The US Naval Academy Will Host Satanic Services, According to The Satanic Temple
After the US Naval Academy publicly suggested that Satanic services would be barred, The Satanic Temple promises litigation should the religious liberty of their members within the academy be impeded

The Satanic Temple (TST) has announced its intent to see that Satanic services at the US Naval Academy (USNA) are given equal treatment afforded to all religious denominations and will initiate legal action if TST is discriminated against. This announcement comes in response to a public statement given by academy spokesperson Alana Garas last week. It was reported that Garas stated that members of TST, who are actively seeking to organize services at the academy, would be allowed to maintain a “study group,” but not to hold services because TST is “a non-theistic religious and politically active movement.” TST spokesperson Lucien Greaves said, “Neither of these facts about TST disqualifies our members from holding services.”

Subsequent reports quote Garas as claiming, "The request [from the Satanist midshipmen] was for a 'study group' space, not for holding 'satanic services.'" However, Greaves states, “We have confirmed that our Naval Academy members are, in fact, requesting to perform services, and they certainly have a right to do so.”

“The notion that members of The Satanic Temple within the Naval Academy could be denied the right to hold services because we are non-theistic and/or politically active has absolutely no credible basis in law or common sense. The Satanic Temple is no more a political cause than the Catholic Church or Southern Baptists. Superstition, or theism, is not a prerequisite for recognition as a religion and, in fact, The Satanic Temple is officially recognized by the US government as a Church. If the Naval Academy wants to ban Midshipmen of a particular belief from holding services because their Church speaks to social issues of political relevance, they will be obligated to deny the services of Catholics for their Church’s political lobbying against abortion, the services of LDS-affiliated Mormons for their political activism related to gay marriage, and most every Protestant denomination for both.”

In explaining her comments regarding The Satanic Temple, Garas stated, “in accordance with Department of Defense Policy, military members will not engage in partisan political activities, and will avoid the inference that their activities may appear to imply DoD approval or endorsement of a political cause.”

Greaves asserts, “If the rationale turns out to be that religious services performed by The Satanic Temple are considered more politically partisan than holding a study group, I think that’s self-evidently absurd. Let’s not attempt to disguise discrimination against a minority religion by insisting that it runs afoul of wildly unrelated standards of conduct. All members of the military, and those within the Naval Academy, have the right to practice their religion, as well as to refuse participation in any and all religious services. For anybody in the Naval Academy to suggest...
otherwise would be an insult to those who serve, and to those who care about our fundamental freedoms. We trust that the academy will handle our midshipmens’ request appropriately.”

TST has always supported the rights of veterans, and constructed a monument honoring veterans that was to be erected in Belle Plaine, Minnesota.

About The Satanic Temple

The mission of The Satanic Temple is to encourage benevolence and empathy among all people, reject tyrannical authority, advocate practical common sense and justice, and be directed by the human conscience to undertake noble pursuits guided by the individual will. Learn more at: https://thesatanictemple.com/