

# *Toward the Future:*



Naval Chaplains School Basic Course students use teamwork to achieve objectives during training.

## *Cooperation and Collaboration*

Volume 6, No. 1

November–December 2001

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CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

The mailing of our final printed issue of *The Navy Chaplain* was delayed due to the events of September 11. It should arrive in your mail soon. It included a copy of our new Chaplain Corps Strategic Plan. We are sending additional copies of the plan to all Sea Services flag and general officers and to commanding officers of units to which chaplains are assigned. I ask you to read it, review it, and discuss it with your colleagues.

This first all-electronic issue of *The Navy Chaplain* "tells the story" of some remarkable things our chaplains and RPs are doing. Chaplain Joseph Scordo shares his exciting ministry experience in Croatia. RP3 Gerard Hardin describes his work at a recent Boy Scout Jamboree. Both articles illustrate our strategic plan in action. As we share in the lives of others, we represent both a God who loves humanity, and a Nation that values human dignity and worth.

You will also find thoughts on wartime ministry from some of our combat-experienced chaplains. And our "Within the Family" section is lengthier than usual as we catch up on some significant achievements and events. These are exciting times to be in Sea Services ministry. I pray that we may be like the leaders of the tribe of Issachar, who understood the challenges of the times and knew what to do to serve God (I Chronicles 12:32).

In God's service and yours,



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United States Navy  
Editor: LCDR Walt East, CHC, USN

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## An American Catholic Chaplain Looks at Croatia

by CDR Joseph A. Scordo, CHC, USNR

I must admit that before deploying with the 26<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (26 MEU) I was not very familiar with the history, geography, and culture of the Balkan countries. Several short briefings for personnel of the MEU gave me an introduction to the rich and varied history of the area that made up former Yugoslavia.

My initial firsthand experience of Croatia was a port visit in the lovely city of Dubrovnik. There I experienced the friendliness and warmth of the Croatian people, the beauty of the city and countryside, and their sometimes tragic history. It was difficult to believe that just a few short years prior to our arrival, Dubrovnik was the target of fierce shelling, with much of the historic city devastated. When we arrived, most of the physical evidence of the devastation was gone. We spent several days exploring the city and countryside, going on guided tours of the city, and simply walking the city streets and walls. What a wonderful introduction to Croatia!

Some time later, in November of 2000, our Amphibious Ready Group pulled into the port city of Rijeka. We had a very short time before our arrival there to make arrangements and plans for training at a large military training base outside the small town of Slunj in the Croatian mountains. Having completed planning and preparations for our exercises, we started the long, five-hour bus ride to the mountains. I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the countryside, which was in full color with the changing of the foliage on the hills and mountains. As we made our way into the country, more and more evidence of recent war fighting was visible. There were many new homes and businesses along the way that had been completely rebuilt or repaired after their destruction in the war. Very few buildings were visible that had not undergone renovation or rebuilding. My thoughts were of a very proud and industrious people who would not let their lives and countryside be visibly scarred by the conflict. On occasion we did pass some buildings on which we could still see the marks of the bullets where the fighting was clearly fierce. Yet, the ugliness of war was far outstripped by the beauty of the little towns with lovely streams and waterfalls running through and around the buildings perched on the steep sides of the hills and mountains. Our long convoy of buses must have been an unusual sight for the local people since many

stopped and observed us as we made our way up the mountains toward Slunj.

I really can't say what I was expecting to see, but what was clear as we stepped off the bus was that we were in a most beautiful pastoral setting. To my thinking it was far too beautiful to be a place for military training. But we were here at the "Range" as the local military called it. It was a great facility for our Marines and Sailors, and each unit had the opportunity to accomplish some excellent training.

I had the good fortune of meeting Zlatko Iusic, a member of the Croatian military who served as our translator, public relations officer, and general ambassador of good will. "Johnny", as he liked to be called because of his love of American Country Music—especially that of Johnny Cash, and I spent many hours in pleasant conversation about his country, the war, the local economy, the weather (it was unusually warm, and the local farmers were worrying about the fruit trees budding before the winter freeze—effectively ruining the next year's harvest), and religion. I was a Roman Catholic priest in a country that was predominantly Roman Catholic, so there was much that Johnny and I could talk about and identify with. Johnny said that he would like me to meet the Pastor of the Catholic Church in nearby Slunj, so we made plans to visit with him.



Toward the latter part of that first week in Slunj, Johnny and I went into town to meet the priest. Johnny told me that the priest spoke no English, but he did speak Italian. I have only a limited use of the Italian language, but we were able to communicate with ease. I thought to myself how strangely wonderful this encounter was—here I was in a foreign country communicating with a man in a language that was native to neither of us! One of the ironies was that Johnny, who came along as an interpreter, actually didn't do too much talking for either of us, so well did we understand each other! It was providen-

tial that morning a meeting of the local Catholic clergy was scheduled in the very rectory in which I sat. I had the opportunity of meeting many of the area Catholic priests and experiencing their warmth, spirituality, and dedication. What a blessing for me! The Pastor of Slunj and I began to make some plans for some of our Marines and Sailors to attend a Sunday Mass at his church at which he and I would

*(continued next page)*

*An American Catholic Chaplain... (continued from page 3)*

concelebrate. He would be the principal celebrant, and I would concelebrate and have an opportunity to say a few words as well. Johnny would serve as interpreter of my remarks.

The Pastor certainly mobilized his people. Not only was there a wonderful Mass complete with music and the parishioners' participation, but also a social afterwards in which we were treated to the kindness of the townspeople who offered us refreshments of coffee and magnificent home made pastries—all fit for kings! What a wonderful experience: we worshipped Almighty God together, and together we felt each other's



and suffered terribly because he would not accede to government wishes to declare the Catholic Church in Yugoslavia independent from the Holy See in Rome. I told Johnny that I was familiar with the Cardinal's story. As a boy I had attended a Catholic secondary school in White Plains, New York that had been named in honor of the then Archbishop Stepinac. In 1948 the Cardinal Archbishop of New York had paid tribute to the perse-

cut priest by dedicating the school to him. Johnny was delighted that I knew of his saint, and he told me that the town of Krasic was nearby. Krasic was the birthplace of Cardinal Stepinac, his place of house arrest, and the place where he died.

We set off for Krasic. In the center of the lovely town was Stepinac's church. We spent some time visiting the church, and we went around the back to the small building where Stepinac spent the last years of his life. The building was locked, and there seemed to be nobody around. The ever resourceful Johnny found the residence of the local Catholic priest. Father Josip Balog soon joined us and took us inside the building. He spent two hours telling us of the life and trials of Cardinal Stepinac, the false accusations, the imprisonment, and his eventual death. Father Balog's warmth and generosity of time and spirit clearly reflected those same qualities of the Slunj clergy and the Croatian people in general.

A day or two later we were finished with our military exercises at Slunj and began our trip back to the port city of Rijeka. Again, we were able to marvel at the beautiful vistas as we made the five-hour return trip. Warm memories of powerful religious and cultural events mingled with the visual beauty of the Croatian countryside made the afternoon slip by without our even noticing the time we spent traveling.

The events described above have affected me tremen-

dously. I now feel an almost "familial" tie to a country and people that previously were unknown to me. What a blessing this training exercise and visit was for me! I only hope and pray that others had a similar and enriching experience in a country that opened its arms and heart to us. *TNC*

*Chaplain Scordo serves 26<sup>th</sup> MEU II MEF.*



good will and warmth. The rain that fell on us that day did absolutely nothing to dampen our soaring spirits. Many high ranking military and civilian officials were present that morning. All agreed the Mass and social that followed was a major highlight of our short stay at Slunj. This contributed greatly toward fostering good relations and understanding between peoples of different cultures.

One afternoon back at the training facility while Johnny and I were talking he gave me a small prayer book many of the Croatian military receive. I was paging through it, and came upon a section devoted to Cardinal Aloysius Stepinac, recently raised to the level of "Blessed" by Pope John Paul II. After the Second World War, when the Communist government was in charge of the country then known as Yugoslavia, Cardinal Stepinac was imprisoned



## Within the Chaplain Corps/RP Family



*RP2 (FMF) Enrico Antonio Williams receives his FMF pin from  
LtCol Kirk W. Hymes, USMC, Commanding Officer of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion /11<sup>th</sup> Marines.*



### **Meritorious Service Medal**

*CAPT Robert F. Burt, CHC, USN  
NTC Great Lakes, IL*

*CDR Peter W. McGeory, CHC, USN  
Navy Military Personnel Command*

*CDR Frank A. Pugliese, CHC, USN  
NTC Great Lakes, IL*

*CDR Bruce A. Martin, CHC, USN  
2D MARDIV FMFLANT*

*CDR Robert W. Marshall, CHC, USN  
13th Coast Guard District, WA*

*CDR William M. Petruska, CHC, USN  
U. S. Naval Academy Annapolis, MD*

*CDR Diana L. Meehan, CHC, USN  
U. S. Naval Academy Annapolis, MD*

*CDR Brian F. Kelly, CHC, USN  
USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70)*

*LCDR Brent W. Scott, CHC, USNR  
CVW 7 Oceana, VA*



### **Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal**

*LCDR Dwight Webster, CHC, USN  
NAVMEDCEN Portsmouth, VA*

*LCDR Alan Hansen, CHC, USN  
NAVMEDCEN Portsmouth, VA*

*LCDR Christopher C. VanInwagen, CHC, USN  
NAVSTA San Diego, CA*

*LCDR Vincent R. Salomoni, CHC, USNR  
USSENERPRISE (CVN 65)*

*LCDR Alfonso J. Concha, CHC, USN  
NAS Corpus Christi, TX*

*LT David L. McBeth, CHC, USNR  
USSENERPRISE (CVN 65)*

*LT James H. Pittman, CHC, USNR  
NAVMEDCEN Portsmouth, VA*

*RPC (FMF) Arlene D. Rustmann, USN  
U. S. Naval Academy Annapolis, MD*

*RPC (AW/FMF) Douglas Hall, USN  
NAS Pensacola, FL*

*RPC (SW/AW) Jay L. Stuckey, USN  
3rd MARDIV FMFPAC*



**Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal**

*LCDR Seth Phillips, CHC, USN  
NAVSTA Norfolk, VA*

*LT Phillip Tran, CHC, USNR  
3rd MARDIV FMFPAC*

*LT Jon W. Conroe, CHC, USN  
NAS Whidbey Island, WA*

*LT James H. Pittman, CHC, USNR  
NAVMEDCEN Portsmouth, VA*

*RP1 Jason E. Zaun, USN  
3rd MARDIV FMFPAC*

*RP1 (SW/IUSS) Mary Brown, USN  
NAVMEDCEN Portsmouth, VA*

*RP2 (SW) Michael D. Hill, USN  
USS CORONADO (AGF 11)*

*RP3 (SW/AW) Kimesa A. Gatling, USN  
USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)*

*RP3 Angel P. Pacheco-Nazario, USN  
USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)*

*RP3 (SW) Heather Osterberg, USN  
USS BRIDGE (AOE 10)*

*RPSN Brandy L. Matteson, USN  
CREDO Camp Pendleton, CA*



**Coast Guard Achievement Medal**

*LCDR Manuel Biadog, CHC, USN  
USCG Training Center Petaluma, CA*



**Army Achievement Medal**

*LCDR Salvador Aguilera  
Walter Reed Army Medical Center*

*RP3 Gerald L. Hardin, USN  
USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)*



**Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist**

*RP2 (FMF/SW) Michael A. Beeler, USN  
USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)*

*RP2 (SW) Hiram Vega-Riveria, USN  
USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)*

*RP2 (SW) Twila Coney, USN  
USS ARCTIC (AOE 8)*



**Air Warfare Specialist**

*RP1 (AW) Craig R. Tilley, USN  
I MEF FMFPAC*



**Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist**

*RPCM (AW/SW/FMF) Melvin Smith, USN  
II MEF FMFLANT*

*RP1 (FMF) Tywla A. Wigfall, USN  
3D MARDIV FMFLANT*

*RP1 (FMF) Jason E. Zaun, USN  
3D MARDIV FMFPAC*

*RP1 (SW/FMF) Alan A. Dagg, USN  
3D MARDIV FMFLANT*

*RP2 (FMF) Eugene A. Trinidad, USN  
3D MARDIV FMFLANT*

*RP3 (FMF) Nelson F. Lebron, USN  
3D MARDIV FMFLANT*

*RP2 (FMF) Enrico Antonio, USN  
I MEF Camp Pendleton, CA*

*RP2 (FMF) William J. Smith, USN  
1ST MARDIV FMFPAC*

*RP2 (SW/FMF) Michael A. Beeler, USN  
USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)*

**IN MEMORIAM**



*PRAN Jeremy Corman, USN, Funeral Honors Detail, Naval Station Mayport FL, presents the U.S. flag to Mrs Vernon Tuxbury at the funeral for her husband, Captain Vernon W. Tuxbury, CHC, USN (Retired), at the Florida National Cemetary, Bushnell, FL, on 6 August 2001. Photo by LCDR Elden H. Luffman, CHC, USN (Retired), who officiated.*

***Nell D. Fisher***, wife of LCDR Jacob Fisher, CHC, USN (Retired)  
305 Baycliff Lane, Shreveport, LA 71108

***Ronald H. Stahl***, father of CAPT Martin Stahl, CHC, USN  
Commander Naval Reserve Force (NO1G), 4400 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA 70146

***Clifford Powell***, grandfather of RP3 Thomas Powell, USN  
Naval School of Health Sciences, 34101 Farenholt Avenue, San Diego, CA 92134-5291

***Betty M. Malene***, mother of CAPT Robert Malene, CHC, USN  
1st FSSG Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5606

***William B. Wyrick***, father of CDR Phillip A. Wyrick, CHC, USN  
COMSUBGRU NINE, Naval Submarine Base Bangor, 2150 Thresher Avenue, Silverdale, WA  
98315-2150

***Jesse P. Cunningham***, father-in-law of LCDR William Koczak, CHC, USN  
National Naval Medical Center, 8901 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20889

***Edgar Clifton Wilmot***, father of LCDR Allen Wilmot, CHC, USN  
COMCARAIRWING THREE, UNIT 60106, FPO AE 09504

***CAPT Vernon W. Tuxbury, CHC, USN (Retired)***

***CDR Eugene Flatley, CHC, USN (Retired)***

***CAPT Robert Lansing Stamper, CHC, USN (Retired)***

## *Improvising*

### **Sailor of the Quarter**

*RP2 (FMF) William J. Smith, USN*  
1st MARDIV FMFPAC

*RP3 Randy Giannotti, USN*  
NAVSTA Annapolis, MD

*RP3 (SW/AW) Kimesa A. Gatling USN*  
USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)

*RP2 Michelle Guzman-Roberts, USN*  
COMSUBGRU TWO

### **South Hampton Roads Volunteer Award**

*NAB Little Creek Chapel*  
NAB Little Creek, VA



*Photo by PH3 John Williams.*

Chaplain Tehran Frazier prepares to baptize AOC (AW) Keith Sherman of VFA-97 onboard USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) on 23 September. A J-52 engine casing, used for transporting engines for the EA6B Prowler, served as a baptistry. Ten people were scheduled to be baptized that day, and four more, moved by the ceremony, stepped forward to join them in the act of faith.

## *Note from the President, Navy Chaplain Foundation*

### **THINGS HAVE CHANGED**

The September 11 attack upon our country changed things forever. In the absence of war and crisis it is easy to get preoccupied with institutional concerns and nuances of belief and practice. Recent events have helped us to focus on the ministry we are called and commissioned to do. When the unthinkable happened before our very eyes and the symbols of our nation were directly attacked, chaplains sprang into action and headed toward danger and need.

We will be stronger if we go to these tasks mindful of the great courage and heroic faith of those who have gone before us. Understanding and remembering our past enables us to move into the future with courage and inspiration. The Navy Chaplain Foundation exists to capture that history, and those stories, to remind each of us that we are but the latest who are called upon to respond in willing ministry to the men and women who must sacrifice for our nation's freedoms, and to those families who wait anxiously for their safe return.

The Navy Chaplain Foundation invites your interest and support. Put your experiences in this time of national crisis into words and send them to us so that others can take heart from your example and work. We ask for God's deepest blessings on you as you minister in this troubled time.

Phillip C. Cato  
CAPT, CHC, USNR (Retired)  
President, The Navy Chaplain Foundation

Written contributions, membership requests, and other communications may be directed to:  
THE NAVY CHAPLAIN FOUNDATION  
P. O. Box 7101  
Arlington, VA 22207

**Based on your experience in combat situations, what should be the chaplain's priorities in preparing for the likelihood of conflict?**

Editor's note: The following are the responses three of our senior chaplains with prior-service combat experience gave to the above question. Their unedited comments are provided for thought and reflection in the hope of preparing our chaplains to better serve in times of conflict/combat.

**Chaplain Jay Magness:**

(Note: My response to the above question is based upon three particular personal experiences and/or types of experiences: as a young enlisted Sailor in Vietnam, as a chaplain aboard a CVN that launched strikes on two occasions, and being in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. I have taken the liberty of interpreting "conflict" as "combat.")

In order to prepare for engagement in combat, the chaplain's first priority should be to determine if he/she has the capability and fortitude to approach danger and not flee from it. This question implies that there is a need for emotional preparation prior to entry into a combat environment. Proper emotional preparation will enable the chaplain to anticipate a range of emotions that spans the distance between fear and anxiety to anger and hatred. Obviously the possession of these characteristics is difficult to determine for a person who has not yet been in combat. Notwithstanding, chaplains must give serious consideration to their functional capabilities when facing the loss of life, even to the extent of losing their own life. The reality is that frequently we discover our true identities during times of extremis. During this self-examination of emotional capabilities the wise chaplain will understand that the nature of armed combat is a very messy event. Even the person who has the most exhaustive integrated worldview will struggle to apply it in some situations.

Spiritual preparation, the next priority, should be focused upon an examination of the connections between hope and courage, and the necessity for corporate interdependence. The chaplain would be well advised to spend some quiet moments and review personal beliefs about religious faith, government and armed combat, and about the connections between them. The goal is to maintain an integrated worldview and an integrated self. The chaplain needs to have a clear understanding of spiritual foundations. Though some chaplains represent religious faith traditions that may give them some guidance into our understanding of war and humanity, it is far more important for the chaplain to have personal ownership of a functional theological and ethical worldview. This worldview needs to be in place prior to engagement in the conflict. When combat engagement has begun it is almost too late to develop these foundations.

Finally, how will the chaplain apply this understanding to the actual environment where the ministry will be delivered? Keeping in mind that the nature of combat is a disequilibrating and destabilizing event, the worldview should lend itself to the creation and support of stability and structure, hope, and courage. The worldview should bring peace and calm to the lives of people engaged in armed combat. An effective chaplain will know how to communicate this worldview to members of the command: Sailors and Marines (and perhaps to Soldiers and Airmen), and to the command leadership.

In conclusion, chaplains who are in a combat environment will stay properly grounded as they remember the following: though they are members of the organization, they are not about the business of enabling their leaders to feel either good or bad about being engaged in warfare. The professional and engaging naval chaplain will help leaders to maintain spiritual equilibrium and balance.

**Chaplain Charles Carter (Retired):**

While on active duty, I wore my dog tags as a constant reminder that I could be thrust on a moment's notice into a crisis situation; going into combat would likely provide more lead time. Whenever I heard the dog tag make noise bumping against each other, I was reminded that I must be prepared physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually to care for Sailors or Marines in crisis.

Physical stamina would be required for the strenuous activity that must be sustained over a long period. I must have the physical energy to keep going; otherwise, I could not provide the spiritual ministry/pastoral care I was committed to provide.

Mental and emotional preparation means that I must know how to deliver pastoral care/spiritual ministry with the best methods available. I must be strong emotionally because of the toll sustained contact with casualties would exact.

The foundation of preparation for a chaplain must be spiritual preparation. I learned early on in my career as a chaplain that doing all that was expected of me could drain me spiritually because it left me too little time for the spiritual nourishment I needed from the Lord. Building and maintaining the relationship with God through Jesus Christ required of me large blocks of time. After my first tour (which drained me physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually), I committed myself to make the time to be prepared on a moment's notice to go into crisis/combat.

When David went down into the valley to meet Goliath, it was too late to go to the slingshot range. When the crisis comes, it is too late for preparation. You are either prepared, or not. The moment will not wait for you to get ready physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually. If you are not prepared, the moment will pass you by and people will not receive the pastoral care/spiritual ministry they need.

**Chaplain Norm Holcomb:**

Chaplains preparing to enter a combat environment should examine their own spirituality. Grave consideration should be given to the role of one's faith and its impact on the realities of fear and mortality. While the chaplain should not be expected to be any less fearful of danger and death than anyone else, he/she should be expected to demonstrate a "faith power" that serves as a corrective against fear that paralyzes and deprives one of energy and life force (psyche).

In a combat environment, there is no such thing as "meaningless small talk." Therefore, the chaplain should be prepared to enter into dialogue with anyone at any time and on any subject. So-called "meaningless small talk" can become the door that affords the service member an opportunity to express the deeper concerns of heart, mind, and soul.

The chaplain should avoid the assignment of "the will of God" to everything that happens. The harsh realities of combat have a way of exposing that sort of chicanery and thoughtless response to human pain. The simple truth is that life is often cruel and unfair and some things cannot be adequately explained. Remain in the world of faith and avoid the world of forcing round pegs into square holes. In short, recognize that the promptings of your central nervous system and the will of God are probably two different entities.

Don't put yourself in a place where you don't belong. A chaplain accompanying a combat patrol becomes a liability. It is criminal for a Marine to lose his/her life defending a non-combatant chaplain who has chosen to be where he/she shouldn't be.

Be present throughout your unit but be unobtrusive in your servant work.

The work that has to be done isn't about you, it is about those for whom you are providing service. Be a "Nike" chaplain; that is, "just do it" and don't seek/expect applause and praise. We don't need any more "Little Jack Horner" chaplains — those who "stick in their thumb and pull out a plum, and say, 'What a good boy am I!'" In the midst of fear, death, danger, pain, chaos, and uncertainty you will find that ministry becomes fundamental and uncomplicated. The primary concern will be that of life and death. It will be the "purest" ministry you will ever experience. And it will require the most honest, exhaustive, soul-searching spiritual inventory of yourself that you have ever been challenged to undergo!

## A Dream Realized

by RP3 Gerad Hardin, USN



While on our final underway period before we entered the shipyard for our “Refueling Complex Overhaul” I found an article of interest in our ship’s newspaper. It was a small column advertising a volunteer opportunity with an upcoming Boy Scout Jamboree. As an Eagle Scout I thought this would be a great way to give back to the organization, not to mention I never got to attend a Jamboree when I was a kid. My chain of command approved my request chit and sent me on my way to Fort A.P. Hill.

Once I arrived at the Fort, the location of Jamborees since the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, I began to do what my rate does best—meet and greet the public. In performing this RP ritual, I met the Executive Chairman of the Jamboree. I learned they wanted all of the Sailors to work the Navy flight simulator that featured the Blues Angels. I was designated the “Lead Carnie,” or supervisor, of the carnival ride a.k.a. Navy simulator.

With this title came the privilege of handling all of the complaints. We had more than you could imagine. The simulator held 14 people and there were 40,000 who wanted to ride. To handle this problem I went to my new friend “The Chairman.” We came up with a ticket system to manage everyone’s long wait for the ride. This spread the multitude across the two week time span and gave each camper a chance to “fly” with the best. With the cooperation



of “The Chairman,” my supervisors, and those who worked with me, it turned into one of the most popular attractions in the camp.

This experience will become one of my favorite memories, not only as an event in my career in the world’s finest Navy, but as a triumphant mark in my personal life. The only thing harder than the line problem is explaining to my mother how a Sailor was awarded an Army medal! *TNC*

*RP3 Hardin is assigned to  
USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)*

## Notes from the Detailer

by CAPT Bob Burt, CHC, USN

We bid a fond farewell to our Detailer shipmate, CDR Pete McGeory, on 20 Jul 2001. Chaplain McGeory is headed for, wait, I just remembered, he made me promise not to tell anyone. He wanted to go into the CHC Witness Protection Program for ex-detailers, but the Chief said he hadn’t received any threatening phone calls so it wasn’t necessary. Seriously, we will miss Chaplain McGeory. He has done an incredible job in propping 625 orders in his two years as a Detailer. CDR Frank Pugliese is on board and already making dreams come true. Welcome aboard to Frank.

Guidelines for communicating with our shop remain the same: 1) Update your duty preference card online;

2) E-mail the Detailer (p4414a@persnet.navy.mil) when you’ve done so;

3) Call DSN 882-3995 (901-874-3995 for our Coast Guard Chaplains) and you’ll be speaking with Chaplain Pugliese about a number of tantalizing opportunities.

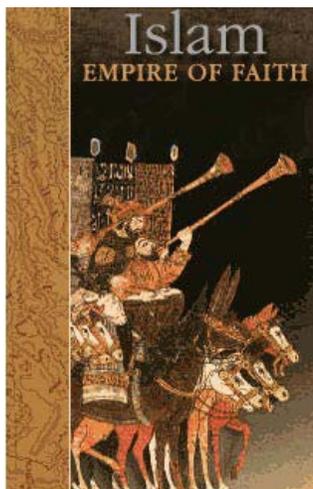
Keep checking our Hot Fills list ([www.persnet.navy.mil](http://www.persnet.navy.mil), click on **detailers**; click on **PERS-44: RL/Staff Corps Officer Distribution and Special Placement Division**; click on **P4414**; click on **Hot Fills**). Whenever we can fill the pressing billet needs and meet your professional growth needs at the same time, it’s a double win!

Keep us in your prayers as we continue to keep you in ours. Our prayer is to be led by God in every assignment decision.

God bless y’all and enjoy London, Pete!

## Islamic Resource Review

**Islam Empire of Faith.** Video produced by Public Broadcasting System (PBS). Directed by Robert Gardner and narrated by Ben Kingsley. Available as a PBS Home Video (part of the *Empires* series). 180 minutes, 2000. Reviewed by LT Youssef H. Aboul-Enein, MSC, USN



This three-hour program is one of the fairest and most objective portrayals of Islam produced. Its underlying theme is how Islam is inextricably linked to Western Civilization through its ideology, technology and history. The video begins in 570 A.D. with the birth of Prophet Muhammed (Peace Be Upon Him). His message of unbridled and unwavering monotheism coupled with his call for social justice would shake the foundations of Arabia. This concept of monotheism or *Tawhid* is more than just saying there is one God, but a setting aside those worldly things like the pursuit of wealth that may interfere with the worship of God. In 50 years, Islam would fill the void of the decaying empires in Byzantium and Iran. In 200 years, the Muslims would establish themselves from Spain to Indonesia. Early Islam was an empire built on faith. In Baghdad scholars irrespective of religion would debate medicine, sciences, mathematics, and preserve classical Greek texts from the pyres of the Dark Ages.

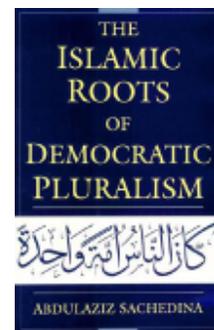
The crusades are dealt with fairly, from the madness of Al-Hakim, the Egyptian Sultan who ordered the burning of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This act was abhorred by Muslims so much that the Church was rebuilt by Al-Hakim's successor. This would not stop the Crusades. Later, Mongols would invade Iraq, and on the brink of destroying Islamic civilization, embraced Islam and flourished with their own Muslim dynasty.

The video ends with the Ottoman Empire and a message for viewers to think about the commonalities of the three faiths Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This video is highly recommended for both RPs and chaplains unfamiliar with Islam.

***The Islamic Roots of Democratic Pluralism*** by Abdulaziz Sachedina. Oxford University Press. New York. 175 pages, 2001. \$25.00 Reviewed by LT Youssef H. Aboul-Enein, MSC, USN

In this book Professor Abdulaziz Sachedina of the University of Virginia investigates the importance of democratic pluralism and tolerance from a purely Quranic stance as he incorporates key sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). For centuries Muslims have understood the diversity of humankind in religious thought and the early period of Islam saw an aversion to evangelism and forced conversions. Liberal Muslim scholars argue that antagonism created by the Crusades and the effects of European colonialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries created religious rulings that were discriminatory and not within the context of early Islam.

The author beautifully analyzes in some detail the verse in the Quran "*The people were one community (ummah): then God sent forth Prophets, good tidings to bear and warning and He sent down with them the Book with the truth, that He might decide the people touching their differences (2:213)*". Many theological principles can be deduced from this verse, like the unity of humankind under One God, the particularity of religions brought by previous prophets, the role of divine revelation in the course of human development, and the leaving of judgment to God. This verse can further be seen as recognizing the oneness of humanity in creation and the encouragement for interfaith understanding.



This book will be of interest to Muslims and Non-Muslims alike as it offers a new perspective and opportunity for interfaith dialog. I would like to thank LT Carl E. Trost, CHC, USNR, who brought this excellent volume to my attention.

LT Aboul-Enein has served as Muslim Lay-Leader aboard USS GUAM (LPH 9) and Naval Training Center Great Lakes.

## Resources You Can Use



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