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

IN REPLY REFER TO
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Ser N097/00224
2 Nov 2000

Dear Colleagues:

If our vision of uniting to deliver innovative, life-transforming service will move from dream to reality, we need an empowerment environment. Such an environment enables us to take the initiative to empower ourselves, to increase our sense of impact, influence, meaning, competence, and confidence.

One of the levers for creating this empowerment environment is internalizing a clear vision and challenge. We must internalize our Corps' vision and strategic direction. Our vision challenges us to unite. That unity is a by-product of our devotion to God and country. This unity becomes the springboard for delivering innovative, life transforming service. It enables us to experience significant self-determination.

Each of us is challenged to develop tactics in our areas of responsibility to achieve the objective of unified service. We should structure our ministry by looking repeatedly through the lenses of unified, life transforming service. It is a litmus test for evaluating the efficacy of our varied initiatives. We can bring life transformation because of our connection with the One who has been our help in ages past and our hope for years to come. No other component of the sea services can deliver this life transformation in quite the way we can, for we are called by God to this labor.

On 16 November, the Thursday before Thanksgiving, I invite you again to spend some time in prayer for our Chaplain Corps.

Fraternally Yours,

Barry C. Black

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