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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Dear Colleagues,

Recently, I visited the Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes, Illinois, accompanied by Master Chief Person. We both received inspiration from this experience. The SEA and I confirmed that today's recruits enthusiastically embrace the qualities of honor, courage, and commitment. They are patriotic, hardworking, and determined.

In my address as the Graduation Reviewing Officer, I challenged them to leave footprints—to make their mark. Quoting Longfellow, I suggested that three worthy footprints are diligence, excellence, and perseverance. Diligence is the quality that maximizes the impact of our abilities by maintaining focus until a job is completely and properly done. Excellence is the quality of commitment to our work that ensures that God will be glorified in it, because we settle for nothing less than our best. And perseverence is the quality that carries us through the inevitable seasons of *un*-productive effort, times when all of us must wait in hope between the planting and the harvest.

Meeting with many friends and family members following the ceremony reminded me that this graduation was indeed a family affair. Many of these fine folks traveled great distances to witness their recruit's accomplishment. Our Navy's future is in good hands.

My time at Great Lakes afforded me other priveleges. I was invited to preach at Trinity Evangelical Seminary, which afforded me an opportunity to showcase the joys of military ministry. At Trinity, Chaplain Endel Lee led a wonderful Professional Development Workshop (PDTW) on "Crisis Preaching." I learned a great deal from his fine work and enjoyed the time spent talking to chaplains about our Corps and answering their questions.

Following the PDTW, I visited several commanding officers and executive officers, receiving unsolicited kudos regarding the work of their chaplains and RPs. I also attended the Chaplain Corps Anniversary commemoration, and was delighted to be part of such a large and spirited group celebrating our honorable heritage and our current contributions to the people of the Sea Services. Chaplain George Cooper and his marvelous staff have

really raised the bar regarding how we should celebrate our history. Some retired chaplains traveled many hours to attend this festive affair. Chaplains from our sister services also attended. How blessed we are to be a part of this wonderful tradition of ministry called the U. S. Navy Chaplain Corps. God continues to smile on your life-transforming service. "Don't become weary in well doing, for in due season you will reap, if you faint not."

Sincerely,

Barry C. Black

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