

Atheists Target Military Christmas Celebrations

Atheists are once again looking to overturn military traditions with their secular belief system. This time, the atheistic agenda is manifesting as a war on Christmas.

The Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty expresses disappointment over the Navy's decision to inhibit the **religious liberty** of military personnel at a U.S. military facility in Bahrain.

For several years, military personnel at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain have chosen to celebrate the Christmas season with a tree-lighting ceremony along with a live nativity scene. They also announce the arrival of Santa Claus, sing carols and enjoy refreshments.

This year, after a complaint by the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers, the Navy leadership ordered the nativity scene to be removed from this year's celebration.

"This is another example of the military wrongly yielding to those who promote freedom *from* religion while squelching the constitutional protections for the free exercise *of* religion," said Chaplain (Col.) Ron Crews, USAR retired, executive director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty.

"Every American, especially those who wear the uniform, should be allowed to exercise their religious liberties. We are very disappointed in the Navy's decision not to support the free exercise of religion of the personnel assigned to NSA Bahrain."