



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR STATION
BRUNSWICK, MAINE 04011-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO

NASBINST 1730.6
00D
10 MAR 2004

NAS BRUNSWICK INSTRUCTION 1730.6

From: Commanding Officer

Subj: **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR PAGAN PUBLIC WORSHIP
PRACTICES ONBOARD NAVAL AIR STATION, BRUNSWICK**

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1730.8A

1. Purpose. In furtherance of the important religious freedoms addressed in reference (a), the following Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) shall apply to Pagan religious practices onboard Naval Air Station, Brunswick (NASB). These measures and regulations shall generally govern practice of such rights in all public Navy properties in the local Brunswick and Topsham areas. This SOP shall not specifically govern Pagan rites when conducted in private, personal quarters. Such matters are addressed via other measures.

2. Policy.

a. Pagan practitioners shall be allowed to utilize the "Pine Cove" area located south of the retaining pond running parallel to Neptune Street onboard NASB. This grassy field may be accessed via an unimproved road originating at building 52. Pagan practitioners may utilize this field at any time, for any religious purpose or rite, subject to the limitations established below. Such authorization may be terminated, modified, or reviewed at any time for the purposes of installation security, personnel safety, property management, environmental compliance, morale and welfare, or in the interests of good order and discipline.

b. Pagan practitioners shall appoint a "Representative" to act as a liaison and facilitator between NASB authorities and the Pagan Community. This representative shall be an active duty member, be personally responsible for oversight of Pagan ceremonies in the public area, and serve as the primary point of contact between NASB authorities and base Pagan practitioners. The representative, or the Pagan community, may appoint an "alternate" to act in the principal representative's absence. The representative will report to the Commanding Officer, Command Chaplain, Station Judge Advocate, NASB Security, NASB Fire, and any other department/storefront or official organization all necessary information regarding Pagan use and enjoyment of the public area when so directed. Such information shall solely be gathered for official purposes.

3. Procedures. Pagan religious practices in the "Pine Cove" shall strictly conform to the following regulations. Failure to abide by these regulations may result in immediate suspension of public Pagan ceremonies.

a. No Pagan practitioner shall worship alone after sunset in the pine cove area. Pagan practitioners will always worship with at least one other person, and will enter and exit the public area with another person. The "Representative" Pagan practitioner or alternate must be present.

b. Pagan practitioners shall notify NASB Security prior to entering the public area and will advise Security once worship rites have concluded.

c. Pagan practitioners shall notify the NASB Fire Storefront of any use of fire during ceremonies in the public area. Such use shall be at the discretion and approval of NASB Fire department. Any use of fire will require immediate possession of fire extinguishing agents or materials by ceremony participants.

d. Illegal drugs, substances, or concoctions are strictly forbidden.

e. No alcohol or consumption of alcoholic beverages shall be tolerated in Pagan ceremonies or in the public area.

f. Pagan practitioners shall refrain from any sexual acts or immodest activity during all ceremonies in the public area and shall remain clothed at all times.

g. No animal sacrifice, or harm to any animal, shall be conducted in Pagan ceremonies or in the public area.

h. No person shall be excluded from the public area during Pagan ceremonies. Pagan ceremonies shall be open to any military personnel, NASB civilian personnel, military dependant, or military retiree wishing to participate. Participants in Pagan ceremonies in the public area shall be personally authorized access to NASB. No unauthorized visitors or guests will be allowed access to the public area for worship ceremonies.

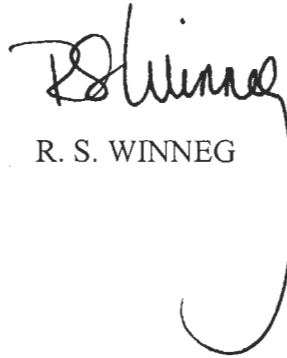
i. Pagan practitioners will not proselytize from other religious bodies, but retain the right to evangelize those who are non-affiliated.

4. Pagan practitioners shall be authorized to place semi-permanent religious instruments in the public area. These may include a stone mound, a wooden gate, a ceramic bowl, a fire pit, stools, stone circle, Maypole, general altar, and personal altars. Practitioners place these objects in the public area at their own expense and at their own risk. Theft or damage to this property may be reported to NASB Security for investigation. In no case shall any theft, damage, or destruction of this property result in a claim against the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Government, or air station officials. Naval Air Station authorities may require the immediate removal of such property from the public area at any time.

5. Pagan practitioners may be authorized to possess symbolic weaponry, or *athame*, in the public area. Any participant wishing to possess or employ such an instrument onboard the installation shall present it to Security officials for inspection. Possession of such articles is authorized only

with the approval and written permission of Security officials. Permission will be in the form of a license issued by NASB Security. Any violation of this procedure will result in the seizure of the instrument.

6. Pagan practitioners wishing to utilize the public area shall sign a memorandum acknowledging review and understanding of this instruction. Modifications to this instruction will be communicated to the Pagan Community Representative and formally noted as an addendum to this document.



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