



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS**  
**2000 NAVY PENTAGON**  
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Dear Colleagues:

Naval Reserve chaplains and RPs have historically served with our active forces, combining their civilian careers with periodic Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard duties. Recently, a number of significant changes have made reservists even more vital and valuable to our Chaplain Corps' mission. Downsizing of the active force, moving the largest portion of reserve support money from the reserve to the CINCs, and mandating an alignment of reserve billets with active duty commands, have worked together to make Total Force a reality.

**Operation Noble Eagle**

Close cooperation between active and reserve chaplains and RPs was superbly illustrated during the crisis of the past two and a half weeks. The day after the Pentagon attack, several reserve chaplains who lived within driving distance were called. In less than twenty-four hours they joined the group of local active duty religious ministry teams (RMTs) and began 24-7 coverage. Side by side with their active duty counterparts, reservists worked at the Pentagon crash site, staffing the chaplain tent, assisting the recovery and mortuary teams, visiting and encouraging the emergency service workers and volunteers. Active and reserve chaplains assisted Naval District Washington, serving on casualty assistance calls (CACO) teams, and working with the mortuary staff at Dover Air Force Base, as well as on the staff of the Joint Family Assistance Center. Along with their active duty counterparts, reservists visited workspaces in the Navy Annex, Crystal City Navy offices and the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. They served with the Special Psychiatric Rapid Intervention Team (SPRINT) that debriefed survivors, friends and other DOD employees. They planned and led memorial and worship services, discussion groups and prayer sessions. They served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and stood duty watches in the Chief of Chaplains' office.

Reservists were fully integrated into the Chaplain Corps' response to this national emergency. Chaplain Bigger reports that he asked if he could see a list of the reserve chaplains who were here and the response was, "Sir, we don't have a list of reservists. We just have a list of chaplains."

Twenty-three reserve chaplains and four reserve RPs have now cycled through Washington, D.C., making a significant impact on the lives they've touched. As I write, reserve chaplains and a reserve RP are at ground zero in New York City, providing relief for active duty chaplains serving with the Coast Guard, at the Merchant Marine Academy, and aboard the COMFORT.

### **Training**

The quality of reserve support has been superb, largely because of the divine gifts these RMT members bring, and because of their civilian training and experience. Another component enhancing their quality contributions comes from revised training programs for the Corps at large. Recent Chaplain School staffs have revised course curricula and schedules so reservists can fully participate in all Chaplain School courses. The Chaplains School has revised the curriculum and schedule so that reserve chaplains can participate in all classes.

Last year, for the first time, all reserve chaplains and senior RPs were funded to attend the Professional Development Training Course. Professional Development Training Workshops and local training events have been opened to reserve RMT members as well. We believe these steps have contributed to a heightened level of awareness, preparation and integration.

In January 2002, all reserve chaplains and RPs will meet together for the first time at a training conference. Coordinated by the Claimant Chaplain's office at CNRF and the MARFORRES chaplain's office, it will provide unified and vital orientation in this new era of Total Force activity.

### **Realignment**

The entire Naval Reserve has undergone a thorough reorientation of its billets. Referred to as "AUIC visibility," the intent and result has been to tie each reserve billet to an active manning document. This realignment brings each reserve chaplain and RP into direct contact with the staff of her/his gaining command. While the AUIC alignment was going on and billets shifted, disestablished and created, a significant number of chaplains were placed in a holding category called "In Assignment Processing" (IAP). The Chief of Naval Reserve Command's claimant chaplain, Captain Marty Stahl and his staff, have positioned these chaplains and RPs so that, as of the new fiscal year, they will be assigned to appropriate real-world billets.

### **Voluntary support**

During the past two years, two major initiatives prompted enthusiastic responses. Many reserve chaplains volunteered to provide encouragement and personal contact to several groups. CDR Jack Lea, formerly of the USMC Recruiting Command and now serving at MARFORLANT, envisioned the first initiative while searching for ways to provide ministry to Marine recruiters and their families. The stress of that assignment is intensified for many because they are isolated from their usual military support systems. Reserve chaplain volunteers were identified geographically and put in touch with USMC recruiters. It soon became apparent that Navy recruiters faced many of the same challenges. They are now included in this program.

Second, CDR Barry Crane, with guidance from the Chaplain of the USCG, initiated a similar program for Coast Guard stations located far from their chaplains. Across the country, reserve chaplains are now serving active duty and reserve Coast Guard personnel and their families.

### **Recalls**

In addition to working at regular gaining commands and active duty sites, reserve chaplains and RPs have served with distinction in Bosnia, Cuba and Haiti. Orders are now being processed for reserve chaplain assignments to CENTCOM.

In the days ahead, we anticipate more recalls. I am confident that the reserve chaplains and RPs who respond to those calls are trained, ready, competent and capable of making a significant contribution to our mission. They too live our Chaplain Corps vision: Devoted to God and country, we unite to deliver innovative, life-transforming service throughout and beyond the Sea Services.

Cordially,



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