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Dear Colleagues:

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." This proverb was proven true once again as your Chaplain Corps and Religious Program Specialist Senior Leaders met in Orlando last week at the Senior Leadership Conference, 2002. For four full days we met, received briefs, discussed, and prayed for all of our Religious Ministry Teams who are delivering life-transforming service throughout and beyond the Sea Services.

This year's conference focused on *servant leadership*. After a stimulating message on this topic on Tuesday, we spent the next three days reviewing how we can embody servant leadership. Whether in current ops and support of our nation's commitment to rid the world of terrorism, or in the continuing implementation of our strategic plan, we considered how we could better address issues, build support and knowledge, and enable and strengthen all of our Religious Ministry Teams. To complete our mission, we must be servant leaders.

The highlight of the conference came as we bid farewell to two mighty examples of servant leadership - the active and Reserve "Gray Shepherds of the Corps." Chaplains Vic Smith and Vern Griffeth represent nearly sixty years of dedicated service - literally around the globe in every conceivable setting. How good it was to acknowledge their example as they advance to their next arena of service. An inspiration for us all.

On Friday, I was pleased to bring summary remarks for the week. I would like to share the major points to help communicate my action steps with you:

1. ***Adopt a Uriah Spirit*** - A Uriah spirit will give us an attitude of sacrifice and selflessness. Read about this mighty warrior in 2 Samuel 11:11.
2. **Remember who you are** - Continually remembering we are God's children will motivate us to live worthy of that honor, ensuring that the shield of divine favor surrounds us.
3. **Live the Chaplain Corps vision and mission** - These place us on the right path for the 21st century. They help us

implement our strategic plan and follow CNO's 2002 "Fight and Win" guidance to Navy leaders.

4. **Determine to faithfully do your best** - Faithfulness is the *sine qua non* of successful labor. God judges us not on our abilities, but on our faithfulness in doing our best in all we do. Faithful service brings honor to God, our nation, our faith groups, our families, and our Navy.
5. **Pray for one another** - Our Corps has already benefited from the fervent prayers of many thousands of dedicated intercessors. We must continue our intercession as we face future challenges. God will provide the wisdom and strength we need to prosper in what we are called to do.
6. **Persevere through the seasons** - Perseverance enables us to accomplish more than we can ask or think. The good fruit of our labors will come in its season.

I'm excited about what God will do for us in the days to come. "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Your Fellow Servant,

Barry C Black

BARRY C. BLACK
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Chief of Chaplains