



Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) Civil Air Patrol Chaplains Meet The "Gator" Navy at NAB Little Creek



CFC #2118



Front Row L to R: Ch. Maj. David Bobbey (North Carolina); 1 Lt. Gary Gourley, MLO (West Virginia); Ch. Maj. D. Wayne Dyer (North Carolina); Ch. Lt. Col. John Hoffmann (National Capitol); Ch. Col. Charles Sharp (Chief of Chaplains, CAP); Ch. Maj. Bill Picking (Virginia); 1 Lt. Van Dora Williams, MLO (Virginia); Ch. Maj. Marcus Taylor (Delaware); Ch. Col. Fred Gough (Chief of Chaplains, South Carolina State Guard); Ch. Maj. Rob Edwards (Middle East Region CAP)

Back Row L to R: Ch. Maj. Jack Epperly (South Carolina); 1 Lt. Cooper Hancock, MLO (North Carolina); Ch. Maj. Jim Lowther (National Capitol); Ch. Col. Alva Appel (Congressional Squadron; former Chief of Chaplains, CAP); 1 Lt John Palmer, MLO (North Carolina); Ch. Capt. Bill Teng (National Capitol); 2 Lt. Nauri Ahmed, MLO (Virginia); Ch. Capt. Curtis Wall (Virginia); Ch. Capt. James Biggers (North Carolina)

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 PUBLICATION EDITOR**

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**ASSOCIATE
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

George E. Dobes, USN

NATIONAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 7056
 Arlington, VA 22207-7056

Phone and Fax

703-533-5890

chaplains@mca-usa.org or
 www.mca-usa.org

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Krista Polcari
 Polcari Design Group

IN MEMORIAM

Raymond Pritz, USAF Ret.
 Tampa, FL
 3 Feb 2006

Tally H. Jarrett, USAF Ret.
 Solana Beach, CA
 3 May 2006

2007 NATIONAL INSTITUTE

We will be co-located with the 2007 Veterans Affairs Department Chaplain Leadership Convocation. This is a change from previous announcement in Memphis. As soon as hotel accommodations are negotiated, we will announce the time and place.

We deeply appreciate a recent generous donation from the Naval Station Mayport chapel communities.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Alan Chouest, USAF Act, USAFA Colorado
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 Shay L. D. Worthy, USA Act, Norfolk, VA
 Ken Young, CAP Act, Sun City, AZ

*Membership Information
 from 16 May – 30 July 2006*

From Our National President

This issue of *The Military Chaplain* speaks volumes about our identity - chaplains for life, from all walks of life, at every stage of life. Notice the photos on the front cover and throughout the magazine. Civil Air Patrol chaplains of all faiths invest countless hours of voluntary service to our nation each year. They make a lasting moral difference in the lives of young cadets. They respond to all sorts of emergency missions and play an integral role at numerous Air Force bases.

Now, look at the three chaplains featured. We have an Evangelical minister and former enlisted technician from Oregon who after twenty-five years of service is at the helm of the Navy chaplaincy; a Roman Catholic priest from Michigan who deployed to Iraq immediately after school and already has a world of experience after just three years on active duty; and a Jewish émigré from Austria, whose fifty distinguished years of rabbinical service have been as an Army chaplain and as director of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council. On page 10, we hear profound words from another rabbi with fifty years of devoted service including the Air Force chaplaincy and the Jewish Chaplains Council. We welcome the new Council director who also has an imposing record of rabbinical service. Then, on page 11 we read moving commentary from a Southern Baptist Air Force chaplain serving right now in Iraq.

Robert Burt, John Longbucco, David Lapp, Nathan Landman, Harold Robinson, and Conrad Navarro all reflect the core values of our corps. Like many of you, at times of national crisis during the past four decades they courageously laid their lives on the line to serve our troops in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and Iraq. At other times, like most chaplains, in dozens of posts and bases far from the front lines they just as tirelessly ministered to thousands of families - anonymously, without any desire for recognition. That is why we recognize them here. They epitomize duty and excellence. Their ministries are marked by honorable and selfless service.

Just as importantly, they have modeled how to balance two other key values that are in constant tension and often engender conflict between religious communities - integrity and respect. Here we have a rabbi, a priest, and two preachers - persons of different faiths but of one corps - who consistently and freely exercise their unique faiths alongside each other without compromise. They have remained true to their identity - that is integrity. But they also show nothing less than genuine respect for others - for colleagues of other faiths, for troops of many faiths, for others of no faith, and for friends and enemy alike.

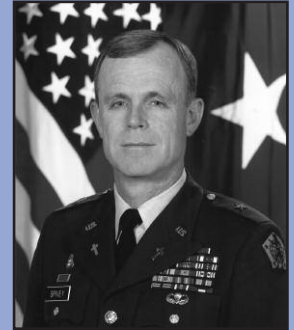
Chaplain Burt said, "As Chaplains, we play a vital role in keeping human dignity and human worth a reality in the mind of the Warrior." [page 4] In both war and peace, this is a respect for others that speaks from the heart of God. It is strong enough to believe and speak with conviction. Yet, it is humble enough that it makes us invisible and allows Him to minister through us with compassion.

Such measured if not paradoxical balance is uncommon in religious circles. Yet, for many years it has set the unique tone for our ministry. Outside chaplain ministry to the military and veterans, where else is this modeled so consistently? We are chaplains for life, from all walks of life, at every stage of life - serving God by serving others and not ourselves - speaking truth prophetically from conviction, but always in love and with respect.

This is the true "Voice of Chaplaincy."



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From the New Navy Chief of Chaplains

Rear Admiral Robert F. Burt, CHC, USN became the 24th Navy Chief of Chaplains on 23 June 2006.

In a Change of Office ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard, he relieved the outgoing chief - Rear Admiral Louis V. Iasiello.

Chaplain Burt is a native of Springfield, Oregon. In 1970, he enlisted into the Navy and served as a Communications Technician and then a Data Processor until 1977. He went back to Oregon and completed undergraduate training at Eugene Bible College. He is a 1981 graduate of Western Evangelical Seminary in Portland. Chaplain Burt was ordained by the Open Bible Churches and endorsed for chaplaincy through the National Association of Evangelicals. Commissioned in 1981, Chaplain Burt has served a wide variety of sea and shore assignments since then. Prior to his newest ministry, Chaplain Burt served as the Navy Deputy Chief of Chaplains and 15th Chaplain of the Marine Corps.

In the last two months, Chaplain Burt has sent letters to Navy chaplains that contain important ideas for sharing across the Joint forum of the MCA. Following are excerpts from those letters.

Letter of 24 May 2006 As Chaplain of the Marine Corps

I believe that we as chaplains have a crucial role in helping our Marines and Sailors maintain their humanity in the midst of chaos and confusion. For 231 years, chaplains have accompanied our Warriors into "the valley of the shadow of death" and back. Our presence is a tangible reminder to our Marines and Sailors that no matter where they go or what they are called to do, God is with them. In the most hellacious moment of their lives, in the midst of devastation, destruction and death, God is with them. You are in a very real way God in their midst.

**Devoted to God and Country,
we unite to deliver innovative, life
transforming service throughout
and beyond the Sea Services**

Marines and Sailors have been trained in the Core Values of the Sea Services; they have had the importance of being men and women of integrity in all situations emphasized to them; they have been shown how to be men and women of character making positive ethical decisions in all situations. Overwhelmingly, these heroes serve with honor and courage, abiding by the laws of Armed Conflict and exercising self-control and sound decision making in the most hostile environments. Our men and women are the best trained and highest motivated fighting force in the world.

In the midst of that fight, at the heart of the patrol, under heated attack, there is often a young Sergeant, or even a Corporal who has the weight of the battle on his shoulders. He may well have the responsibility of making a split-second life and death decision. His decision making process may very well be influenced by the fact that he has just witnessed his best being taken down with an IED. His decision may be influenced by his own suffering from wounds inflicted by an enemy he can't even see.

Part of your ministry to the troops is preparing them to be moral leaders who can make unhesitating decisions based upon their respect for themselves and the value they place on human life. . . . My hope and prayer is that the response of our young "leather necks" will rest upon the guidance that they have been given in their training, by their leader and by their chaplain. And this applies not only to Corporals and Sergeants, but also to Colonels and Generals. Your ministry cuts across all ranks.

As chaplains, we play a vital role in keeping human dignity and human worth a reality in the mind of the Warrior. In our day to day "intentional" presence in the units with whom



Lt. Gen. John F. Goodman, Commanding General, Marine Forces Pacific and Chaplain Burt. Photo by LCPL Ethan Hoaldrige

we serve, we have "extraordinary access" to our Marines and Sailors. With that access we have extraordinary responsibility to provide positive influence, encouragement and affirmation to our "flocks" that will assist them in remembering that human worth cannot be sacrificed even in the most difficult of circumstances. In fact, the high value we place on a single human being often may be that which distinguishes us from our enemy. If we give it up, the enemy has won.



Chaplain Burt briefing at the 2005 Navy Chaplain Corps Professional Development Training Course in Naples

My request of you is simple. Please use this special influence you have to remind your young men and women of the sanctity of life on a regular and consistent basis. In your preaching, teaching and training, in the course of conversation during your visitation of units, build the bridge of trust; listen to their concerns; minister strength and courage to their spirits; affirm their

noble standing; and continue to emphasize the importance of winning not only battles, but winning the hearts and minds of those innocents caught in the middle of conflict. Make every effort to reach out to Marines and Sailors, whether in camp or out, in the Forward Operating Bases, in the chow hall, in Divine Worship Services, in small group gatherings, or in one-on-one conversations. Protecting human dignity is every human's responsibility, Commanders and Sergeants Major will insist upon it, but it is the Warrior on the front lines of freedom who actually defends human dignity. This theme must be continually and persistently emphasized.

May God continue to bless your extraordinary ministry to Marines and Sailors. They need your special influence and Godly presence more than ever. This is your divine calling and privilege; seize every opportunity to encourage our troops to be men and women of duty, honor, integrity, and faith.

With Blessing and Prayer.

13 July 2006 First Letter as Chief of Chaplains

. . . We are the shepherds who take care of every single member of our command. We are committed to cooperation, collaboration and the facilitation of ministry as we work together encouraging, energizing and inspiring those under our care.

. . . We also serve our Commanders and their staffs. Our commitment to their success should be evident and obvious to the entire command. Our efforts should never be self-serving.

. . . When we raised our hand to serve in this institutional setting, understanding that we would be expected to provide ministry in a pluralistic environment, it couldn't have taken long to see that it required some flexibility and "grace" in the delivery of that ministry. We found a unique approach to serving God and country when we made that transition. What I've gained through the years from reaching out to every member of my respective commands, including them in my prayers and relationships, has far outweighed anything I've ever "sacrificed."

. . . I close with this: Stand tall chaplains – your very presence provides hope, courage, strength and faith to your people.

Be Blessed and Strengthened.





Chaplain Longbucco Receives DSA Overseas

CH (CPT) John L. Longbucco, United States Army was the Army Chief of Chaplains' nominee to receive the 2006 MCA Distinguished Service Award. Chaplain Longbucco was unable to attend the awards banquet in Memphis last April. His award was presented later in Germany by Colonel Herman Williams III, USA, Commander of USAG Hessen.

Chaplain Longbucco was ordained for the Roman Catholic priesthood on 1 June 1990. His home diocese is the Diocese of Marquette in Michigan. After several ministries throughout the diocese, he received permission to enter the Army chaplaincy and attended the Chaplain Officer Basic Course at Fort Jackson in January 2003. He graduated in April and reported to 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

On 17 May, Chaplain Longbucco deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving as the unit chaplain for 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Infantry Division until March 2004. In addition to unit responsibilities, he worked along with another priest to serve some 4,000 Roman Catholic soldiers in 4th ID. Father Longbucco traveled throughout Northern Iraq [Mosul to Samara and Tikrit to Kirkuk], celebrating Masses as often as 15-17 times per week. In spite of so much travel, Chaplain Longbucco ran the RCIA program at Forward Operating Base Speicher and in Samara, organized and executed a Christian Christmas Play at FOB Speicher and D-MAIN, and conducted marriage preparation for soldiers. The Army recognized his ministry in Operation Iraqi Freedom with the Bronze Star.

Upon returning from deployment in March 2004, Chaplain Longbucco became certified as a Level 10 ASIST Trainer. He developed and executed ASIST training for all deploying units, assisted two new priests preparing for the deployment, and provided extensive counsel to several Army personnel who were discerning the Army Chaplain Corps as a vocation and a career.

In 15 July 2005, Chaplain Longbucco was assigned to USAG Hessen, Hanau, Germany as Catholic priest and Deputy Community Chaplain. He is also USAG Hessen chaplain's liaison for other garrison Catholic priests, coordinating with the Wiesbaden, Baumholder and Giessen Catholic communities for programs, supplies and other needs. His talent for liaison ministry also fostered significant growth in cooperation between the Catholic community and Protestant chaplains, especially in the area of youth ministry.

Father Longbucco brought a lengthy and energetic history of ministry initiatives and accomplishments with him from ministry in civilian parishes. He continues that level of energy and initiative in the Army. For these and many other examples of exceptional ministry, the Military Chaplains Association was delighted to act upon the recommendation of his chain of command and the Army Chief of Chaplains and present him with the 2006 MCA Distinguished Award.



We were unable to obtain a photo of the award presentation. We appreciate this one provided by Susan Huseman, USAG Hessen Public Affairs.

Religious Leadership for the Army ... Courageous in Spirit, Compassionate in Service

The Military Officers Association of America

David E. White Leadership Award



The award was created by the Military Officers Association of America. It was first conferred on Rear Admiral David E. White, CHC, USN (Ret.) in April 2005 incident to his completion of service as Executive Director for the MCA. While presenting the award, Vice Admiral Norbert Ryan, Jr., MOAA President, conveyed his deep appreciation for Chaplain White's distinguished service while on active duty and afterwards. During nine years as the MCA Executive Director, Chaplain White faithfully represented the MCA with the Military Coalition.

The David E. White Leadership Award recognizes a chaplain who exemplifies several important values:

- Sees their calling as a "Chaplain for Life."
- Is committed to serving the spiritual welfare and religious free exercise of all our Troops and their family members.
- Provides mature and pro-active leadership on a wide variety of platforms within or on behalf of the military institution.
- Energetically cultivates professionalism as both clergyperson and military officer.
- Exhibits the Military Officers Association of America's objectives of care for the welfare of military personnel at all stages of life and career.



L to R : Chaplains John Murdoch and David White with Colonel Bob Norton receiving award in Memphis on behalf of Rabbi Lapp

A committee with representatives from MOAA and MCA selected Rabbi David Lapp to receive the 2006 David E. White Leadership Award.

Rabbi Lapp was in Korea leading Passover services for Troops just before the awards banquet at the last MCA National Institute. Colonel Robert Norton represented MOAA to present the award. Chaplain White received it for Rabbi Lapp. Then Chaplain Pollitt subsequently presented the award to Rabbi Lapp at his office in New York on 14 June.



L to R: Allan Finkelstein, Jewish Community Center Association President; Rabbi David Lapp; Alan Mann, JCCA Executive Vice President; Chaplain Gary Pollitt

Rabbi Lapp's wonderful record of service from days as an active duty Army Chaplain through many years as the Endorser for Jewish Chaplains has resulted in a substantial deposit of respect for his character and leadership. His splendid pastoral reputation is widely known among the Troops, military commanders, chaplains, endorsers, and countless others from many institutional and religious backgrounds.

Well beyond his own awareness, Rabbi David Lapp has made a contribution of noteworthy and enduring benefit to the welfare of his religious community, other religious communities, the Armed Services, and the Nation.

*Mazel Tov David
Hevenu Shalom Aleichem*





Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Chaplains Council

Founded in 1917 as the Chaplains' Committee of the Jewish Welfare Board, this agency of the Jewish Community Center Association serves as the endorsing body for Jewish chaplains who serve in the Armed Forces and Department of Veterans Affairs chaplaincy services. It responds to the Judaic needs of Jewish personal world-wide.

The Council consists of sixteen rabbis, four each from the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative), the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox), and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform), plus four active duty Jewish chaplains representing the Chaplains Advisory Group (CAG).

The Council serves approximately 37 full-time military and Veterans Affairs chaplains, 55 chaplain reservists, more than 88 military lay leaders, and thousands of Jews at more than 500 military installations and VA Medical Centers.

Support for Jewish Pluralism

The JWB Jewish Chaplains Council is a living example of the richness and vitality of Jewish pluralism. It brings together the various streams of



Army Chaplain Howard Fields (center front) with troops in Kabul, Afghanistan for Passover

religious Jewry, while respecting their diversity. The overall record of co-operation between all Jewish chaplains in strengthening the identity of all Jews they serve, regardless of orientation, is one of the Council's proudest achievements.

The Military Chaplaincy - A Challenge to Serve

The military Jewish chaplaincy offers a unique challenge to the young rabbi who aspires to serve "K'lal Yisrael" in a special environment: the Armed Forces of the United States. Jews who volunteer for the military represent the entire spectrum of Jewish identity, from the most assimilated to the most traditionally observant. They are often isolated from contact with Jewish communities because of the global mission of the service of which they are a part. The presence of a rabbi in uniform can make all the difference between their developing patterns of personal Jewish commitment or the abandonment of their heritage.

Recruitment of Rabbis

The Council energetically recruits rabbis through visits to various seminaries, attendance at rabbinical conferences, and notices in professional newsletters. Follow-up support is provided through a continuing pastoral relationship with rabbis in the field.

Liaison with the Defense Establishment

The Council regularly advises the Armed Forces Chaplains Board and VA Medical Center chief chaplains to assure that Jewish personnel are properly and effectively supported. Through periodic revisions of the Prayerbook for Jewish Personnel in the Armed Forces, a steady flow of recommended resource materials for the Unified Jewish Religious Education Curriculum Guide, and guidance on dealing with unforeseen situations, the Council is an indispensable problem-solving body for American defense agencies.

Other Major Services

- Chaplain Training Workshops. Organized by the Council and supported by all service branches, training conferences for Jewish chaplains are held regularly. The Association of Jewish Chaplains of the Armed Forces underwrites the cost of providing outstanding scholars-in-residence.

- Lay Leader Training Programs. Regional training workshops for Jewish Lay Leaders are sponsored by each separate branch of service throughout the year. The Council provides a training manual and resource material. Regional Jewish chaplains act as supervisors and mentors to Jewish lay leaders who serve in the absence of a Jewish chaplain in developing Jewish programs at bases throughout the world.
- Chapel Rack Literature. The Council provides informative and inspirational pamphlets on the festivals of the Jewish calendar, the life cycle, and foundations of Jewish faith and life. These pamphlets are included in the Unified Curriculum Resource Guide and may be purchased by appropriated and non-appropriated Government funds.
- Monitoring the Unified Jewish Religious Education Curriculum Guide. The Council enlists outstanding Jewish educators to review curricular materials and make available the most current effective educational resources.
- Media Library: The Association of Jewish Chaplains maintains an extensive audio-visual library of over 60 video-cassettes and close to 500 audio-tapes on Jewish religious, educational, historical, and cultural themes. Chaplains and lay leaders may access these materials without charge through the Council Office.
- Holiday Supplies. Support provided by the Women's Organizations Services of the Jewish Community Center Association enables the Council to distribute supplementary items for Hanukkah and Passover to military personnel and VA Medical Center patients.
- Volunteer Programs. Local VA Voluntary Services Committees and Armed Forces and Veterans Services Committees perform personal services at VA Medical Centers and military bases across the country. The Council provides counsel and recognition to these volunteers.
- CHAPLINES is the professional quarterly newsletter for Jewish chaplains. It also provides a bridge between Jewish chaplains and lay leaders.



Navy Chaplain Mitchell Schranz with a minyan of soldiers in Baghdad



Army Chaplain Bonnie Koppell (standing third from left) conducted Seders at FOB Warhorse and Q-west Iraq



Air Force Chaplain Brett Oxman with Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman, General Peter Pace at the Arlington Cemetery memorial to the first Gulf War

WITH PERMISSION

Photos and text for pages 8-10 are taken from the Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Chaplains Council webpage. For more access to this material and archives of the quarterly newsletter CHAPLINES, go to wwjcca.org and navigate from the "Departments" button on the left side of the homepage. Gratitude to Rabbi Nathan Landman for use of this material.

Jewish Chaplains Council Staff

Rabbi David Lapp Retiring Director

In 1957, Rabbi David Lapp was ordained at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, New York. He received a master's degree in religious education from Yeshiva University's Ferkauf Graduate School in 1972.



Soon after ordination, Rabbi Lapp was commissioned in the Army Chaplain Corps in 1958. One of his early assignments (1960-63) was in Munich, Germany – not so far from his birthplace in Vienna, Austria (1931). Along with providing programs for Jewish personnel in Munich, Augsburg, and Northern Italy, he served as stockade chaplain at Dachau. Ten years later, he returned to Germany as 1st Armored Division Chaplain at Nurnberg. He supervised 33 chaplains, managing religious programs of all faiths for eight communities. Chaplain Lapp served in Vietnam from 1966-67 as Deputy Field Force Chaplain, ministering to troops assigned to two divisions in the II Corps Highlands Area.

Rabbi Lapp's stateside assignments included Fort Bliss, TX; Fort Knox, KY; Fort Hamilton, NY; Fort Monroe, VA; and, Deputy Commandant of the Army Chaplain School, Fort Monmouth, NJ.

Rabbi Lapp retired from the US Army in November 1982 with the rank of Colonel. Immediately after, he was appointed Director of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council. He has been a member of the Military Chaplains Association for over fifty years.



Rabbi Harold Robinson New Director

Rear Admiral Harold Robinson, who now serves as the Navy's Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters, as Director of Religious Ministries in the Marine Corps Reserve, and as a congregational rabbi in Shreveport, LA, will be the next director of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council.

Chaplain Robinson joins the Council staff full time in September. *Welcome aboard Rabbi!*

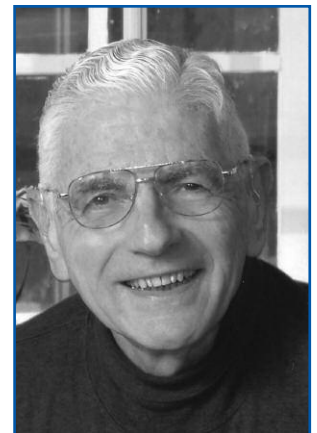
Rabbi Nathan Landman Deputy Director

Rabbi Landman recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. A major part of this celebration took place during the annual convention of the Reform movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis last June.

Landman's active-duty career began in 1956 in the US Air Force. After serving 10 years overseas and 10 domestically, he retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1981. He was appointed to the JWB chaplaincy post in 1985.

Rabbi Landman's grandfather, Louis Hyamson Landman, emigrated from the Kiev region of Central Europe in 1887. He arrived in Cincinnati and enrolled in classes at Hebrew Union College. Two of Dr. Landman's sons were ordained there.

Rabbi Isaac Landman, Nathan's uncle, served as chaplain to General Pershing's forces on the Mexican border in 1916. Then, representing the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform Movement), Isaac Landman helped organize the National Jewish Welfare Board in 1917. Rabbi Solomon Landman, Nathan's father, volunteered time at Camp Gordon, Georgia in 1917.



Reflecting on his ordination anniversary and ministry career experiences, Rabbi Landman expressed belief that military chaplaincy exemplifies the clearest expression of our country's commitment to freedom of religion, as enshrined in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

"Military chaplains are part of a team ministry. What bonds them and builds mutual respect is their engagement in common tasks for the betterment of all those they serve. Respect comes naturally when you are working on the same project together."
-Nathan Landman-

“A Chance to Live Free”

Commentary by Chaplain, Lt. Col. Conrad Navarro, USAF of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. We appreciate provision of this story by Lt Lisa Kostellic of the 332 AEW Public Affairs Office and additional photos from Chaplain, Lt. Col. Frank A Yerkes, USAF, Air Combat Command.

7/29/2006 - BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq. The day started like any other Sunday; a morning full of preaching, leading services, and enjoying some rich moments of fellowship with the Airmen who had gathered to worship.

As a chaplain deployed to Iraq, it looked as though the day was shaping up to be just your typical Sunday. After a quick lunch, I decided to visit the sick and wounded at our hospital. At the hospital, Soldiers and Airmen shared with me about how they were wounded, and some shared about their loved ones back home. In return, I would listen and occasionally interject a brief word of encouragement or a prayer for healing or of thanksgiving as appropriate.

That day, several wounded insurgents were being cared for by our medical team along with an Iraqi soldier, and a couple of Iraqi civilians who were either caught in the crossfire of battle or had suffered some other sort of life-threatening injury.

Glorifying God Honoring Airmen Serving All

I stopped at the bed of an Iraqi girl who had been the victim of a hit-and-run accident and suffered severe brain damage. Truth be told, she would probably never recover and live out the rest of her life in an unresponsive state. Her father was with her. In the days since she arrived, he had been there at her bedside and remained hopeful. Who could blame him? The man had two wives and four sons, but this young child was his only daughter. As I approached her bed, I greeted the father, touching my heart with my right hand as a sign of respect and appreciation. He too touched his heart and then said, "Hello." The father did not speak English, but had learned a few

words in the three weeks he had been there at his daughter's side. Noticing the cross on my uniform, the father brought his hands together as he would in prayer, and then pointed to me and to his daughter, and then pointed toward the sky. I knew what he was asking.

In an act of faith and trust, here was an Iraqi Muslim father asking an Air Force Christian chaplain to pray for his daughter. Why? Perhaps, because at that moment, the only thing that really mattered was his daughter. The expression on the man's face told me that if there were any way he could possibly trade places with his precious child, he would do it without the slightest hesitation. At that moment, our differences seemed insignificant. Funny, how being a loving and caring parent is something that connects you with another parent, despite differences in language, culture and even religious perspectives.

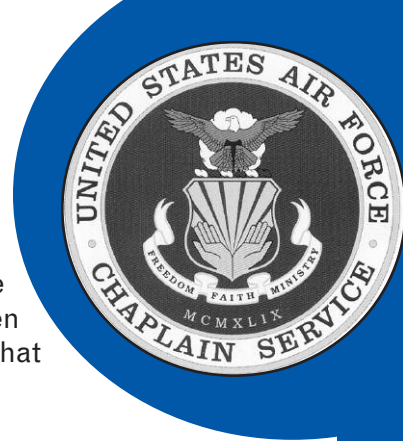
Then I remember thinking about the sermon God had given me to preach that morning. It was from the Gospel of John; the miracle of Jesus healing of the royal official's son. Now, as I stood there looking at the little girl's father, it was as though the story had suddenly come to life.

Through an improvised form of sign language, I asked if I could touch his daughter's hand. Understanding what I was asking, the father nodded yes; I reached out and gently took hold of her precious little hand, and prayed.

When I finished, I turned to her father, and his hands were clasped in prayer, and with tears in his eyes he said, "Thank you." I touched my heart, and he in turn touched his twice and then pointed to me. As I moved on to my



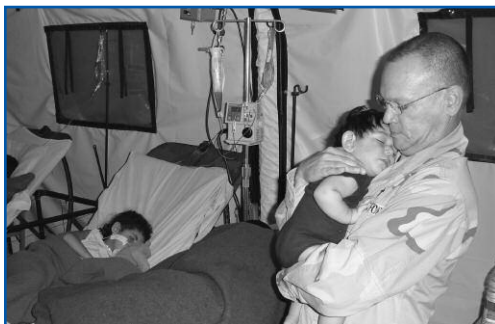
An infant patient at Balad Air Base's Air Force Theater Hospital. USAF Photo by Senior Airman Kerry Solan-Johnson



next patient I thought about how you hear some in the media talking about how the Iraqi people don't appreciate what we're doing and they just want us to leave their country. Well today, I met one appreciative Iraqi dad, who I am certain, is glad that we're here.

Next I went over to visit a 13-year-old boy that looked more like a nine year old because he was so thin and small. He was the victim of a car bomb. Physically he was going to be okay, but it will take time for him to get over his fears. The blast broke his leg and he was hit in the abdomen with shrapnel that had to be surgically removed. The boy had a scar that ran from the bottom of his stomach to his sternum. Following the blast, no one was able to locate his parents or family. They were probably killed by the bomb.

I watched as the nurse carefully changed the bandage on the boy's stomach. She had just left his bedside to get more surgical tape when suddenly rockets began hitting close and hitting hard. The base alarm blared out for all to take shelter. It was the most intense attack I'd experienced in the two months I'd been in-theater. Instinctively, I leaned over to comfort and shelter the boy the best I could.



When the attack ended, I looked into his still frightened eyes and asked, "Are you going to be okay?" to which he exclaimed, "Pepsi? Pepsi?" He loved Pepsi, and the nurses would bribe him with the stuff.

Later that afternoon, as I thought about comforting the Iraqi boy during the attack, I thought about my own son; how that's what I would have done with him if he had been frightened. And how in the moment of terror, the fact that this child was an Iraqi made no difference at all; my response was simply to comfort a scared and injured little boy, who should never of had to go through the horrors he'd survived. I remember during the attack thinking how this kid should be laughing and playing soccer with other children his age, in a neighborhood where it's safe to go out and play; a place where he could live in freedom and without fear.

That's really what all of us over here are trying to do, to give the children over here like him, the opportunity to live free from repressive regimes and the terror of insurgent coercion; to make his country a safe place, where the children of Iraq can live and play without fear.

MEMBER INFORMATION CHANGES

Help us update our database!

Mail to
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22207-7056

New Member applications available at www.mca-usa.org

Name _____ () Female () Male

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip +4 _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Office) _____

(Mobile) _____ E-Mail _____

Rank/Position _____

Faith Group/Denomination _____

Spouse's Name _____

Service (Check one): USA USAF USN VA CAP

Current status: Active Reserve/National Guard Retired/Former

CAP Chaplain Service Staff College

Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Virginia hosted the 2006 Staff College for CAP chaplains in the Middle East Region from 30 May - 2 June. MER Chaplain, Major Rob Edwards coordinated the event with support from the Commanding Officer, Captain Garrett E. Cooper and the Command Chaplain, Captain Steve Evans [MCA Life Member]

In her Welcome Letter, the MER Commander, Colonel Kay Joslin Walling stated:

A well-trained and committed Chaplain Service team is an essential element in maintaining the effectiveness of the Middle East Region in all of its programs. Your time spent with the cadets

provides a moral foundation to support them for the rest of their lives. Your partnership with command serving as advisors on matters that effect the well-being of all our members cannot be underestimated. Your presence during emergency service missions is essential to developing relationships with all levels of CAP membership. As you all well know, relationships are vital to achieving effective ministry. The key role you play as force multipliers partnering the CAP Chaplain Service with the Air Force active duty chaplains continues to be especially noteworthy. The fact that you are qualified to be of assistance at local Air Force bases speaks highly of your level of professional development with the CAP Chaplain Service.



See numbered photo captions on page 15

Lawsuit Updates

The following suits were recently filed in Federal District Courts. They relate to Federal chaplaincies or to religious ministry in the Federal sector.

19 April 2006 — *Freedom from Religion Foundation v Department of Veterans Affairs*. Case No 06C0212S. U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin.

Suit alleges that the Veterans Health Administration, the nation's largest integrated health system, "has deeply committed to integrate faith, spirituality and religion into the substantive protocol of its medical treatments," in a manner which unconstitutionally promotes, advances and endorses religion.

23 April 2006 — *Associated Gospel Churches v United States Navy and Secretary of the Navy*. U. S. District Court, Northern District of Florida.

Class action lawsuit with 41 complainants named. This is similar to four other suits filed over the past

seven years. The suit claims that the Navy has violated the Constitution in its promotion and retention of chaplains through: unconstitutional composition of chaplain selection boards, establishing denominational preferences, illegal quotas for promotions and career opportunities, and creating a religious patronage system within the Chaplain Corps.

The suit also contends that the Navy has created a pervasive climate of bias, animosity and deceit and has violated non-liturgical chaplains' free speech and religious rights.

4 May 2006 — *Freedom from Religion Foundation v Gonzales*. Case No. 06C0244S. U. S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin.

Suit against the Federal Bureau of Prisons challenging "faith-based" prison programs. Challenges previous multi-faith programs set up by the Bureau, as well as the Justice Department's announced plans to expand "single-faith" programs into as many as six more federal prisons.

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MCA MINISTRY FEATURES

Ministry Profession Advocacy

- Represent the ideals, needs, and accomplishments of military chaplains to religious communities, civilian leaders, Veteran Service Organizations, and the news media.
- Promote cooperative ministry for the benefit of all eligible personnel who chaplains are called to serve.
- Participate in The Military Coalition comprised of 36 military, veterans, and uniformed services organizations representing over 5.5 million personnel and their families.

Ministry Profession Support

- Maintain a Joint service and inter-agency forum for ministry analysis and development.
- Advance chaplain accessions through our annual Chaplain Candidate Scholarship Program.
- Promote the concept, calling, and commitment of "Chaplains for Life."
- Provide chaplaincy services where active duty resources are not available.

Information and Referral

- Maintain a database of over 8,000 chaplains - active, Guard, Reserve, retired, prior service, and deceased.
- Respond to inquiries on military chaplains, chaplaincies, and religious expression in the Armed Services.
- Assist people outside the military system in order to gain appropriate access for information and issue resolution.

Dues Increase Notice

By action of the National Executive Committee, the following membership rates were effective 1 July 2006:

Introductory Members - \$25 Regular & Associate Member annual renewals - \$50
Contributing Memberships - \$51 to \$75 Sustaining Memberships - \$76 to \$100

Life Memberships

Through age 55 - \$600 Ages 56 to 65 - \$500 Ages 66 and older - \$400

Please note! Annual dues cover the calendar year 1 January - 31 December.

Page 13 Photo Captions

1. "Fatal Vision Goggle" Exercise in Drug Demand Reduction lectures simulates dysphoria of drug users as chaplains pass Wiffle Ball around the room
2. Rob Edwards briefing participants
3. Nauri Ahmed with Noel Dawes of ACCTS International Alpha Ministry
4. Colonel Kay Joslin Walling, CAP

5. NAB Little Creek Chaplain Allen Kuss and Bill Picking
6. Lt. Col. Jett Mayhew, CAP, Drug Demand Reduction and National Honor Guard Academy Coordinator
7. Chaplains Gary Pollitt, Alva Appel, and Charles Sharp
8. Jewish worship setting at NAB Chapel
9. L to R Jack Epperley, Bill Teng, Charles Sharp, Curtis Wall, John Palmer, Wayne Dyer, Bill Picking, Gary Gorley

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Taking time to pray

**Military Chaplains
Association**

CFC #2118



**VIETNAM ERA PHOTO
OF RABBI DAVID LAPP**



Solo Seder Kits from JWB arrive at remote military installations around the globe, enabling individual Jews in the U.S. Armed Forces stationed at lonely outposts to celebrate a Seder meal at Passover. A kit contains the Haggadah, a Passover leaflet, five greeting cards, two cans of gefilte fish, two cans of matzah ball soup, a package of matzah and mixed nuts.
JWB Photo

**PERIODICALS
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**MCA SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER
"CHAPLAINS FOR LIFE"
ANNUAL UNIFORM MEETING, 19 MAY 2006**



Seated L to R: Wally Forsythe, Howard Fritz, John Strube, Ted Bowers, Bill Hemphill. Standing L to R: Dan Ressetar, Charles Hummer, Tom McInnes, Bill McEllroy, George Alexander, Tom Lucas