

DAC STANDARD REPORT
Equal Opportunity Subcommittee

ECUMENICAL PRAYERS AT COMMAND SPONSORED FUNCTIONS

1. When Coast Guard chaplains are not available, local pastors are often used during command-sponsored functions to deliver the invocation and benediction. When local pastors are used, their prayers often adhere closely to the tenets of their particular religion rather than on a more ecumenical basis. This may make some members in the audience feel uncomfortable, particularly if the pastor uses the invocation or benediction as an opportunity to “preach” to the audience rather than pray to God.
2. Whenever possible, use Coast Guard chaplains to provide the invocation and benediction at command sponsored ceremonies. For those cases when local pastors must be used, ensure commands are well educated concerning religious accommodation issues and policies. This guidance should be given to all prospective commanding officers and officers-in-charge perhaps during PCO/PXO and OINC/XPO School.