



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

IN REPLY REFER TO

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Dear Colleagues:

God continues to bless our Corps. I participated in four Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Programs, in four different cities and the unity I saw refreshed me. Chaplains of different races and creeds are leading God's people in celebrating His diverse creation. It pleased me to see strong involvement by many non-African American service members, Asian, Hispanic, and White. They weren't mere spectators, but participated. Many White chaplains refused to delegate this opportunity to lead Sea Services people toward greater unity.

I've just returned from the O-6 Selection Board. These boards are never easy. So many superstars compete for our limited number of promotion slots. We prayed repeatedly and felt God's providential leading. Psalm 75:6 reminds us that promotions come from God. When we're given much, however, much is required.

While in Millington, after the board secured, I visited with Chaplain Carr, Chaplain Carter and Chaplain Burt. We rejoiced that God has enabled us to meet last quarter's recruiting goal and reflected together on what we're doing right. Chaplain Carter eventually smiled and said, "It just might be an answer to prayer." I agree. So continue to harness the power of this spiritual weapon. Even without an official day, we should pray for each other and our Corps.

As we pray, we must work. This quarter's recruiting goal will be met by assiduous effort. Let's not relax. I encourage you to continue volunteering to visit seminaries. Continue to tell our positive stories.

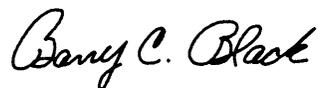
Inform friends of the rewards you've found in Sea Services ministry. Already this year, I've contacted more than twenty potential Navy chaplain candidates. If each chaplain and RP recruited one, recruiting success would come easily. We intend to publicly reward the Claimant and the Command chaplains and the RPs who achieve stellar success with accessions and retention.

Reports from the Jacksonville Professional Development Training Course (PDTC) are absolutely enthusiastic. This training opportunity will strengthen your ministry. Chaplain Bigger's banquet speech on forgiveness and reconciliation received a standing ovation. Unsolicited kudos pour in. Indeed, the reconciliation theme permeated the entire course, preparing us to better advise on knotty issues of religion and reconciliation. Don't miss this training.

Tomorrow I fly to Pensacola for a Prayer Breakfast. Then on Friday my wife and I head for France. We will represent you for a week at the European and North American Chiefs of Military Chaplains Conference in Strasbourg. This annual conference provides an opportunity to broaden our influence base and learn from our friends. As we build bridges and strengthen alliances, we prepare to better serve with a life transforming impact.

You should know we pause several times each week, in our office, to mention you in prayer. As God continues to give us favor, I'm convinced that the combined power of our collective prayers will bring us to a safe harbor.

Sincerely,

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

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