



Leader-Led Prayer Prohibited in *The Army Lawyer*

Quoting from *The Army Lawyer*, November 1998, p. 17:

Prayers at ceremonies should be relatively short and non-denominational. These prayers should not reference divinity by any sectarian name (Jesus, Allah) but rather use “generic” terms (Father, Almighty, Source of Goodness).

Commanders should let chaplains give invocations and benedictions. Chaplains are the experts and are the most likely to use the appropriate language. In addition, a soldier is less likely to feel “pressured” by a chaplain than by a line officer who is giving a prayer. If an event is not large enough to merit attendance of a chaplain (for example, a staff meeting), then a prayer is probably not appropriate.

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