



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

IN REPLY REFER TO

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Dear Colleagues:

Last week, I shared with you the progress of Priority One of our Strategic Plan. This week, I want to share with you the latest developments of Priority Two, which is to "ensure religious ministry enhances current readiness." CAPT Leroy Gilbert is the Lead Agent overseeing this priority along with CDR Doug Waite and CAPT William Gilroy as coordinators of the team.

Due to the enormity of Priority Two, let me highlight some of the initiatives and objectives. LCDR Dale White is the action officer for Initiative 2.1: "promote spiritual growth to enhance operational readiness throughout the Sea Services." Under Objective 2.1.1, CDR Charles Anderson is compiling information to articulate the value of a strong spiritual foundation in promoting readiness. For Objective 2.1.2, LCDR Ernie Worman is researching policy and programs that encourage chaplain participation in spiritual retreats with command funding. LCDR Dave Gibson is documenting how CNET, regional and fleet training plans have integrated spiritual growth topics into their curriculum for Objective 2.1.3.

CAPT Jessie Tate is the action officer for Initiative 2.2: "strengthen the chaplain's impact on unit morale, cohesion, and readiness." CDR Barry Brimhall has taken the lead on Objective 2.2.4 by providing character development through weekly presentations at command quarters. LCDR Larry Johnson is coordinating Objective 2.2.3 by collating data on religious ministry scenarios for real and computer generated exercises at the joint, claimant and force levels.

CDR Steve Smith is the action officer for Initiative 2.5: "educate personnel on the significance of religious and cultural practices." As part of this initiative, CDR Tim Demy, CDR Ron Craddock and LCDR Mike Hogg have recommended a standardized curriculum throughout the Chaplain Corps, in the form of a religious handbook. This handbook will help to integrate faith group characteristics, beliefs, histories and practices into unit training.

CAPT Jay Magness is the action officer for Initiative 2.9: "improve inter-service chaplaincy cooperation." He and CDR Jim Cravens propose the use of Olympic Challenge 04 (OC04) as a test-bed to develop religious ministry team skill sets which enhance cooperative inter-service chaplaincy relationships. OC04 will afford opportunities to develop protocols used to establish a Joint Task Force Chaplain Team and validate the requirements for composition of such a team.

Other action officers working Priority Two include CAPT Vic Smith, CAPT Jim Pope, CAPT Paul McLaughlin, CDR Lyman Smith, and CDR Margaret Kibben. Together with their teams, specific objectives will be developed ensuring that religious ministry support will enhance our current readiness.

The creativity and visionary thinking you employ everyday make me proud to be a part of the Navy Chaplain Corps at this time in our history!



BARRY C. BLACK

Rear Admiral, CHC, U.S. Navy
Chief of Chaplains