



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

IN REPLY REFER TO

1700
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25 Nov 03

Dear Colleagues,

On November 28, 2003 the United States Navy Chaplain Corps will celebrate 228 years of dedicated service to our Nation, its Sea Services, men and women in uniform, and their family members around the world. In these transformational and turbulent times, chaplains at home and abroad best emulate the corps' highest ideals in their extraordinary service to God and Country. Please accept our heartfelt congratulations and sincerest appreciation for the great ministry and service that you continue to provide to the People of God.

At the most recent Chief of Navy Chaplains' Change of Office ceremony, Admiral Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations commented, *"Throughout the world, where there is a Navy presence, there is a Navy chaplain presence as well. Whether directing religious services, providing counseling or offering an ear for listening, the Chaplain Corps has distinguished itself as one of our strongest contributors to quality of life and command cohesiveness."* We are in a splendid position to make a difference in the lives of service members. By association, what we do to minister to the men and women of the Sea Services makes a dramatic difference in the personal lives of our people and on the institution as a whole.

Many of you serve overseas, and many are currently separated from families and loved ones. Please accept our personal appreciation for your tremendous dedication, personal sacrifices, and outstanding service to God and country. We are confident that your ministry and pastoral presence will continue to have a profound impact. Relish these ministerial opportunities as you labor in God's vineyard. This is our call.

Be assured that we remain committed to pray daily for all chaplains, Chaplain Assistants and Religious Program Specialists. On behalf of our Chaplain Corps, we salute you. May the Lord grant you strength and peace as you continue your exceptional ministry to the Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen in your care.

Happy 228th Birthday brothers and sisters in ministry.

Your Servants,

Robert F. Burt
Chaplain of the Marine Corps
Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains

Louis V. Iasiello
Chief of Navy Chaplains

VOCATI AD SERVITIUM
'Called to Serve'