DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO
1730
Ser N097/02154
24 May 02

Dear Colleagues:

Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th, is a time to remember those who have paid the ultimate price to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. Throughout our Nation's history, courageous men and women have invested their lives and fortunes to protect *our* lives and liberties. We must never forget their gift to us and our debt to them.

Today, a new generation of courageous men and women, the sons and daughters of 21st Century America, are following in the footsteps of past heroes. Today, they are deployed around the world, many in harm's way in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. And Navy chaplains and RPs are right there with them, providing life-transforming ministry.

The War on Terrorism requires great sacrifices from those serving at sea, in the air and on foreign soil. This war also requires sacrifices on the home front. Our police, fire and rescue personnel are on heightened alert, ever vigilant in their mission to protect us. Military families endure the pain of separation and uncertainty, waiting for loved ones serving on distant shores. The average American now encounters new inconveniences while traveling or entering public buildings. We all must live with the anxiety that tragedy could strike at home again.

The War on Terrorism has directly affected our Navy and our Chaplain Corps. The cost of the war is high, so budgets are being reduced. Funding for TEMDUINS and PCS moves have been drastically cut. Some chaplains are already experiencing the negative consequences as orders already negotiated are changed to maximize the expenditure of decreased PCS funds.

I am sorry for the disappointment and turmoil some of you are enduring. I sincerely appreciate the understanding and gracious spirit with which so many of you have responded to this dilemma. At this point, our detailers are required to use the limited resources they are given to issue as many sets of orders as possible. As a result, coast-to-coast, overseas-to-overseas,

and other high-cost moves will be minimized, while same-coast and no-cost moves will be maximized.

The supreme sacrifices of the past and the noble sacrifices of the present are all directed toward the same worthy goal: to preserve and protect all that is good about this unique Nation. This goal continues to be worthy of our prayers of gratitude and support. Give thanks for those who have done so much for you. Pray for one another. Pray for those you serve. Pray also for our Nation's leaders and for our Corps. God bless you, as you help our Chaplain Corps' vision become reality.

Sincerely,

BARRY C. BLACK
Rear Admiral, CHC, U.S. Navy
Chief of Chaplains