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

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Dear Chaplains:

Serving as a chaplain in the United States Navy is a privilege and joy experienced by those of us called to this challenging ministry. This is reflected, not only in the high quality of ministry we provide, but also in our Corps' retention rate, which is the highest in the Navy. Most people who come in want to stay. One of the most critical challenges before us, however, is getting them to answer the call to serve. Our Chaplain Corps recruiters work very hard to tell our story and interest qualified men and women in joining us in chaplaincy. For a variety of reasons, this is more difficult than in days gone by. A way we can assist our recruiters is through the Recruiter Assistance Program. This program provides limited funding for junior chaplains (Lieutenants) to go to their seminary or denominational conference to speak about Navy chaplaincy. They will be accompanied by one of our Chaplain Recruiters who will provide promotional materials and program information. This provides an excellent opportunity for chaplains to go places where they are known, tell about their ministry experiences and invite others to join us. No one can tell your story more effectively than you. Your story needs to be told! For more information about how you can be involved in this initiative, contact CDR (Sel) Gary Carr, at 1-866-484-5232 (toll free).

It is clear that four field recruiters, by themselves, face a daunting challenge. Anyone who has ever worked in sales knows it's tough to meet people cold and interest them in a product. However, if each of us can provide our recruiters one "hot" lead per year, through this program or some other opportunity of influence, we can help them tremendously. We each must work to ensure our Corps can fill all chaplain billets and thereby deliver effective ministry to the Sea Services. I strongly encourage each chaplain to get involved.

Sincerely,

Barry C. Black

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