



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

IN REPLY REFER TO

IAN 11 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR CLAIMANT STAFF CHAPLAINS

Subj: FOCUS 02/99: (RELIGIOUS PROGRAM SPECIALIST (RP) TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY)

1. On 12 April 1979, the Chief of Naval Operations issued "NAVOP 047/79", which announced the selectees for conversion to the Religious Program Specialist (RP) Rating. One Hundred and Sixty Sailors were selected by a special conversion board convened that prior November. The effective date of conversion was 15 January 1979. It is on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RP Rating that I wish to express my genuine gratitude for the dedicated service of RPs, past and present.
2. Their active participation in Naval programs and visible involvement with Navy and Marine Corps units worldwide continues to be exceptional. They have displayed professionalism in every clime and setting: from Grenada to Desert Storm; from Somalia to the Mediterranean; and from the Far East to our own home shores of the United States. They daily demonstrate diversity and flexibility in the most arduous assignments. Without them, the quality of ministry to our Sea Services members and their families would be greatly diminished.
3. I am confident they will continue to build on a proud tradition of selfless service and commitment to excellence. I ask that you thank and recognize them for partnering with the Chaplain Corps these past twenty years. Please extend my greetings and very best wishes, and that of my Senior Enlisted Advisor, RPCM Rick Faulkner, to every RP within your Claimancy/Service.

*A. Byron Holderby, Jr.*

A. BYRON HOLDERBY, JR.  
Chief of Chaplains