



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 N097/01278
5 Oct 01

Dear Colleagues:

At a recent meeting of high-level leaders, Admiral Fallon, our VCNO, identified three groups for special recognition of superior service in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks. You were one of the groups. Chaplains and Religious Program Specialists (RPs), by your faithfulness and unity at this crisis hour, have been applauded throughout the Sea Services and beyond. You're living our vision. Even as America's civilian sector reflects a new unity, so also does our Chaplain Corps. God moves in mysterious ways.

Our vision is about God and about bringing people into contact with the transcendent. This vision must now be accomplished within a new reality: war. Most of our Chaplain Corps' initiatives will reflect this new reality. I encourage you to think strategically about our vision and priorities with this new perspective. In your area of responsibility, your efforts should reflect our new ministry context. In these tragic and challenging days, people sense a need for God more than ever.

We must meet their needs with spiritual as well as temporal weapons. This is a time for prayer. We are to pray and not lose heart. Pray for those who mourn that they might receive heaven's comfort. Pray for those recovering from wounds that they may feel God's healing touch. Pray for those who go into harm's way. Pray for the lonely, the lost, and the disenfranchised. Pray that God's wisdom might be given to national and world leaders. Pray for us and for one another. And then pray for our enemies; bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. When you pray, believe that prayer is the key in faith's hands that unlocks heaven's storehouse.

Pax,

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

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