

Summer 2003



Religious Ministry Teams *in action*

The Navy Chaplain

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Ministry Supports Mission

by CAPT Henry Nixon, Jr., CHC, USN &

LCDR Jerome A. Hinson, CHC, USN

“**R**eadiness” begins long before hostilities occur. Training and spirituality prepare chaplains and Religious Program Specialists (RPs) for the rigors of combat ministry. This article presents how Marine Corps Religious Ministry Teams (RMTs) prepared for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) from the Service Component perspective.

Let’s examine four important parts to understand readiness. One, the unique relationship between Marine Forces Central Command (MARCENT), Combined Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) and 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF); two, the desired end-state for successful religious ministry; three, the plan to achieve that end; and four, what actually happened.

Command Relationships

OIF showcased Joint Operations. From the realm of clear command relations and understandable chains of command, entered the realm of complexity and perplexity. Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC) deployed as MARCENT. MARCENT served as the Marine Corps Service Component Command to Commander, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

MARCENT retained Operational Control (OPCON) of I MEF, Tactical Control (TACON) was passed to CFLCC, the “ground war fighter.” In other words, MARCENT was responsible for deployment, reception, staging, onward movement and integration (RSO&I), as well as logistical sustainment.

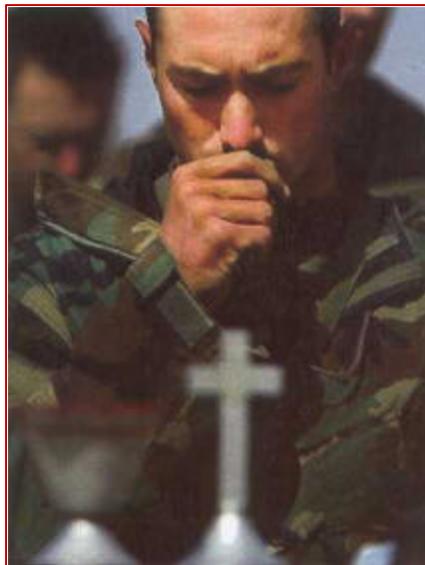
CFLCC employed I MEF as a gladiator applies a sword, with awesome lethal capability, assigning battle space, directing combat operations, and coordinating the force with other U.S. Army and British commands.

The relationship of OPCON to TACON is well illustrated by how a chef and a maitre d’ interact in concert to produce a fine dining experience. The chef orders and inspects the meat; purchases the freshest vegetables; and prepares the entrees. A skilled maitre d’ oversees the dining room; greets the customers; and attends to all aspects of serving the meal. The ability of the chef and maitre d’ to work together is crucial. The chef’s behind-the-scenes support and pre-meal preparation enables the maitre d’ to focus on every aspect of the dining room environment.

In the same way, MARCENT and I MEF worked in concert on the battle plan. MARCENT was responsible for equipment procurement, personnel augmentation and logistics sustainment. This freed I MEF to focus on the battle space assigned to it by CFLCC, fighting and winning the war.

Commander’s Intent for Ministry and Readiness

The desired end-state for religious ministry had two major themes. The first emphasis centered in providing chaplains and RPs who added value to the command. Ministry and ministry-support skills successfully supported the command’s mission—“ministry supports mission.” Chaplains representing the presence of God, and RPs supporting that goal, provided tremendous care and comfort to those in harm’s way.



A 1st Marine Division Marine prays during worship in OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

RMT Readiness*Cont'd from page 2*

The second theme focused on the commander's level of confidence in the survivability of chaplains and RPs in a Nuclear-Biological-Chemical (NBC) or hostile-fire environment. Not only do RMTs need to know how to minister to those in harm's way, they must know how to *go* in harm's way themselves. Their battlefield expeditionary skills and competency ensured they were not a burden to the command.

These two themes worked together to prepare professional RMTs for the spiritual and physical rigors of combat ministry. RMTs could respond to the needs of the institution and the people serving that institution. They possessed

a keen sense of situational awareness and could provide a unique spiritual dimension.

Achieving the end-state

In order to bring this about, the MARFORPAC / MARCENT Force Chaplain undertook an intentional program of preparation. Prior to commencement of hostilities, the challenge centered on ensuring that everyone from the most junior to senior, knew the plan and their role in it.

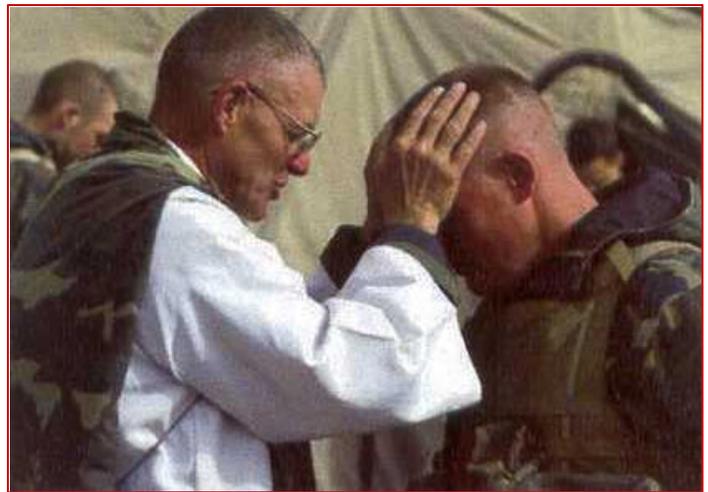
The MARFORPAC / MARCENT chaplain communicated the plan with a multi-faceted approach. The annual MARFORPAC Senior Leadership Ministry Conference focused on various aspects of engaging Iraq. Subject matter experts spoke on the religious diversity of the area; the psychology of the terrorist; and facing the child-soldiers, contributing to increased professional knowledge.

The Force Chaplain's visits to Major Subordinate Commands (MSCs) served as opportunity to encourage intentional training. "Train the way you fight" is a sacred trust of the MEF and MSC, providing training for their people. Combat skills such as RP weapons qualifications, combat first aid and NBC readiness played a significant part of this intentional training. A specific focus on developing Critical Incident Stress Management "muscle memory" skills, prepared chaplains and RPs to respond quickly to emergent needs in the high-tempo of modern military engagement.

Video-Teleconferencing (VTC) allowed for real-time discussion of issues among chaplains. Focusing on crisis response in mass casualties to casualty assistance calls, VTCs sought to prepare senior RMTs for all potential situations, from significant battlefield casualties to terrorist events.

Periodic review of the logistics system ensured that religious ministry supplies were available to ground forces. RMTs deploying with 45 days of material (vice 30), allowed for rapid deployment and facilitated for both RSO&I and ground war build-up. Annual MSC inspections ensured RMTs were mission-capable. Of particular importance were the random inspections of the Maritime Prepositioning Force's (MPF) 'God Block' (ministry pallets, and CONEX boxes), conducted by the Force and MEF chaplains aboard ship. The inspections, assisted by the Readiness Acceptance Check (RAC) Team at Blount Island, ensured perishable consumables remained fresh.

The training building blocks of the OPLAN were outlined in the Religious Ministry annex. At each level of OPLAN 1003V, the OIF plan was carefully laid out, used as a training tool and later as a guide for delivery of ministry. Personnel and logistical needs were anticipated in this way. Coupled with the total force integration of Reserve chaplains and RPs, the RMTs were able to contribute to the goal of "ministry supports mission."



RCT-7 Chaplain Devine blesses a Marine

RMT Readiness

Cont'd from page 3



Chaplain Weaver, 24th MEU, leading field worship

Results

Reports from field commanders reflected appreciation for RMTs. Chaplains and RPs served with professionalism. They provided ministry within the context of diverse faith histories and traditions. The RMTs' ministry of presence gave tremendous solace and encouragement to Marines, Sailors and Soldiers. They performed expeditionary baptisms; conducted tent revivals; prayed with units before battle; and cared for casualties and prisoners of war. Reserve chaplains and RPs integrated seamlessly into their units. The MPF God Block worked, infusing a 45-day supply of religious ministry items just as hostilities commenced.

The INCONUS RMT support of the mission was superb. Countless memorial services, CACO calls and ministry provided comfort to family and friends during times of grief and grave concern.



Training and planning may seem tedious. However, the results of that training and planning speak for themselves. When we train like we fight, and know the plan we are committed to support, then ministry truly supports mission. 



CAPT Henry Nixon, Jr. serves as MARFORPAC Force Chaplain. He is dual-hatted as CONUSMARCENT Force Chaplain.

LCDR Jerry Hinson serves as 1 MAW Deputy Wing Chaplain. During OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, he served as COMUSMARCENT HQ BN Chaplain.

Vietnam Revisited

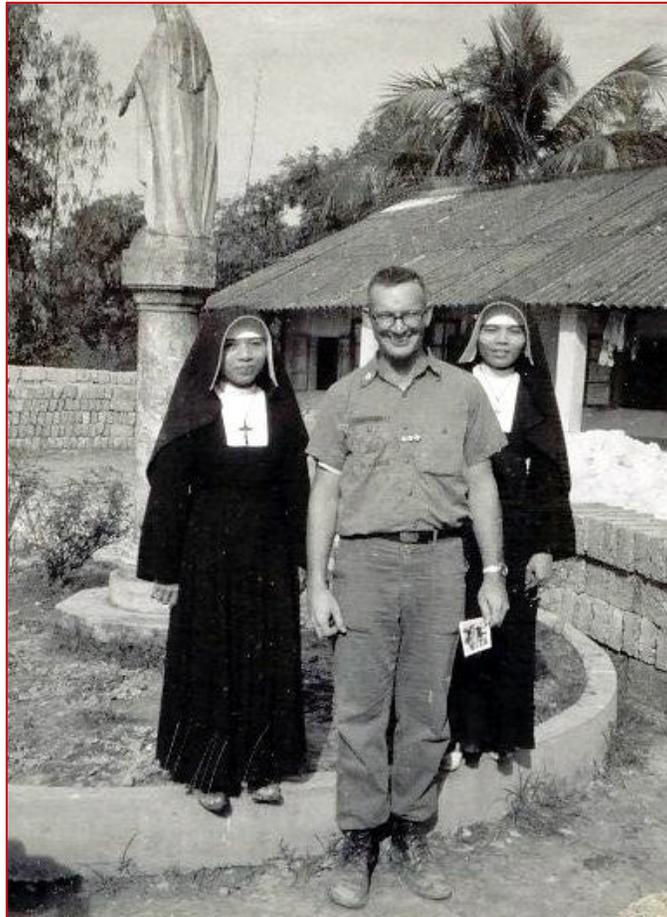
by CAPT Thomas F. Johnson, CHC. USN (Ret.)

"I am going home, and I am still alive." It was a strange sensation leaving Hue Phu Bai 1966. On board a C-130 bound for Quonset Point, Rhode Island, the mood was silent anticipation. I thought it would be the last time I saw Viet Nam.

But those strange feelings returned the moment the decision was made to go back 36 years later. What would communist Viet Nam be like? How would we be received? How would we feel about the Vietnamese people today? What unresolved pain would surface from our combat days? Where was God in all of this? What was God saying now?

These questions multiplied as our Asian Air Liner touched down at Ho Chi Minh City's International Airport, formerly known as Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The trip evolved into a wonderful experience – a deeply meaningful walk back into the past, and a new bonding and friendship with Vietnam. Our four tour guides set the tone for an unforgettable experience as we planted our feet in a country we were once anxious to leave behind forever.

Our travel group consisted of old friends: Chaplain Rod and Lois Scheer (USN), Chaplain Wally and Beverly Turner (USN), Chaplain Tom and Thekla



Chaplain Johnson with Sister Mary Goretti and Sister Mary Rosalie, Hue Phu Bai orphanage, 1966

Bunnett (USA), Ruth Molnar, Jan Rumsch, my wife Darlene and I.

Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta were our first stops. It was in the Mekong that I noticeably felt fondness and respect for the Vietnamese people welling within me—they are a very kind people. We made a quick visit to Da Nang, and enjoyed the ancient town of Hoi An. Next we explored Hue and the former DMZ. Traveling from Quang Tri through the DMZ to Khe Sahn was emotionally wrenching for all of us. Painfully, we remembered shipmates lost. Theologically frustrated, we recalled our anger at God. Yet in all of this, our ministries during the war were some of the most meaningful of our lives.

In Hanoi we visited the "Hilton"—the infamous POW facility— then returned to Saigon, as we

still call it, for our trip home.

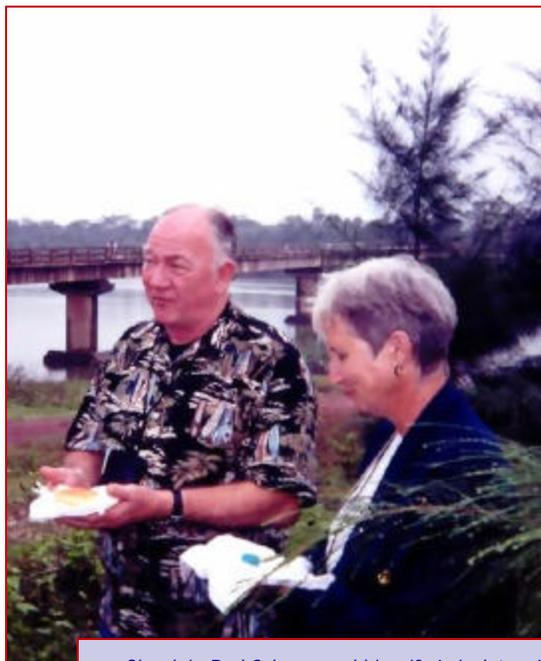
Vietnam in peace and war—there are few similarities. We could "stop and smell the roses" without worrying about the threat of gunfire; or pass a villager without checking if they were friend or foe. The Vietnamese quickly won our hearts. The visible scars of the "American War" are gone; most of the

Viet Nam Revisited*Cont'd from page 5*

U.S.-built buildings have been destroyed. The Vietnamese government has rewritten the war history, as victors are wont to do,

The Vietnamese people attend to their daily lives with tremendous meaning. Their Buddhist beliefs have greatly helped them find purpose in life. They hold tenaciously to their cherished reforestation efforts. The resulting beauty of the country impressed upon us that this was all a part of the country's, and the people's, healing process.

While 'communist' in politics, the Vietnamese are 'capitalist' in business. They were interested in everything American, recognizing the U.S. as the leader in the business world. Following the war, Vietnam used the Soviet model of business — the government owning all businesses and jobs. But this model was not long-lived. In 1986 an explosion of individual enterprise occurred. Now, a person does not have to be a member of the Communist party to have a job.



Chaplain Rod Scheer, and his wife Lois, let us in celebrating Holy Communion at Quong Tri



Rod and Lois Scheer; Wally and Beverly Turner; Tom and Darlene Johnson; Tom and Thekla Bunnett; Ruth Molnar; and Jan Rumsch.

As the Vietnamese people had journeyed in their healing process, so had we. Our group revisited our war experiences together: building camps for 3rd Marine Division; ministering to Marine Recon and Army units in the midst of jungle warfare and the DMZ; caring for the dying and the officers who lead in battle. As we remembered our pain, tears filled our eyes, and we gave our heartache to God.

Several aspects of life in Phu Bai surprised us, and several experiences gave us a sense of fulfillment. On a free afternoon, my wife, Darlene, and I rented a car and driver as we explored the area. We searched for the Hue Phu Bai Seabee Base, where I had lived with the Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN. We searched for the orphanage we had supported. No one we spoke to would acknowledge these places ever existed. Our guide was concerned for our safety as we traveled "into the bush." I asked, "Are you concerned about our physical safety?" He answered, "No. I am concerned about political demonstrations."

When the communists took over, the Phu Bai Orphanage and Sisters Mother House in Hue was destroyed. The neighbors recognized the photographs of the Sisters I had from 36 years earlier, and contacted them by telephone. With a short

Viet Nam Revisited

Cont'd from page 6

drive across town, I was thrilled to be united with Sister Mary Rosalie, and to have the chance for Darlene to share a little of my Vietnam history. This event brought meaningful closure to this era of my life.

The tour guide for the DMZ was a delightful young woman, Hai. As we toured the former camp sites, it helped to share our stories with her. The bases we knew were gone—the landmarks leveled. We visited a National Military Cemetery on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and grieved for the Vietnamese lost in the war. Over 3000 of these cemeteries dot the countryside. They are close to the locations where significant numbers of Vietnamese soldiers died. Some 60 of these cemeteries are in the Quang Tri-DMZ area. They remain well-kept in the Buddhist tradition. Only North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers are buried in these sites; the South Vietnamese are not so honored.

Chaplain Rod Scheer led a meaningful Holy Communion Service at the former MAG-39 base in

Quang Tri, on the Quang Tri River, providing a unique opportunity to place our memories in God's healing hands. The former base is now covered with jungle brush. We found a piece of cement slab that was probably the floor of the chapel "that Rod built."

Our daily devotions helped us put our feelings of the past and the present in the proper perspective. We ventured back into our personal histories using *Lectio Divina* meditation: remembering a specific war experience and meditating on God's presence at that time. We then meditated on a specific healing experience of our present visit, with God in our midst, and asked what might be revealed.



Revisiting Vietnam was a cherished experience we will process for years to come. Emotional and spiritual healing is evident indeed—for us, and for the Vietnamese people as well. 

Chaplain Johnson, Sister
Mary Rosalie, Darlene
Johnson & Mother Superior
Mary Pauline,
2003



CAPT Tom Johnson,
CHC, USN (Ret.)
and his wife,
Darlene, now reside
in Southern
California

Rally Point

News from around the Fleet

The Archbishop of Kuwait visits Camp Fox, Kuwait

Over 100 Marines and Sailors gathered in May in a makeshift chapel in Camp Fox, Kuwait, to worship and celebrate Ascension Sunday. For six of these worshippers, it would also be a day to affirm their faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Special guest, Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea, Apostolic Nuncio to Kuwait, began by saying, "I am profoundly happy to be here today. Thank all of you for opening your camp to me."

Focusing on the sacraments, Archbishop De Andrea stressed, "You must always have faith, hope, love and charity. Charity is the easiest, but also the most de-



Archbishop of Kuwait Giuseppe De Andrea and the Camp Fox, Kuwait Religious Ministry Team

manding. You must learn to love someone besides yourself. Love God first and your brothers and sisters next. That is why the Lord Jesus Christ established sacraments."

The archbishop explained confirmation as an important stepping-stone toward a Roman Catholic lifestyle. "By the time you confirm, you are the 'authentic Catholic,'" De Andrea explained.

De Andrea extended his hands over the candidates as they stepped forward for their confirmation, saying, "You have now been sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." The newly confirmed Marines and Sailors were the first to receive Holy Communion.

From a June 1, 2003 article in *Marine Logistics Command*

United States, Arriving!



Rally Point

News from around the Fleet



Touch Down!

Navy Chaplain Mike Baker, USNH Roosevelt Roads, is the first team chaplain in the semi-pro Puerto Rican Giants football history. His ministry provides a calming, comforting voice to put the competitive spirit of football in check; his presence is also a constant reminder that physical capabilities are only a part of who team players are. Chaplain Baker's ministry has rounded out the Giants family.



Hanging Proud

Bella Vista Christian Academy, Tracy, California, stitched an OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM banner for Camp Commando Marines in Kuwait. The banner was dedicated January 29 during the weekly chapel service. The outer border is inscribed with over 250 student and teacher names. The banner was sent to LT Matthew Richardt, chaplain with the 9th Communication Battalion in Kuwait.

LTCOL K.E. Bruno wrote in his letter of appreciation, "...your gift certainly brightened our spirits. Not to mention, you affirmed our faith and commitment in what we are doing. As a testament to both staff and students, your beautiful gift now hangs proudly within our Battalion Operations Center."



New NETC Prayer Room

A request by NETC staff members Barbara Rankin-Conyers and Petty Officer 3rd Class Mary Rios started the ball rolling in establishing a prayer room. Once approval was given to establish the room, they gathered the needed supplies and put it all together in time for the dedication ceremony in mid-April.

In the photograph, Naval Education & Training Command (NETC) Force Chaplain, Capt. Jerry McNabb, addresses fellow staff members at a dedication ceremony for the newly established NETC Prayer and Meditation Room.



Cook's Corner

MS3 Bohol, USS DULUTH, assists with serving children's lunch at the Pertapis Children's Home in Singapore. Chaplain Tom Hagar organized the COMREL opportunity during WESTPAC '03.

Rally Point

News from around the Fleet

Re-Up

RP2 (FMF) Donnell Stephens and Chaplain Emilio Marrero pose with their 1-MHG/MEF comrades at Camp Commando in Kuwait. RP2 Stephens re-enlisted on 20 February 2003 — BRAVO ZULU!



Platform Chaps

Chaplain Gardocki, assigned to the USS TARAWA, prepares to celebrate Mass for the members of the Coast Guard detachment assigned to guarding the oil platforms off the coast of Iraq.

General Quarters! General Quarters!

All hands to battle stations! Flooding in the USS Buttercup! Basic Course chaplains from class B03010 at Newport, Rhode Island, successfully (?) complete 6 damage control drills during "Battle Stations" training. Bravo Zulu!



Iwo Jima Memorial Service

With Operation Iraqi Freedom well underway, the Sailors and Marines aboard USS IWO JIMA (LHD-7) paused to commemorate what World War II Chaplain Roland Gittelsohn called, that "holiest task." The service honored the men and women, Marines and Sailors who served, fought, and sacrificed on far-away-in-the-Pacific "Sulfur Island." prayer was offered for LHD-7's shipmates: that God empower them to live faithfully in the revered Iwo Jima legacy, where "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Composite layout of the USS Iwo Jima memorial service with photos by PHAN Shannon Barnwell, PH3 (AW) Robert Stratchko, and PH1 (AW) John Hudak.

Rally Point

News from around the Fleet



Bravo Zulu!

LT Scott Carlson receives the Joint Service Commendation Medal in support of JTF510 OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM-PHILIPPINES. Following hostage recovery operations against the Abu Sayyaf, Chaplain Carlson provided pastoral care and counseling to missionary Gracia Burnham, JTF510 personnel, and wounded Philippine Army nationals.

Hometown Buds Meet Again

Major Robert Kaminski and Chaplain Tim Hogan have known each other since 1983, when Kaminski was an altar servant for the newly ordained Hogan in Plymouth, Michigan. The two are currently serving together again with 2nd FSSG, Camp Fox, Kuwait. Oo-rah!



...and More BZ's!
Congratulations to RP2 Jarzaline DuBose on her recent promotion



Commander-in-Chief
Fifty-two Navy Chaplains serving in the United States Coast Guard lifted the spirit of President George W. Bush during their historic visit with their Commander in Chief on the White House South Lawn on Thursday, May 8, 2003. The unprecedented morning visit of the Coast Guard Chaplains was the first ever and to date by far the largest group of military Chaplains to visit the President of the United States.



RP F School Grad's (Class 03010)

Row 1: RP2 Hawkins-Chavis, RP2 Hester, RP2 Rajas, RP2 Lewis (class leader), RP2 Dizon. Row 2: RP2 Suaalii (honor grad), RP2 Roggow, RP2 Brown, RP2 Brice, RP2 Chase.

The Hero Sponsor Program

by LT William T. McCandless, CHC, USNR

Anticipating overseas mobilization, I was surprised (and admittedly somewhat disappointed) when my orders read, "report to National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda." After 10 years of Reserve training, I wanted to support our service members in combat. Never did I imagine the important role Bethesda would play for our wounded Sailors and Marines.

As the receiving center for all wounded Sea Services personnel, the hospital was constantly abuzz with activity in preparation for the patients to arrive from the theatre of operation. The hospital administration determined a "mentor" program would be helpful. Hospital service members would be assigned to assist a patient and his or her family with the ordinary, and often mundane, hospital administration tasks and needs. The Pastoral Care Department was given the task of developing and administrating that program.

My first goal as the project officer was to develop the primary mission for the program and give it an appropriate name. The "Hero Sponsor Program" was established with the mission to provide care and compassion to the returning injured. With the help of various hospital departments, information was gathered that could give aid and support to our patients and families. Our command ombudsman's role soon became apparent. She would become my greatest resource and my partner in ministry: coordinating initial meetings; brainstorming; debating; and developing a complex matrix of resources, points of contact and services.

Before the arrival of the first patients from OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF), our initial volunteer training had been conducted. These trainees, called "sponsors," were informed that they were to contact me directly if issues emerged they could not resolve. My fear was that I would be overwhelmed with questions and scenarios. But, in checking daily with our primary care ward, I soon realized how well the program began to work.

We began to see trends in the expressed needs of our patients. Arriving from OIF with nothing more than a hospital gown, our sponsors aided patients in obtaining clothes, toiletries, phone cards, transportation and

lodging for the patient's family. The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society responded quickly with needed funds, as did the American Red Cross, the Fisher House Foundation, and the various veterans' associations. Our hospital Social Work Department, the Patient Administration Office, and a hard-working Marine Corps Liaison Office seamlessly stepped in to assist.



OIF injured Marine CPL Taylor and Chaplain McCandless

The Marines were true to their motto, "We do more with less." They assisted in providing not only for their fellow-Marines, but also for the wounded Sailors and Soldiers at Bethesda. Our sponsors quickly tapped into all the resources available to aid them in assisting our patients. As ward chaplain, I was able to leave the details of assistance to our amazing sponsors and tend to the pastoral care of the patients and families.

The Hero Sponsor Program soon became a familiar name to our hospital staff and support organizations.

The Hero Sponsor Program volunteers stepped up to the plate ready to play ball. Without exception, they were motivated and enthusiastic in their work. As some patients transferred to Walter Reed Army Hospital for specialized care, their sponsors took time to visit.

When patients were sent home for convalescent leave, their sponsors called to check up on them. When patients returned for follow-up care after discharge, their sponsors were there to meet them at the hospital door.



The Hero Sponsor Program was deemed a "success" — not because of the Pastoral Care Department or because of one chaplain's leadership. The success came because of the sponsors' dedication and the willingness of all involved to work together for the sake of our heroes. 

LT William McCandless, CHC, USNR, was called to active duty from March 19 to May 27, 2003. He drills at Fleet Hospital, Ft. Dix, NJ and lives in Wilmington, DE.

Prayer & Mission Readiness

by CDR Anthony M. Trapani, CHC, USNR

The words held in my heart never reached my lips. The 37-year old Soldier lay beneath the wall of doctors, nurses and corpsmen attempting to resuscitate him. "My God, he is dying," I thought.

There were more unspoken words: "He's been shot... his fingers are missing... she's in so much pain... he's been ripped open." As I moved from bed to bed, ward to ward, it was the same. These were the most intense days of my life as a human being, a chaplain and a priest. Not that all these wounds, or even so much pain are new to my life experience, but here they were confined to one time and one place, in Fleet Hospital Eight, Kuwait.

I saw that the docs needed to do their job; mine was to be present—and to pray. I was available for bedside prayer and the blessing with holy oils. But my most intense job was just to be there and to pray. My prayers and presence were for both patients and staff.

As patients were moved into wards, the work of ministry took on that unique 'one-on-one' relationship. Moving from bed to bed, I allowed God to lead me to speak—or not. Much time was spent listening as the tragedies of war and dying were told. Lance, a 19-year old Marine Lance Corporal, called for me late at night, asking "Does God still love me? Will God forgive me for what I've done?" He continued, "I didn't want to do it. I was ordered to... we thought he was going to kill us..." And so the story goes. I held him, I spoke to him, and I waited for God to speak to me.

Prayer is both the foundation and the building blocks of mission readiness. Prayer transforms the depth of one's soul and creates the living presence of God. Prayer transforms laughter and tears, compassion and sorrow. Prayer allows the Spirit of God to speak words that come from our lips. They are words from the depths of God's eternal love. Prayer gives the energy to continue the task of what may seem an eternity.

When you think the worst is over, it's not. When it's not the open wounds of the flesh, it will be the

old, to make those moral decisions that come with "weapons free" or "fire at will." As people of faith we bring that faith to people—not as a banner of our faith group affiliation, but as the burning coal that purifies the human spirit. Our faith and prayer life must work seamlessly with our theological foundation to educate and create the kind of generation necessary to fight for the rights and freedoms of all humanity.

As a Marine lingered after Mass, we spoke about his fear of returning home. His heart was burdened with the pain of battles fought and people killed. He agonized that some of his Marine brothers failed to make the moral judgments needed to live by the creed, "Honor without disgrace." He will have to unfurl the gravity of killing as it played out before him. He did not feel like the "hero" he was seen to be at home.

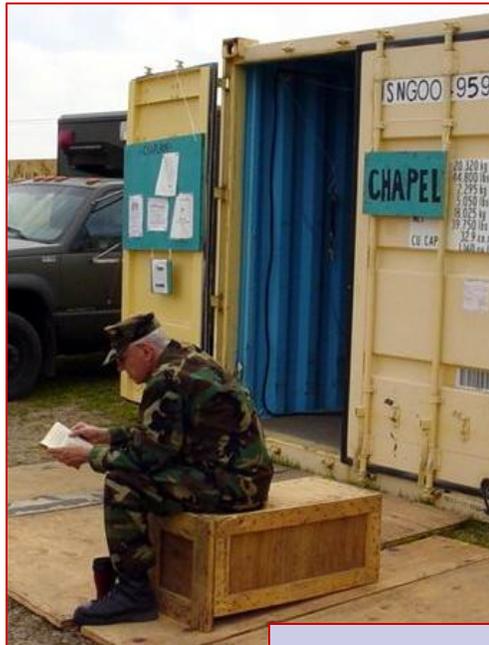
Listening, the struggle of battle is made real. You become the one behind the trigger making the split-second decision to fire. The scene becomes real because it comes from and through the eyes of the one who pulled the trigger. He saw and responded; he made the final decision to take another person's life. Now we together share that experience in the classroom of prayer.

Chaplain Trapani at prayer

As chaplains, we are called to pray. With God's guiding presence, we discern how we are called to bring healing and respond to the moral needs of our Sea Services personnel, our nation, and our Corps. Then we can bring a message of hope and healing to our people.

Prayer must be a living part of that mission readiness. 

Chaplain Trapani has returned to Fleet Hospital, Rota, Spain from the theater of operation. The hospital continues to receive patients from Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. The daily census average is 90—primarily Marines and Soldiers.



The Rudder*The Mystery of History from the Old Sage***By Bill Taylor, Chaplain Corps Archivist**
The Case of the Missing Portrait

There is depth to every archive. I'm not talking about intellectual depth here or even size. I'm talking about the fact that usually, whatever it is you are looking for, it is buried pretty deep. Take the case of the missing Pohlman painting.

The Reverend Dianna Bell, a.k.a., LT Dianna Pohlman, CHC, USNR, was the first woman chaplain commissioned in the Navy on July 2, 1973. A year into her first assignment, the Navy commissioned portrait artist, Margaret H. Sargent, to paint her portrait. When finished, the painting was hung in the CNO's office — the last known location.

Fast forward 30 years. Several months ago, the Reverend Bell contacted me to say she was retiring to the West Coast and desired to view the portrait one more time before departing the area. *General Quarters!* No one in the Chief of Chaplains' office knew of the portrait's whereabouts...no one in the CNO's office... no one at the chaplain school. Rumors abounded. Was it destroyed? ...lost? Had it been given to Chaplain Pohlman? Never!

The artist is now considered to be the "premier" portrait artist in the country. That being so, the current value of the painting is estimated at about \$28,000. Why would the Reverend Pohlman ask for something she already had? Hmmmm?



With this information in hand, the Old Sage was tasked with finding the missing portrait. It has been intimated that in old wood cuts of Noah, I have been recognized standing next to him, tally book in hand. But goodness gracious! Am I also supposed to keep track of commissioned art in this present age as well? Of course!

Those seekers of lost naval art who are not thinking NAVY could search in countless locations just in Washington D.C. alone. How many collections of this high caliber could possibly house a Navy "first?" The National Gallery of Art? The National Archives? The Library of Congress? The National Portrait Gallery? This puzzle is truly a no-brainer for the Old Sage.

There is only one such place a portrait of a naval officer could be—hanging alongside the likes of Farragut, Dewey, Nimitz, CNOs and SECNAVs! Got it yet? Right! The U. S. Navy History Center Portrait Museum at the Washington Navy Yard.

The museum's recorder, Crystal, confirmed my suspicions: it was there. Sometime this summer, when the Navy's first woman chaplain sees the painting before she heads West, that portrait will be ready and waiting for her in a special viewing room for just such occasions.

Case solved. See you around the stacks. 

War Stories<http://www.chaplain.navy.mil/attachments/warstories/frontpage.htm>

The Chaplain Resource Branch (CRB) is collecting stories, accounts, and impressions leading up to, during, and in the aftermath of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

Please encourage all members of our Sea Services who have a story to tell to participate in this project. In participating, the writer gives the CRB permission to archive the story for future historical development.

Again... any Sailor, Marine or Coast Guardsman who has a war story may participate in this historical project.

Watch for a special issue of the RMT in action (The Navy Chaplain) in early fall, focusing on "War: Readiness & Response" from our war stories bank.

Luminaries of the Corps

by Bill Taylor, Chaplain Corps Archivist

“Those boys need me,” Father O’Callahan announced to his fellow Jesuit priests at Holy Cross College. It was April 1942—one year into World War II, and the 37-year old mathematics professor felt the call to duty along with thousands of other American men.

By February, 1945, after one tour aboard the USS RANGER, he transferred to the USS FRANKLIN (CV-13)

at Pearl Harbor. In the early morning of March 20, the FRANKLIN was steaming with her task force about 100 miles from the Japanese home islands. Her air cover

was overwhelmed by a large group of Japanese fighter-bombers. One bomber got through the screen and dropped two 550 pound hull-piercing bombs. One struck the flight deck center-line—dead on—exploding in the hanger deck. It caused massive fires and additional explosions from loaded aircraft. The second bomb penetrated the flight and hanger decks, exploding deeper farther aft, setting off fuel and ordnance fires and creating a second zone of horror. Hundreds of men died instantly. At the second hit, the ship’s power went out. With no pumps, and firefighters putting down tons of water, the ship began to list to port, quickly reaching 13 degrees. Coupled with the lack of lighting, choking fumes and rapid fires, inexperienced Sailors began to panic.

Upon reporting aboard the FRANKLIN, Chaplain O’Callahan had made it a point to learn his way around the ship. His knowledge paid off—he was able to reach the upper decks as well as his GQ station helping confused Sailors through the passage-

ways to safety. On deck he was observed organizing firefighting and ammo handling parties. He showed the young Sailors how to safely eject hot projectiles overboard and helped push damaged aircraft over the side before their fuel exploded. In the midst of this, Chaplain O’Callahan attended to the injured and dying, giving physical and spiritual aid. There is a famous photo of Joe O’Callahan giving last rites to an injured sailor used in several settings—including at least two Naval and one Marine war movies. Fifty-six years later, Robert Blanchard recognized himself as the sailor receiving last rites when he saw the photo at the Naval History Center.

The testimonies of Chaplain O’Callahan’s acts of bravery among officers and enlisted are legion. Captain L. E. Gehres, Commanding Officer of the FRANKLIN, later told Chaplain O’Callahan’s mother that Joe was the bravest man he had ever met. Many felt that the ship’s survival was purely a miracle. Although Chaplain O’Callahan was of the opinion the Almighty had exerted considerable influence on the outcome, even he had to agree that the combination of courage, resourcefulness, and skill of the crew had much to do with the ship’s survival. Truly, uncommon valor was commonplace on the USS FRANKLIN.

On January, 23, 1946, Chaplain Joseph T. O’Callahan was presented the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Harry Truman—the first military chaplain to be so honored. Chaplain Joe was released from active duty with the rank of Captain on November 12, 1946. He returned to his teaching duties at Holy Cross and wrote a popular book, *I Was the Chaplain on the FRANKLIN*. Suffering from lung damage caused by the FRANKLIN’s fires, he died in March of 1965.



Chaplain Joe O’Callahan and Robert Blanchard on the deck of the USS FRANKLIN (CV-13)



The USS O’CALLAHAN (DE-1051) was christened and launched in 1967

Over the Horizon

News from the Acting Chief and the SEA



RDLM Louis Iasiello

Serving God's People Together

On Tuesday, June 17, 2003, the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Bill Frist, announced the selection of RADM Barry Black, CHC, USN, to become the next Chaplain of the United States Senate. His selection to this prestigious position

marks a watershed event for military chaplaincy; RADM Black will be the first former military chaplain to serve in this capacity. It is a great tribute both personally to Chaplain Black and corporately to all Navy chaplains and their ministry to the Sea services. As you know, Admiral Black is eminently qualified to assume this national office. If spiritual leadership, preaching acumen, pastoral sensitivity, and academic and professional achievements are indicators of future potential, he will most certainly be remembered as one of the greatest chaplains to hold this esteemed post.

The Senate has asked Chaplain Black to assume his new duties host-haste. As such, he must leave his current position as the 22nd Chief of Naval Chaplains and take up his new place on Capital Hill almost immediately. I have been asked to assume the posit of "Acting Chief of Chaplains" upon Chaplain Black's departure.

All orders, directives, and initiatives of the last administration will remain in effect until further notice. All decisions made by the Chief of Chaplains and his staff will be filtered through three simple criteria:

Will the decision/initiative/goal best meet:

-  the spiritual and moral needs of the people of God?
-  the institutional needs of the Sea Services?
-  the needs of the Naval Chaplain Corps?

The legacy of past Chaplain Corps administrations inspires us to harness our collective energy for serving in the one to come. We may gain wisdom from the guidance, insights, and reflections of Paul of Tarsus as recorded in *1 Corinthians 12:4-6*:

"There are different gifts but the same Spirit of God; there are different ministries but the same Lord of creation; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in every-one."

May God bless our critical ministry in the days ahead. May God bless Barry and Brenda Black for their inspired leadership to our country. And may God bless our beloved Chaplain Corps that it may meet the needs of all and continue to draw all to the love, compassion, healing, and wisdom of God.



RPCM William Person

Outstanding Religious Program Specialist of the Year Program

On December 12, 2002, OPNAVIST 1650.27 was signed by the Naval Chief of Chaplains, making this exciting new program official.

The program "mainstreams" RPs into the Sea Services community, promotes high morale, rewards professional excellence, and recognizes this outstanding and often complex rate. It is designed to acknowledge RPs for leadership, superior performance of duty, special accomplishments, and overall contribution to the command mission.

How does the program work? Each fiscal year, service or major claimant RPs will convene a board to select one sea and one shore Junior RP of the Year and one sea and one short Senior RP of the Year. Nominations must be submitted on or before January 10 of each year via the nominee's chain of command. (Please see the SEA page on the Chaplain Corps web site, <http://www.chaplain.navy.mil> for more detailed information about submission and format of packages.) The board will convene after January 10 to select the most qualified applicants.

Who is eligible? All active duty RPs in pay grades E-1 through E-6 are eligible. The period of eligibility is the fiscal year prior to submission. Major claimants, commanding officers, and commanding generals are encouraged to submit only the most qualified Sailors for this award. This program augments, but does not detract from, the Chief of Naval Operation's Sailor of the Year Program, for which RPs in pay grades E-5 and E-6 remain eligible.

What awards are presented? In addition to Chaplain Corps-wide, rate-wide, and command-wide recognition, the RP of the Year will receive:

-  Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal
-  Name engraved on the RP of the Year plaque from the Chief of Chaplains
-  Personal coin of the COC and SEA
-  Photographs with engraving displayed at COC office and provide to the RPs command
-  Local and hometown news releases

This is an exciting new opportunity for our Religious Program Specialist rate, and I look forward to receiving dozens of submissions from many of our outstanding Sailors.

For more information about this program and update RP information, log on to:

http://www.chaplain.navy.mil/CoC/RP_website.htm

Reviews

Hero for Humanity: A Biography of

William Wilberforce

by Kevin Belmonte, Navpress

Review by LCDR Youssef About-Enein

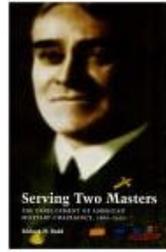


Those who find solace in faith and a deep belief in the divine take many paths to express their dedication to doing right by their fellow human beings. Along that path, few are praised by the likes of Abraham Lincoln and Edmund Burke, but using his power of his conviction and oratory skills, William Wilberforce has taken his rightful place in history among them. Through his commitment to evangelical Christianity and serving in England's Parliament, Wilberforce undertook a 43 year battle to abolish slavery in England.

His personal story reads like an eighteenth century St. Augustine. Wilberforce mires himself in the pursuit of personal indulgences and the corrupt politics of parliament before encountering Isaac Milner. During a tour of Europe with Wilberforce, Milner introduced him to the intellectual aspects of Christian theosophy. Returning to parliament, Wilberforce begins his campaign of public awareness the inhuman means by which slaves were brought to Britain and her colonies. His argument evolves into an attack on the immorality of slavery and how it dehumanizes not only the victims, but the trade practitioners as well. Wilberforce uses his oratory skills, Christian ethics and moral clarity to sway public opinion against slavery.

The book is highly recommended for Religious Ministry Teams, Sea Services personnel and is a must for every ship library. 

LCDR About-Enein is a Middle East Country Director at the Office of the Secretary of Defense and a frequent contributor of reviews and articles to Navy Chaplain Magazine. He served as Islamic Lay-Leader at Naval Training Center Great Lakes from 1999-2001.



Serving Two Masters: The Development of American Military Chaplaincy 1860-1920

by Richard M. Budd, University of
Nebraska Press

Reviewed by William E Taylor Sr.

Chaplains today are expected and directed to minister to the people of his or her assigned command with concerns for their spiritual and moral health. Through ample documented evidence, Richard Budd emphasizes that this has not always been the case.

Even just 80 years ago, commanding officers assigned chaplains to a large and often strange variety of tasks. The general thinking was, "Since chaplains really only work one day a week, and I am paying him out of my war chest, he is going to be useful." Thus, chaplains were to "earn their keep" with additional duties, including teaching both military and family members, as company clerk, purser, corpsman, legal advisor, managing emancipated slaves, health trainer and librarian.

It was not until the Civil War that the critical need for a corps of professional clergy in uniform came to the forefront. By the late 19th century, the military had very little in the way of standards or guidelines for commanding officer's clergy appointments. Budd points out that many of these appointees had little religious education and few were seminary trained. All too often they were charlatans looking for the steady pay.

Siting numerous sources for and against a formal Chaplain Corps, the Army and Navy Chaplain Bureau was established. Tasked with setting standards—such as educational requirements, endorsement, ordination, recruitment, and assignment—the Bureaus also needed to be politically strong and autonomous to maintain professionalism. Later, the Bureaus would become Corps to be included in the military structure.

This book is essential in understanding the history of the Military Chaplain Corps and a must read for all Navy chaplains. 

A Vietnam veteran, William Taylor, Sr., is the Naval Chaplain Corps Archivist at the David H. Tribou Archives, located at the Chaplain Resource Branch, Norfolk,

Awards

Legion of Merit

CAPT Ralph Epperson, CHC, USN
NAVSEA Systems Command, Washington Navy Yard, DC

CAPT Richard Gates, CHC, USNR
1ST FSSG, Camp Pendleton, CA

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

CDR Ronald Craddock, CHC, USN
Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA

Meritorious Service Medal

CDR Ronnie King, CHC, USN
2nd FSSG, Camp Leleune, NC

LCDR Terry Gordon, CHC, USN
Chaplain Resource Branch, Norfolk, VA

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

RP3 Felicia Taylor, USN
Naval Station, San Diego, CA

RP3 Katrina Bell, USN
Chaplain Resource Branch, Norfolk, VA

Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists

RP1 Tronda Johnson, USN
USS Theodore Roosevelt, Norfolk, VA

Reports of Deaths

Deepest sympathy and God's blessing to our Religious Ministry Team members and families in the loss of their loved ones

Moses L. Stith, Sr.

Father of CAPT Moses L. Stith, Jr., CHC, USN

CAPT Byron, D. Long, CHC, USN (Ret.)

Dwight H. Webster

Father of LCDR Dwight Webster, CHC, USN

Odell Cotrell

Sister of RP1 Melvin Stewart, USN

Dorothy Lee Anderson

Grandmother of RP1 Vicki Paul, USN

Marguerite Cooper

Mother of CAPT George Cooper, CHC, USN

LT Karl Kjendal, CHC, USNR

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Submission of Articles

Deadline for material is one month prior to publication date.
Submissions are accepted electronically as attachments in MS Word format to Chaplain A. Krekelberg at krekelberga@crb.chaplain.navy.mil. Please submit digitally produced photographs in either .jpg or .gif format using the VIRIN catalogue system as described at: <http://www.mediacen.navy.mil/vi/virin.htm>. You will receive full credit for any articles you submit. Please understand that we make final editorial determination for the use of any articles. Please distribute, post, and forward this newsletter to your command. Check out the Naval Chaplain Corps Website at: <http://www.chaplain.navy.mil>



Oo-Rah!

Photo Credits

Cover: Chaplain Devine, chaplain for the 1st Marine Division, along with attending U.S. Marines, bow their heads in prayer during a memorial service held for Sgt. Jonathan W. Lambert, killed in the line of duty on June 1. U.S Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Jason L. Andrade.

Back cover: A relieved Marine from Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, reunites with his wife May 3 after being deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo taken 05/03/2003 by Lance Cpl. Keith Underwood.