



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



February 29, 2008

## The Navy Chaplain Corps – Aligning for Success

*“Navy Chaplains are integral to the command leadership team. In addition to their traditional mission of religious ministry, chaplains perform a critical role in fostering and sustaining the cooperative relationships that are at the heart of our Maritime Strategy.”*

**-- Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations**

A key theme of the Department of the Navy’s Strategic Plan for Religious Ministry is alignment with larger initiatives, including the Maritime Strategy. Working with international partners, today’s citizen-Sailors benefit from a mindset of cross-cultural understanding and respect. Command religious programs enable and influence this mindset by:

- Modeling and teaching mutual respect and cross-cultural communications.
- Promoting the values of human dignity, respect and responsibility.

### The Four Core Capabilities of the Chaplain Corps

The Strategic Plan codifies the four core capabilities of Chaplains and Religious Program Specialists (RP) of the Chaplain Corps (CHC).

- Facilitate – Manage and execute command religious programs to accommodate diverse religious ministry requirements which includes, but is not limited to, scheduling, coordinating, budgeting, and contracting.
- Provide – Meet faith group specific needs, including worship services, religious/pastoral counsel, scripture study and religious education.
- Care – Deliver specific institutional care, counseling, and coaching including personal and relational counseling, deck plate ministry, coaching on military life, pre- and post-deployment training for Sailors, Marines, and their families, all regardless of specific faith.
- Advise – Chaplains directly advise commanders on issues relating to morals, ethics, spiritual well being, and morale. Chaplains also train and educate leaders at all levels of the chain of command in moral and ethical decision making, cultural awareness, conflict resolution, and cross-cultural communications.

### Moving Religious Ministry Forward

Now, more than ever, commanders must make the most of their resources. The CHC is supporting commanders by:

- Defining standards and validating requirements for religious ministry which will serve as the basis for assignment, training and certification across all enterprises and organizations.
- CHC leaders meeting to develop and discuss execution of the 5-year Strategic Plan. The plan includes definition of the four CHC core capabilities:

### Key Messages

- Chaplains and Religious Program Specialists deliver religious accommodation, care and advisement to strengthen faith, values and virtues.
- The goals of the Strategic Plan for Religious Ministry include requirement validation, community health, metric development, and a comprehensive communications plan.
- Counseling by chaplains is motivated by proximity and immediate presence, distinguished by confidentiality, and imbued with professional wisdom and a genuine respect for human beings.

### Facts & Figures

- 113 O-6s and E-8/9s meet next month for the CHC Strategic Leadership Symposium in Albuquerque.
- Chaplains and RPs are part of Warrior transition for every Sailor and Marine going in and out of theater.
- SECNAV has called for new instructions on Chaplain Confidentiality, Religious Accommodation, and Religious Ministry.
- Within the boundaries of their noncombatant status, chaplains advise commanders on the impact of religion on operations.