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

IN REPLY REFER TO
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Dear Colleagues:

This letter updates you on my Hawaii trip, recruiting progress, and our cooperative ministry initiative. God continues in the blessing business.

I spent 14-18 May in Hawaii. The trip yielded tremendous affirmation about your good work. I visited with three admirals, one general officer, and several commanding officers. Each of these senior officers expressed appreciation for the substantive, life transforming work of chaplains and Religious Program Specialists. For example, our chaplains accomplished wonderful work with the little known but crucially important *Joint Task Force-Full Accounting*, bringing God's presence during a time of grief. One of our chaplains traveled to Vietnam to work with the American team after a tragic helicopter crash claimed the lives of U.S. personnel seeking to recover the remains of our KIAs. Your work makes a significant difference for the Kingdom.

The Hawaii Professional Development Training Course (PDTC) reminded me of the imperative theme of reconciliation. This PDTC has important implications for our Corps' external contributions and internal stability. I encourage you to read through the syllabus, and carefully review the articles by our Subject Matter Experts. Taken seriously, this information can help move our world toward greater unity.

God keeps blessing our recruiting efforts. We're significantly ahead of last year's efforts and recently accession boards have met, bringing more chaplains into the fold. Working with CHINFO, we produced a video honoring the four chaplains who sacrificed their lives in World War II. This video will be seen by those contemplating the chaplaincy and the message is clear: Navy chaplains are called to a form of sacred service that is bigger than self. We continue to call faithful chaplains to follow in the footsteps of our heroic predecessors. If Navy ministry fulfils you, continue to tell others about the joys of Sea Services ministry. Your efforts pay rich dividends.

In an effort to define and describe what we mean by cooperative and collaborative ministry, a working group of senior chaplains and Religious Program Specialists have proposed an exciting new ministry concept -- the Area Religious Ministry Coordination Team (ARMCT). The purpose of the ARMCT will be to identify the religious ministry support requirements in a geographical area and develop strategies to enhance mission efficiency and effectiveness. Although still in concept development, I am excited about the potential for providing chaplains and RPs a structure to enhance our commitment to answer the diverse religious ministry support needs of Sea Services personnel. The ARMCT has the potential to be a center for innovation and collaboration. In the weeks ahead I will be telling you much more about the ARMCT as we enter "beta testing."

Thank you for your continued prayers. Many of you have informed me that you pray for our Corps and for me. I feel those powerful prayers and they truly make a difference. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal." At least twice weekly, members from my staff meet to pray for you and your ministry. We remember those who sail into harm's way and you who are separated from loved ones. We pray for those who mourn and for the disillusioned. We pray for those who must provide ministry where spiritual things are under-appreciated or unappreciated. We pray for world and national leaders. We pray for an outpouring of God's Spirit to vivify and empower us to unite and deliver innovative, life transforming ministry throughout and beyond the Sea Services. And we thank God for friends and for people to serve. God bless you.

Sincerely,

Barry C. Black

BARRY C. BLACK
Rear Admiral, CHC, U.S. Navy