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 N097/02015
11 Jan 02

Dear Colleagues:

As I leave for a visit to the Fifth Fleet AOR, I want to share my thoughts on chaplain professional development. Navy chaplains have an impressive record of ministry as professional clergy within the Sea Services. An essential part of what makes us *professional* is our commitment to maintain a high level of qualification through involvement in continuing education. Professionals must remain "current" in their area of expertise to be considered "professional."

In addition to the continuing education opportunities you pursue independently, there are a number of excellent courses and workshops available to you within the Sea Services. To explore the professional development training options coming up for chaplains in 2002, you can go to **CNET.NAVY.MIL/NETPDTC/CHAPLAIN.** This web page indicates the type and variety of training available to Navy chaplains. The site provides a link to Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) dates and sites, and additional links to naval instructions that mandate other chaplain training.

One excellent example of the training opportunities available to you was offered on 5-6 December. The National Defense University in Washington, D.C., hosted a workshop facilitated by former ambassador George Ward, Jr., of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). Ambassador Ward discussed the cultural milieu of Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) in humanitarian operational areas overseas. This workshop provided crucial practical knowledge for effective ministry in a joint operational setting.

In the months ahead, the Joint Forces Staff College (JFSC) in Norfolk will be the site of a PDTW addressing issues unique to faith-based cultures, and Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta will host a PDTW entitled, "Preaching to the Institution." In this latter two-day workshop, taught by well-known author and professor Dr. James Massey, chaplains will be afforded a stimulating dialogue with one of today's most prominent churchmen and preachers.

Many excellent Professional Development Training Workshops are available in a number of locations where chaplains are serving. I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to continue your professional development for the benefit of God's people.

BCBlack

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