DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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IN REPLY REFER TO
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Dear Colleagues:

Another week enters the history books, and I'm grateful for God's loving providence. On Monday, I spent time in Norfolk, Virginia with the Manpower Realignment Working Group. This initiative seeks to enhance cooperative and collaborative ministry throughout and beyond the Sea Services. This effort provides the prelude for better balancing of two priorities: (1) Increasing support to operational forces and (2) fulfilling the shore mission.

Returning to DC, Brenda and I attended the annual Naval War College dinner. We received inspiration from this wonderful evening, as Admiral Fallon, our VCNO, received the coveted Distinguished Graduate Leadership Award. In his acceptance remarks, Admiral Fallon reminded us of the importance of maximizing our opportunities to prepare for the future. Spending an evening with many patriotic Americans provides fuel for an optimistic outlook.

I am optimistic about the future. Our Corps will focus on the following:

1. Emphasize ethical and moral leadership throughout and beyond the Sea Services.
2. Maximize religious ministry support to enhance current readiness.
3. Participate in strategic thinking processes at all levels.
4. Integrate fully all Reserve religious ministry support assets into the Total Force.
5. Increase religious ministry support of operational forces.
6. Increase recruitment and retention.
7. Improve external and internal communications.

This preview of our strategic course should ignite your creative thoughts and prepare you to contribute to mission accomplishment.

One of the best contributions each of us can make to mission accomplishment is prayer. I was reminded of prayer's efficacy as Chaplain Iasiello and I participated in the DC National Day of Prayer activities. We had the opportunity to speak to national leaders about prayer power. I told them that our Corps has set aside time to pray, and that prayer does change things. We spoke with President George W. Bush and had private prayer sessions with key leaders. God is doing something wonderful at the national level, as people in powerful positions are calling on the name of the Lord.

As a Corps, let us labor as if prayer had nothing to do with it, and pray as if work had nothing to do with our ultimate success.

Sincerely,

Barry C. Black

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