United States Air Force Auxiliary
Civil Air Patrol

The Western WATCH

The Newsletter of the
Pacific Region Chaplain Service
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From the Region Chaplain:

Modeling Fitness

Chaplain Woodard

In keeping with our theme of the importance of chaplains as models of the ideal senior member of the USAF Auxiliary, we come to an area that is seldom addressed – physical fitness. As chaplains we don't focus often on the physical, but in chaplaincy our fitness can make an important difference. Most of us are older and as we age and our metabolism changes it becomes more challenging to meet the uniform standards. Ministry in crisis often calls for a greater measure of stamina. Accompanying a ground team to the site of an accident; assisting during catastrophic events; responding to trauma in the midst of pressing pastoral duties; all call for endurance. As we face the reality of a world war against terror and join our comrades in Air Force and homeland security missions, the need for physical fitness becomes strikingly evident. Chaplain assistance to the Air Force, Army Reserve and Guard has also drawn attention to the need for fitness. The ministry of presence to which we so often refer as chaplains demands it. Recently finishing an 18 month assignment with an Army Active Reserve unit, I was struck that the appreciation most often expressed was the awareness that the chaplain was with them during their PT formations, airborne runs and forced marches. True enough, I was not always able to keep up with all of their requirements, but at the least I could run with the stragglers and give them confidence to finish the course. It was a unique opportunity for the ministry of encouragement.

The Apostle Paul spoke of ministry in athletic terms with reference to running the race, disciplining the body, and fitness training. Like many of us, he endured medical and physical difficulties, but he never lost sight of the goal and he did what he could to face the rigors of ministry. Surely, it involved preparation, prayer, preaching, pedagogy, and physical fitness. It is incumbent upon us as well to do our best to maintain a fitness of body as well as a function of belief. We can accomplish both with a regular program of exercise to complement our spiritual discipline. Here is a suggestion that I have employed combining a daily workout on the treadmill with a simultaneous attention to prayer. I call it my daily ***CAP One*** flight. In this instance, CAP is an acronym for **C**onsistent **A**erobic **P**erformance. Of course, everyone does not have a treadmill at home, but may have access to a gym. With a bit of imagination, other forms of exercise can be substituted.

Cont. pg. 2

Notice To Readers

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The Western WATCH

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Modeling Fitness (cont.)

Every flight begins with a pre-flight examination of the aircraft and the ability of the pilot. In like manner, it is important for us to first establish our fitness to begin. Look in the mirror. If vigorous exercise is new to you, it is wise to consult a physician to establish acceptable parameters for exertion. I am told the medical standard for determining a safe heart rate for a reasonably healthy person during exercise is to subtract your age from 220 and divide it by 75%. For example, at the age of 67, you would take 75% of 220 minus 67, or 115 beats per minute. A physically fit person should be able to exceed that heart rate. Devices to measure your heart rate during exercise are available at any drug store. If there are medical concerns, you should consult your doctor to determine an acceptable heart rate during your workout.

In my program, I plan a daily flight from an airport at 5,000 feet altitude and fly to another location slightly under 10,000 feet. That is not hard to imagine in the Pacific Region. On my treadmill, I equate 5,000 feet with a 5% grade. Beginning with a 5% grade, I set the speed at "3700 RPM" which I equate to 3.8 MPH on my machine. I quickly increase the speed until I have attained "4100 RPM," or 4.1 MPH in about a minute and a half. This speed will allow me to complete a very brisk walk or slow run for 2 miles in the allotted time of 30 minutes. Every 5 minutes, I increase the "altitude." i.e. at 5 minutes, I climb to "6,000 feet," or a 6% grade; at 10 minutes to "7,000 feet," or a 7% grade, and etc. This will bring me to 10,000 feet," or a 10 percent grade after 25 minutes, at which "altitude" I will finish the flight. As soon as I reach my "cruising speed" of 4.1 MPH, I begin a regimen of prayer which is interrupted only by the adjustment of altitude during the "flight." (Oh yes, occasionally the phone rings, but I just ignore it until the workout is complete.)

The first five minutes are given to prayer that acknowledges God's sovereignty over all things. It is by His law that flight is possible. He has given life and strength for the exercise. At 5 minutes, climbing to 6000 feet (6% grade), it is time to pray specifically for my Commander and the staff of Pacific Region. At 10 minutes I climb to 7% grade and offer prayer for each of the wing chaplains, my staff and their spouses. Each are brought before God by name. After 15 minutes and climbing to "8,000 feet," my prayer turns to specific needs that have come to my attention. Perhaps those chaplains, moral leadership officers and others who are ill or facing a particular challenge. At 20 minutes, it is time to climb to a 9% grade. At a flying altitude of "9,000 feet" the air begins to get a bit thin. It reminds me of our dependence upon God for everything, even the air we breathe. I am told that it takes 20 minutes of exercise before it begins to have measurable results. It is a good time to submit to God's plan for my life and renew a commitment to Him for health or sickness; weakness or strength; life or death, as He wills it. At 25 minutes, I make the final adjustment to a 10% grade and prepare for "wheels down" at the destination. ***Cont. pg. 3***

The Western WATCH

Modeling Fitness cont.

Just enough time left to once again rejoice in the Providence of God in anticipation of His oversight of the day. At 27 minutes, I envision turning onto the "base leg," and at 29 minutes a turn onto the "final approach." "Wheels down" at 30 minutes at which point I reduce to a "taxi" speed of "3500 RPM" (3.5 MPH) for thirty seconds; "3000 RPM" (3 MPH) for thirty seconds; and "2500 RPM" (2500 RPM) for a minute, before turning off the motor. (You may prefer a longer cool down.) This is a good time to thank God for the strength to have completed the workout and for His many blessings in granting life and breath and being. At the conclusion, you will have traveled 2 miles, and consumed about 365 calories. This regimen, if followed daily will meet or exceed the current medical recommendations for physical exercise.

"A daily *CAP Flight One* is an aid both to conditioning and prayer."

The reader may want to alter the speeds and grades to accommodate a more or less vigorous routine. The same discipline may be employed with a brisk walk, jog, stationary bike or other means of exercise. A daily *CAP Flight One* is an aid both to conditioning and prayer. It certainly is not intended as the only prayer time for a chaplain, but it makes more efficient use of the time required for fitness and serves as a reminder for important prayer concerns. It assures that prayer is offered on behalf of those to whom we minister. Paul assured us that "bodily training is of some value…" (1 Tim. 4:8), and James insists that "the prayer of a righteous person has great effectiveness." (James 5:16). Let's be models of fitness and models of prayer.

Semper Vigilans ad Dei Glorium!

(Chaplain, LTC Tom Miller contributed medical data for this article.)

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Prosser's Protocol

by Ch, Maj Debbie Prosser

CH Maj, Debra Prosser

It is that time again. Let's chat about the place of honor. In our heart we know who gets the place of honor. In Civil Air Patrol, CAPP 3 (E) shares with us the proper protocol when we are with others.

Traditionally, the right side has been considered the place of honor. Therefore, the person junior in rank always walks, rides and sits to the left of the senior. It is the junior's responsibility to know his/her place and to maneuver into it with as little attention as possible, As a general rule, seniors enter an aircraft, automobile, or boat last and leave first.

This procedure may be reversed in entering a car at a left-hand curb. In such cases, the senior may enter first, precluding the senior stumbling over the junior seated to the left. Since seniors are always accorded the best seats, when three persons are in the back seat, the junior is seated in the middle, with the most senior on the right. In full cars, the junior sits in front, and seniors in back. In boats, a junior sits forward and a senior sits aft. When flying with a senior who is pilot, you should be aboard in your designated position early.

Always remember that we are senior members in an awesome organization, and others are watching us. We are the visible reminder of the Holy.

Blessings

The Western WATCH

IN THIS ISSUE

- The Fall, 2006 issue of The Western Watch focuses on several areas of interest to our Chaplain Service. We began with a focus on the need for physical exercise if we are to effectively function as chaplains. It is a continuation of our recurrent theme of becoming models of the ideal senior member. (pages 2 and 3)

- Around the Region will provide news and items of interest from the six wings that comprise the Pacific Region. There are currently 129 chaplains and moral leadership officers in the Pacific Region Chaplain Service and much is being accomplished. We are fortunate to have outstanding talent in our service. (pages 6 through 11)

- Look for important information concerning our upcoming Pacific Region Chaplain Service Staff College at Travis AFB. It is time for pre-registration so that we can plan accordingly. The pre-registration form is included in this issue. (page 5)

- Chaplain Prosser continues her instruction in military protocol. This issue will help you to focus on the proper positioning when accompanying a superior officer. (page 3)

- We are pleased that our previous newsletters have generated a Letter To The Editor that will stimulate some discussion. (pages 12 and 13)

Sign on a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR—THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)

Church Bulletin Bloopers:

The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I Will Not Pass This Way Again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

The cost for attending this week's "Fasting and Prayer" conference includes meals.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

Pictures from the 2006 CAP National Boards

(Above) The Chaplain Service Advisory Council meets.

(Below) PCR/HC congratulates CAP's Chaplain of the Year James Sickmeyer while NCR/HC Ron Tottingham and former CAP/HC John Murdoch join in.

(Left) PCR/HC Woodard visits with California State Director Mike Prusak and Mrs. Prusak at the reception.

The Western WATCH

Encouragement is Focus of 2007 Pacific Region Chaplain Service Staff College

The annual PRCS Staff College will be held at Travis AFB, CA on 19-22 February 2007. The theme will be ***"Becoming Models of Encouragement."*** Newly appointed PCR/HCA Tom Miller and PCR/HC Whit Woodard have planned an outstanding college. Participants will include CH (BGen) Cecil Richardson, Deputy Chief of Air Force Chaplains; Colonel Ernie Pearson, Pacific Region Commander; CH (Colonel) Charles Sharp, Chief of CAP Chaplain Service; CH (Colonel) John Murdoch, Chaplain Endorser and former Chief of CAP Chaplain Service; and other distinguished guests. Featured on the faculty will be Cynthia Spears, Program Administrator and Instructor for Placer Dispute Resolution Service, who will work with the chaplains; and Dr. Sam Mirandos, a Master Teacher Trainer who provides credentialing education for California teachers, will offer practical instruction for the moral leadership officers.

Chaplains and Moral Leadership Officers enjoy the fellowship on opening night of the 2005 PRCS Staff College.

The focus will be on encouragement – encouraging chaplains and moral leadership officers and providing tools to assist in bringing that encouragement to the senior members and cadets of the Air Force Auxiliary. Cynthia Spears will provide six hours of training on the underlying principles of conflict resolution to help chaplains encourage those who are struggling with conflict. Dr. Mirandos will provide the moral leadership officers with six classroom hours on "*Teaching To Encourage*." Oregon Wing HC Charlie Sattgast is preparing a class on *"Encouraging Across Faith Borders."* Chaplain Tom Miller will offer a session on *"Medical Considerations for Encouragement"* and provide additional training for the chaplains on employing simple tests to evaluate the need for medical and/or psychological encouragement. Our Region Commander, Colonel Ernie Pearson, will elaborate on the topic *"Encouraging Our Commanders."* Chaplains will share their ideas and techniques for bringing encouragement to their units. Chaplain Service members who attend will receive a valuable gift. You will encourage us by being there!

Winners of the bowling tournament at last year's Chaplain Service Staff College. 1st Place, Len Bierlein (right); 2nd Place Deb Prosser (center); 3rd Place randy Potter (left)

In the past few years, there has been a noticeable decline in membership renewals. It is our desire that this staff college will sharpen the tools needed to have a positive and encouraging influence on the general membership as ministry models. A pre-registration form is included in this newsletter. Register now and mark it on your calendar. The MSA must be completed by mid-December. The only cost will be transportation to and from the conference, the registration fee and incidentals while there. Housing, the opening meal and graduation banquet are included in the registration.

NOTE: Pre-Registration form for the Chaplain Service Staff College is included on page 14.

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The Western WATCH

AROUND THE REGION

Pacific Region

PRCS Welcomes Colonel Pearson

The recent appointment of Colonel Ernie Pearson as Pacific Region Commander has returned an old friend of the Chaplain Service to the forefront. Col. Pearson returns to his post for a second time after completing several other assignments, including Director of the National Staff College. Chaplains will remember him as a staunch enthusiast of CAP's chaplaincy program. He has graciously consented to participating in our upcoming PRCS Staff College at Travis AFB, CA. He is looking forward to the opportunity to get better acquainted with his chaplains. His presence will help to make it a very special occasion.

Colonel Pearson has challenged the staff and commanders of the Pacific Region to make the following their highest priorities:

- ♦ Respect the individual
- ♦ Appreciate each other's contributions
- ♦ Believe in people
- ♦ Help others succeed
- ♦ Promote a sense of achievement
- ♦ Practice Integrity
- ♦ Maintain open communication
- ♦ Reserve the right to make mistakes
- ♦ Practice participative management

In his own words, he summarizes: "The above traits and attitudes are the basis for our successful practice of interpersonal relationships, goal setting and accomplishments. They serve as reference points from which we can direct our CAP life. I invite you to adopt and follow them."

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Pacific Region Staff Section (cont.)

CH, LTC, Chuck James and his bride Bobbi have embarked on their well deserved and long awaited trek as RV'ers. Since he will be out of the Pacific Region for the next several months, he has relinquished his duties as PCR/HCA. Chuck has served well at the unit, wing and region levels. We very much appreciate his devotion to ministry and commitment to the CAP Chaplain Service. Most recently, Chuck has been instrumental in obtaining the participation of the Deputy Chief of USAF Chaplains (CH, BGen Cecil Richardson) at our upcoming Pacific Region Chaplain Service Staff College. We will miss him in the Pacific Region and wish him well in his travels.

Ch, LTC, Tom Miller (right) being congratulated by PCR/HC upon receiving the Meritorious Service Award from the Nevada Wing.

We welcome **CH, LTC, Tom Miller** as our new Deputy Pacific Region chaplain (PCR/HCA). Tom has ministered as the Nevada Wing Chaplain and Chaplain Emeritus. For many years he has been the Staff Chaplain for the Pacific Region Staff College at Nellis AFB. Tom is a Mission Pilot, Incident Commander and Medical Officer in addition to his chaplain duties. Pacific Region chaplains and moral leadership officers are familiar with the excellent care and compassion he has demonstrated at numerous Chaplain Service staff colleges and elsewhere. Tom has one additional specialty of note. He is a world class grandfather.

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Nevada Wing Section

The Nevada spotlight this issue is on **LTC Richard Brown,** a Moral Leadership Officer who commands the Nellis Cadet Squadron. CAP is a family affair for the Brown clan. Richard first made contact with CAP in the Wisconsin Wing in 1949 when he joined a local squadron. Graduating to the AFROTC program in college, he received a commission in the Air Force where he served for 22 years as a pilot and industrial engineer. He flew combat missions in Vietnam. Among the aircraft in which he flew are the B-47, EB-66, and the T-39. He retired from the Air Force as a Lt. Colonel in 1978.

LTC Brown returned to CAP when his children were of cadet age and joined the Nellis Cadet Squadron along with his son, daughter, wife, grandson, granddaughter and daughter-in-law. His oldest son, Air Force Colonel David Brown, is well known to the Pacific Region Chaplain Service having assisted with several staff colleges and offering much appreciated suport of all CAP Activities. As a youth, Richard attended a Methodist church and reports that he was active in the Masonic Order of DeMolay. Today he and his family are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He is also active as a Boy Scout leader and was instrumental in obtaining a charter as a BSA

Oregon Wing Section

CAP

by 1st Lt. Francis S. Moore,

Squadron Says Good-Bye to Chaplain

Twenty-six years of service to Civil Air Patrol on the Central Coast were remembered fondly as senior and cadet members said farewell to CAP Chaplain (Lt Col) Elmer Steenbock. The Coos Bay octogenarian is not retiring, however. He is moving to Sweet Home, Oregon, where he will be joining the Linn Benton Composite Squadron.

In his farewell message to the group, which included past squadron commanders and members, Chaplain Steenbock recalled his service as a line infantryman in Patton's 3rd Army in the WWII European theatre. He received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in the Battle of the Bulge.

While recuperating in England, he told of meeting Russian soldiers who were also injured. As a result, he formed a lasting concern for the Russian people, and in 1993 helped start a mission at the Russian far east. In the fall of last year he completed his sixteenth trip to Russia.

He was ordained by the Missouri Synod, Lutheran Church, in 1962 and came to Coos Bay in 1975, serving as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. Chaplain Steenbock began serving Civil Air Patrol as visiting clergy in 1980, and became the first chaplain of the new Marshfield Cadet Squadron in 1981.

The Chaplain was welcomed by the squadron's first commander, retired Lt Col Cameron Warner, of North Bend, who led the new squadron for its first seventeen years. Also in attendance was former unit commander, Lt Col Gene Wright, of Coos Bay, who is now Oregon Wing Director of Logistics. Oregon Wing Chief of Staff, Major Scott Hall, of North Bend, recalled his days as a cadet in the local unit.

In presenting Chaplain Steenbock with a certificate of appreciation, Central Coast Composite Squadron commander, Captain Charlie Roesel, commended Chaplain Steenbock's contribution to CAP's Moral Leadership and Character Development programs, and for the counseling he offered to unit members through the years.

"Your actions have reflected great credit upon yourself, your unit, Oregon Wing, and the Civil Air Patrol program," the citation concluded.

With the transfer of Chaplain Steenbock, the squadron will continue to be served by Chaplain (Major) Kenneth Hooton of Coquille. The Squadron's membership ranges from Myrtle Point to Reedsport.

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California Wing Section

by Ch (Lt. Col.) Paul Ward, CAWG HC

CAWG Cadet Encampment

The CAWG Cadet Encampment was conducted at Camp San Luis Obispo during the week of August 5-12. There were 254 Cadets and Senior Members who attended this event. Chaplain (Maj) Chuck Ingram served as the Chief Chaplain and Ch (Lt. Col.) Paul Ward assisted him.

Chapel services were conducted on Sunday. Chaplain Ingram conducted a Mass and Chaplain Ward conducted a non-denominational service. It was literally standing room only for the 38 cadets/seniors who attended Mass and the 53 cadets/seniors who attended the non-denominational service. A few weeks before Encampment began, several of the buildings that were be utilized for encampment were condemned due to not meeting seismic codes. As a result the services were conducted in the day rooms of Buildings 832 and 835. While the conditions were less than ideal, those who attended the services commented on how much they appreciated the opportunity to begin the encampment week with worship and fellowship with other CAP members.

During the week, there were many opportunities to minister to basic cadets as well as staff. Basic cadets were able to dine at the "chaplain's table." At each meal, Chaplains Ingram and Ward sat at table with cadets, giving them an opportunity to "defuse". While they were not permitted to talk to each other, table talk was facilitated by the chaplains. Once word gets out about the "chaplain's table" there is no shortage of cadets who want to dine with the chaplain.

Chaplain ministry at California Cadet Encampment. More pictures on page 10 ...

Each evening during the cadets' free time before lights out, Chaplains Ingram and Ward conducted a walk-through of the bays in each building to interact with the cadets. This was one of the cadets' favorite times with the Chaplains. Following a stressful day and the inspections during the evening, cadets were able to chat with the Chaplains. If a cadet needed additional time for counseling, an appointment was arranged through their Tactical (TAC) Officer.

Capt. Patricia Lay, MLO, served on staff as a TAC Officer. One of the other TAC Officers in training is completing an application to become an MLO until he is ordained – at which time he will apply for an appointment as a Chaplain.

On the concluding day of encampment, prior to the graduation parade, Chaplains Ingram and Ward presented a Core Values class for the cadets. It was rewarding to both the cadets, who struggled at the beginning of the week, and the chaplains to see their efforts rewarded on the final day of encampment in the pass and review. Several of the cadets made it a point to introduce their parents to the chaplains and credit their words of encouragement as the reason they completed encampment. (More pictures on page 10)

Around Region Cont. pg. 10

CAWG cont.

Benjamin Franklin, as a young man, visited the Rev. Cotton Mather, who proffered this advice as Franklin approached a low-hanging beam in Mather's parsonage:

"You are young and have the world before you; stoop as you go through it, and you will miss many hard bumps."

CAWG Appointments/Awards/Promotions:

Lt. Col. Bruce Pawlak - MLO at Squadron 45, Group 3
1st Lt. Greg Williams - MLO at Squadron 121, Group 6

Capt. Patricia Lay - MLO- Grover Loening (Level 3)
CH (Maj.) Mike McKinney - Paul Garber (Level 4)

CH (Maj.) Chuck Ingram - Promoted to Lt. Col.

Capt. Patricia Lay, MLO, Squadron 157 - Technician Rating in MLO Specialty Track

CH (Lt. Col.) Michael W. Lamb, Sr. - Transferred in from the New Mexico Wing. Chaplain Lamb is a Col. In the USAF and is currently assigned as the Vice Commander of the 61st Air Base Wing, Los Angeles AFB.

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Around Region cont.

Alaska Wing Section

by Ch. (Maj.) Franklin N. Blodgett, CAP

Alaska News

Alaska CAP had a great cadet encampment in June. For the Sunday service the Protestant cadets that wanted to have a service met with the Wing Chaplain. The Catholic cadets that wanted to go to a religious service attended the base Catholic service while those who didn't want to attend church attended a special moral leadership class. All three events took place at the same time, thereby not creating conflicts in scheduling.

On August 26-27, 2006, Lt Col Sherry Jones taught the Critical Incident Stress Management Group Crisis Intervention class in Anchorage. This is the class that is required to be a member of a CAP CISM team. Twenty-three CAP members from around the State attended the class.

I took the class for the second time. It was a good review and a time to interact with others that will be involved with CISM. One MLO attended, plus a future MLO.

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Hawaii Wing Section

by Chaplain James C. Merritt

Hawaii Wing News

Hawaii Wing is starting to have more Chaplains and MLO officers. At this date we have two Chaplains. **Stan Dixon** is on the Island of Oahu (near Honolulu). I am on the Island of Kauai. I have one future chaplain, **Curtis Marshall**, waiting for endorsement and a new MLO Officer on the Big Island of Hawaii. So, things are looking up for us here in Hawaii.

I have sent them all CAP221 to complete and mail back to me. Hope that they all will be able to complete it and take the test soon.

We all work with cadets in our squadrons teaching Moral Leadership. I also am qualified to teach Aerospace Education and have finished Module 5 on Astronomy and working on Module 6 on Spacecrafts with our Kauai Cadets. I am the only one that works with a Senior Squadron at this time. I continue to teach them John C. Maxwell's "The 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player". I am teaching the second quality: *"Collaborative Working Together Precedes Winning Together,"* The main idea is that collaborative team members, completing one another is more important than competing with one another. The main focus should be concentrating on the Team and not on yourself. As a result you will create victories through multiplying effects on everything you do because it releases and harnesses not only your skills but also those of everyone on the team. ALOHA

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The Western WATCH

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor,

By the time you publish this letter, we might have a new "Military Chaplains Prayer Law." If so, I can't predict how it will read. In the last few days, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees have encountered considerable difficulty in resolving this matter during their conferences for the FY2007 National Defense Authorization Act.

Just so we are clear, I am writing from the perspective of a Christian from early childhood who very much cherishes the names of my God – especially the name "Jesus." And I will eagerly share with anyone my reason for eternal hope – when it is my turn. On the other hand, I relished the astonishing privilege of serving as a chaplain alongside others with faith perspectives not like mine.

The Armed Services do everything they can with the cards dealt to provide spiritual care for people of every persuasion or no persuasion.

The original House version [HR5122, Section 590] looked good to many people at first reading. After all, who could possibly object to new muscle from the Congress to back up their prayer preferences? This law was cast as remedy for perceived censorship of some chaplains' prayers - especially those offered in the name of "Jesus." One of the law's distinguished congressional sponsors called it "the defining moment" for religious liberty in our nation. Nevertheless, in the flurry of news about the law, important considerations were consistently missing.

First of all, I am deeply troubled over the quest for relief from an "organized conspiracy in the Armed Services" against some chaplains. There is no such organized conspiracy. This does not mean that we should sweep grievances under the rug. But wait a moment. Is it necessary to sully the reputation of an entire chaplain corps or a military department or the Department of Defense? Are Jesus and/or the Constitution so vulnerable that desperate measures are required?

It includes the delicate balance between non-establishment of religion and religious free exercise.

There is indeed a "grand conspiracy!" But, it is not the one declared in alarmist calls to defend the First Amendment. It is the one that countless chaplains have supported faithfully over the years. The Armed Services do everything they can with the cards dealt to provide spiritual care for people of every persuasion or no persuasion. What is in that deck of cards? At minimum it includes the culture, the law, military exigencies, and the extent that faith groups sending chaplains keep their contracts with the Department of Defense. It includes the delicate balance between non-establishment of religion and religious free exercise. All things considered, the Armed Services have an imposing record in the "conspiracy" to serve the religious rights and needs of all eligible personnel.

Second, there is no universal agreement on what content can be included in "prayer." Some advocates of the prayer law speak as though the only issue is protecting freedom to name a preferred deity. What about all of the other things conveyed under the banner "prayer"? Curses on the "unrighteous" are common in some traditions. Pointed evaluations of or warnings about the spiritual states of people are routinely uttered through prayers. These customs exist in houses of worship throughout our land without disturbance from the government. Are these types of prayer language appropriate in mandatory or

Letters to The Editor (cont.)

Ceremonial military settings? The original House version is a nearly unlimited license for such prayers.

What about those who might choose to publicly scold or even convey a veiled threat to a commanding officer or the Troops within their "prayers?" Why do the determined advocates of this law ignore the possibility that some chaplains, "driven" by private conscience, might resort to such practices - and sooner than later? Does anyone with substantial experience in the military world seriously believe that the "military necessity" clause of the law would forestall such problems? And, oh by the way, what happened to the prayer rights of everyone else who are not chaplains? Such elevation of a chaplain's conscience in Public Law is a "Trojan Horse" that would bring many negative consequences for religious ministry in the Armed Services onto the scene.

Third, I am appalled by the absence of interest in all of the facts. The prayer law did not come from a comprehensive study submitted by the Defense Department - or anyone else. Neither did it involve consultation with the broad range of faith groups that send chaplains to the Armed Services. My attempts to surface a balanced perspective in the media were not fruitful. The one nibble from a national news agency largely resulted in one more photo-op for another controversial individual. One interested newspaper credited me with a statement that was missing key elements and context for the factual observation I actually made.

Fortunately, chaplains continue to minister day after day no matter what claims fly around about conspiracies against religious freedom in the military.

Discussions with other Christians in and out of the military were a mixed review as well. For some people, questioning a law about prayer is tantamount to syncretism if not outright heresy. This reaction came from clergy as well as folks in the pew. What happened to passion for "all of the facts" that one might at least expect from people trained in painstaking exegesis of their Holy Scriptures and careful theological formation?

Fortunately, chaplains continue to minister day after day no matter what claims fly around about conspiracies against religious freedom in the military. They willingly balance private preference with public responsibility. Even so, I still think reputation is crucial - along with accuracy. If for no other reason, my ministry experiences in the Navy were substantially benefited by the trust in others that served before me. With institutional ministry, we reap what others sow.

No matter how the prayer law turns out, there are enormous challenges ahead for our unique ministry profession. We already need healing for damage to the over 231 year positive legacy of military chaplains. We certainly must seek to reclaim authoritative voice about what actually takes place in spiritual care for the military. While doing so, we must now consider that an overwhelming number of people seem to miss a crucial point about ministry in the military. Chaplains are invited into the military to assist commanders with their responsibilities for spiritual welfare of the Troops - not the reverse.

Thanks for considering my remarks. God bless you and all of your readers!

Chaplain Gary R. Pollitt
Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

(Chaplain Pollitt is Executive Director of the Military Chaplains Association of the USA and a regular reader of *The Western WATCH*.)

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112-6332

5 September 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL UNIT COMMANDERS

FROM: CAP/CC

SUBJECT: Civil Air Patrol Corporate Service Coat

1. The recent National Board meeting in Reno was a tremendous success. I was quite pleased to see so many members wearing the new Corporate uniform. This uniform allows our members to present a professional image and to be easily identified as members of Civil Air Patrol. Many members had suggestions on how to improve this uniform and after careful consideration I have decided to implement several of these changes. Effective immediately, the U.S. insignia placed on the lapels of the Corporate Service coat will be replaced by the highly polished C.A.P. device. This device will also be added to the epaulet of the black windbreaker, worn centered between the grade insignia and the end of the epaulet. Additionally, the flight cap will no longer be worn with the grade insignia on the right side of the cap and the flight cap device will return to its original placement centered on left side of the cap 1 ½ inches from the front edge. The National Executive Committee will meet in November to finalize these and any other changes deemed necessary.

2. The information in this letter supersedes the information on the Corporate Service Coat contained in previous policy letters. This change will be reflected in the next change to CAPM 39-1, *CAP Uniform Manual*. For questions or additional assistance you may contact Ms Susan Parker, Deputy Director, Membership Services, at 1-877-227-9142, extension 212, or by email at sparker@cap.gov.

ANTONIO J. PINEDA
Major General, CAP
National Commander

Pre-Register NOW for the 2007 Pacific Region Chaplain Service Staff College

19-22 February 2007

Travis AFB, CA

BECOMING MODELS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

PRE-REGISTRATION

Please pre-register ASAP so that we can plan adequately. There is no reason to delay. The budget for the staff college is dependent on how many attend and we must order materials in advance. We do not expect that the cost will exceed $50 per person, ($25 for non member spouse) but we will contact you later for your registration fees. REGISTER NOW.

Every PRE-REGISTERED chaplain and moral leadership officer will receive a gift with a Pacific Region Chaplain Service logo.

Name: _____ SSN (for MSA) _____ Rank: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____ eMail: _____

Chaplain ☐ MLO ☐ CAP Unit: _____ Spouse attending: Yes ☐ No ☐ Is spouse a member? Yes ☐ No ☐
(Member spouse must also register)

Will you arrive via airline? ☐ Personal auto? ☐ Will you need transportation from airport? ☐ Rental Car? ☐

Please indicate your Faith Group so we can provide for any special needs:

☐ Christian ☐ Jewish ☐ Muslim ☐ Other _____

Mail your pre-registration to:

Chaplain, LTC, Whit Woodard, PCR/HC

PO Box 428
Rocklin, CA 95677

or

eMail to hc@pcr.cap.gov - **Fax to** 916-624-0228