



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 N097/01200
8 Aug 01

Dear Colleagues,

As we near the completion of my first year in office, it's apropos to review the past 12 months. During this past year I've attempted to set goals and define reality through my interim guidance and subsequent strategic plan. Initially, we proposed to improve recruiting, current and future readiness; be proactive with public relations, and maximize Reserve religious ministry resources.

These goals align our Corps with CNO's strategic guidance and with the expressed intent of the Commandants of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard. They provided the prelude to our strategic plan.

Our Chaplain Corps' strategic plan contains eight priorities:

1. Promote ethical and moral behavior throughout the Sea Services
2. Ensure religious ministry support enhances current readiness
3. Think strategically for future readiness
4. Employ Reserve religious ministry support assets more effectively
5. Realign assets to improve religious ministry support for operational forces
6. Improve recruitment and retention
7. Enhance external and internal communications
8. Leverage technology to support the mission

These priorities shape our strategic direction for the coming years.

Has God blessed our efforts? He has done more than expected.

1. He has given us people of faith to guide the Sea Services. From SECNAV and CNO to the Commandants, faithful hands hold the helm.

2. We're up by 25 percent in recruiting, with time still remaining in the fiscal year. I've even received calls where people have said, "God impressed me to join your ministry."

3. Readiness has been enhanced through the development of a requirements identification process and by exploring new paradigms for supporting under-served units.

4. We've benefited from the NAVSEASYSKOM's Distance Support initiative and our cooperative and collaborative ministry program. These initiatives positively affect current and future readiness.

5. God has blessed us with a strategic plan that represents the best thoughts of our senior officer and enlisted leadership. It also reflects the aspirations and articulated needs of the people we serve.

6. We've been blessed to tell our good news stories. Since August 18 of last year, the news media have featured more than twenty stories showcasing the dynamic impact of your faithfulness to ministry in the Sea Services.

7. We've more fully assimilated Reserve chaplains and RP's into all phases of Chaplain Corps professional development and training. To God be the glory, great things He has done.

By God's grace, great things are still ahead. We continue to organize to meet the goals of our strategic plan. A September meeting with Lead Agents will solidify that process. I'll continue, Lord willing, to communicate by letters and through visits, always emphasizing our vision to deliver innovative, life-transforming service. Our Corps-wide Prayer Days will continue to make a difference, and we'll continue to intercede regularly at the Chief of Chaplains office for you and your substantive labors. We will continue fostering an environment where you can serve God's people with integrity and power. We press on in the Master's work.

Have our labors been without rough seas? Of course they have not. Any deployment will bring times of choppy waters and boisterous waves. But the forces that beat against the Corps' ship don't trouble me, as long as I find solace in Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Yes, even in the turbulence, God is with us.

So trusting in this ever-present God, "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we will reap, if we faint not." (Gal. 6:9)

Shalom,



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