the shooting remained a mystery. [More details...](#)

05:30

### **Arkansas man scales White House fence**

A man from Arkansas scaled the fence surrounding the White House Sunday while President George W. Bush was inside and was immediately captured by Secret Service officers. [More details...](#)

08:30

### **Hillary Clinton criticizes Bush on war**

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton accused President George W. Bush of mismanaging the Iraq war and claimed his domestic agenda has taken the country off course in a speech to Democrats in a state that solidly backed the Republican president last year. [More details...](#)

05:46

### **Schwarzenegger praises Botox-maker for helping state's economy**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger helped dedicate a new \$60 million (€1.3 million) research center for pharmaceutical giant Allergan Inc., which has amassed a fortune with one of Hollywood's hottest products - Botox. [More details...](#)

04:50

### **Storm Epsilon reaches hurricane strength**

Epsilon strengthened into a record 14th hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean on Friday - two days after the 2005 season officially ended. Forecasters said it posed no threat to land. [More details...](#)

03:15

### **Rap executive acquitted in money laundering case**

A rap mogul known for his gangster persona and for producing chart-topping acts was acquitted on Friday of laundering piles of drug money for a notorious crack kingpin. [More details...](#)

02:48

### **Judge to revisit Dynegy executives 24-year prison term**

A former midlevel Dynegy executive whose 24-year prison term was thrown out by a federal appeals court may receive a shorter sentence for his role in a fraudulent accounting scheme. [More details...](#)

02:12

### **IRL testing new fuel blend for 2006**

Buddy Rice and Bryan Herta will test a new ethanol-blend fuel next week that will be used by the Indy Racing League next season. [More details...](#)

00:24

## U. S. judge ruled that a lesbian student can sue her school district

A federal judge ruled that a lesbian student can sue her school district and her principal for revealing her homosexuality to her mother. Charlene Nguon, 17, may go forward with her suit claiming violation of privacy rights, U.S. District Judge James V. Selna ruled in a decision dated Nov. 28 and announced Thursday by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. [More details...](#)

02:55

## North Carolina inmate could become 1,000th person executed in U.S. since capital punishment reinstated

A man who killed his wife and father-in-law pinned his hopes on last-minute intervention from the state governor as he awaited lethal injection early Friday in the United States' 1,000th execution since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected Kenneth Lee Boyd's last pending legal appeal early Thursday evening. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied Boyd's other final appeal earlier in the day. He is set to die at 2 a.m. Friday (0700 GMT). [More details...](#)

23:26

## U.S. auto sales down in November, but declines not as steep as October

Auto sales fell in November, and though they still outpaced a dismal October, the results were disappointing to U.S. automakers who introduced a flurry of discounts to lure buyers to showrooms. Sport utility vehicle sales slid again. General Motors Corp.'s sales were down 11.3 percent, led by a 16.7 percent decrease in sales of trucks and SUVs and a 3 percent decrease in car sales. GM's sales were down 3 percent in the first 11 months of the year. [More details...](#)