



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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3 May 02

Dear Colleagues:

Ministry to our people in Operation Enduring Freedom is critical to their spiritual and emotional morale. Priority Five of the Strategic Plan addresses the importance of "Realigning assets to improve religious ministry support for operational forces." The Deputy Chaplain of the Marine Corps, CAPT Randy Cash, is the Lead Agent, assisted by CDR Diana Meehan.

CAPT Henry Nixon will be spearheading Initiative 5.1: "identify chaplain and Religious Program Specialist requirements for expeditionary billets." This initiative focuses on the development of an employment plan, and the establishment of additional duty billet relationships.

Initiative 5.2 "identifies chaplain and Religious Program Specialist requirements to support family readiness." CDR Melody Goodwin is the action officer for this initiative. Two activities within this initiative include the development of a domestic violence conference for chaplains to help advise commanders with domestic violence cases, and the development of web-based CACO/bereavement training to clarify the chaplain's role in the CACO process.

CAPT Jane Vieira is the action officer for Initiative 5.3: "to advocate for personnel's quality of life, safety, health, and living and working conditions." Projects in progress include ATMs at sea, sit-up berths, smart galleys, the "Capital Investment for Labor" initiative, and noise mitigation on ships. This initiative intends to identify those elements that contribute to improving working conditions.

Initiative 5.4 focuses on "increasing religious ministry support to training and education commands." CAPT Allen Allen is the action officer, assisted by CDR Jack Lea. One objective under this initiative is the establishment of an MOU between the Naval Chaplains School and the Naval War College, making available a Marine field grade officer to offer chaplains hands-on instruction and consultation on USMC issues.

CAPT Jim Danner is the action officer for Initiative 5.5: "increase chaplain and Religious Program Specialist participation in established mentorship programs." LCDR Frank Foley, CDR Jeff Seiler and Chaplain Danner are studying the successes and failures of established mentoring programs, and researching ways of developing the concept of mentoring chaplains.

The developments within this priority will help support our efforts, with limited assets, to provide religious ministry to our operational forces. Equipping chaplains with the highest caliber, most "state of the art" ministry tools will go a long way to achieving these goals.

Fraternally,



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