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

IN REPLY REFER TO

1730
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Dear Colleagues,

This letter to the Corps focuses on the 21st Century Religious Program Specialist (RP). The Senior Enlisted Advisor focused his latest letter on Task Force Excel (TFE) and how it has already begun to revolutionize the training and education of RPs. TFE helps us in refocusing RP functions, tasks, and training, to meet the challenges ahead. RP School curricula will be reengineered to reflect the fact that 21st Century RPs are war-fighting professionals whose program support and professional expertise are critical to the success of Sea Services ministry in peace and war.

Many RPs have empowered volunteer groups and sponsors of other religious programs, to manage events that were historically supported by RPs (i.e. Sabbath fellowships, securing chapels for after-hours weekday events, etc.). This is an encouraging step in the right direction as we continue to empower RPs by enhancing the training they receive and developing them into 21st Century RPs. I can envision the future RP rating as a sought after profession for Sailors entering naval service, because of the "servant leadership" based and combat ministry focused skills that will be embodied in future training curricula and expected of all RPs.

The wheels of change are turning in our RP community. I'm pleased with our progress and encourage you to be a part of the process as we continue this exciting phase in our history.

Your reputation is excellent! Senior Sea Services leaders applaud the valuable contributions 21st Century RPs make around the Globe. Keep up the great work RPs! Thank you for all you do!

Cordially,

Barry Black

BARRY C. BLACK
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