



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 N097/00270
18 DEC 2000

Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

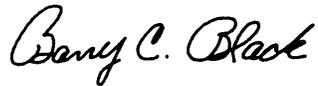
Recently I met with more than twenty chaplains and Religious Program Specialists (RPs) at Murphy Canyon in San Diego. We shared a meal and quality time—it energized me. Our discussions confirmed what I am hearing from chaplains and line officers across the Sea Services. Your ministry is touching lives in positive ways. I am impressed with the life transforming service you are performing for God and country. I reminded chaplains and RPs that who we are is every bit as important as what we do. That's why our vision statement begins with the phrase "Devoted to God." Our devotion to God is the critical factor in our Chaplain Corps' success. If we are totally committed to God's purposes, our faithfulness will be evidence of our great calling.

As we look ahead to 2001, I am very optimistic. Senior Leadership Conference (SLC) 2001, to be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Dallas, Texas 20-23 March 2001, will solidify our Strategic Plan and the initiatives that will guide us for years to come. Those participating in the 19 and 20 March 2001 Working Groups, and those who will attend the SLC starting the evening of 20 March, will soon receive invitation letters outlining my vision for our time together. I expect our next SLC to be a mountaintop experience for the Chaplain Corps and RP rating. I strongly encourage every active duty and Reserve O-6 Chaplain (and O-6 select) and RPCM (and E-9 select) to attend SLC 2001—unless you are deployed.

The past week has been one of disappointment and excitement for many RPs. Those not selected for advancement need your encouragement. Allow them time every week to study for the March 2001 exam. Encourage them to find a senior RP mentor to help them prepare for the next exam and ensure all advancement requirements are completed. For those who were selected for advancement—Congratulations! Your hard work and perseverance have paid off. Your promotion will lead to more responsibilities, including the responsibility to help your juniors prepare for advancement. Share your knowledge and experience and encourage them to strive for the excellence you have achieved!

As we approach this holiday season, Chaplains Iasiello, Bigger and I, as well as your Senior Enlisted Advisor, RPCM Larry Darnell, wish you safe travel and joyous celebrations. For those of you deployed during this holiday season, we sincerely thank you for all you are doing for God and Country. The ministry you are providing to the Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard personnel in your command is critical to their well being. We will remember you and your families in our prayers in the days ahead. May Almighty God bless you all with the gifts of love, peace and joy. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry C. Black".

BARRY C. BLACK
Rear Admiral, CHC, U.S. Navy