

# Newsletter

*News and Resources for  
Military and Veterans Affairs  
Endorsers and Chaplains*

Fall 2007

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and the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincies (ECVAC)*

## Issues of Interest

### Letter from NCMAF Chairman Herman Keizer

Colleagues in Ministry –

The chaplain was a fake! Christopher Bearce and his family must have been shocked at this disappointing news. Chris had joined the Marine Corps at the fake chaplain's suggestion, permitted the masquerading chaplain to officiate at his wedding, and watched as the imposter officiated at his grandmother's funeral. (See "[How one bogus Marine fooled an entire family](#)"). Sad but true.

This story illustrates the importance of chaplain ministry in our nation's military today. A family met and befriended a man who they believed to be a chaplain. They made him a trusted part of their lives, invited him into moments of supreme importance, and trusted him for advice on life changing decisions. The imposter had this impact because he posed as a military chaplain and because he cared.

This Newsletter emphasizes that we, as endorsers, must work with civilian ministers to ensure there is continuity of care for our military personnel and their families. The need grows greater every day. Service members and families need the chaplaincy. They also need spiritual care to meet their unique needs beyond the chaplaincy.

The cost of war on our nation is great. The cost will be even greater if we do not provide for the spiritual healing and restoration of those who have experienced the horrors of war. We need to provide for the needs of the wounded and those family members who remain at home supporting those in harm's way.

The active, Reserve, and Guard forces can only do so much. Their focus has to be on the members of the service from the time they get to boot camp to the time they come home one final time. Some have made the observation that the all-volunteer force has created a separation between the citizen and the soldier. The extensive use of Reserve and National Guard forces in the current war on terrorism has reversed this trend. It has also created even more demands as our Reserve and Guard troops often return home with no active military care available. Civilians called to ministry must fill this gap.

Veterans who return home seek to find their place in our society. They do this after experiencing the devastation and fear that comprises combat. Faith communities and economic communities must adjust to these returning heroes who now bring something new and unknown. They have changed and need acceptance and support as they adjust to civilian life. Families who often extend beyond spouse and children into far reaches of the community need specialized care as well. One can easily overlook these needs. We can help by ensuring the needs are known.

Please make use of the information provided below to stimulate your own ministry and the ministry of those within your various faith communities. Look seriously at the proposals being considered by the MCA detailed below and consider how you might volunteer for this expanded ministry. Plan to come and participate at our annual meeting in January and help us as a Conference determine how we can do more.

Collegially,  
Herm Keizer

#### Notable Quote

*"They need that chaplain. In combat, you will hear Soldiers cry out for their mother, the medic and their chaplain. In these kinds of situations, the chaplain is there to bring comfort and peace, not only to the wounded and the dying, but to the living."*

Chaplain Doug Carver,  
22<sup>nd</sup> Army Chief of Chaplains

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## Letter from ECVAC Chairman Frank Clawson

### *Endorser's Role in Ministering to Their Chaplains*

The Newsweek magazine prominently featuring a military chaplain on its cover was mentioned by Herm Keizer in his letter in the previous issue of this Newsletter. I reflect on it again now as I believe the story deserves further consideration by all of us as Endorsers.

The lead article, *The Military: Faith under Fire*, described the journey of a faithful military chaplain who deployed to Iraq. His journal entries described how the effects of war caused him to question God's love as he witnessed the inhumanity of war. Ultimately he experienced a crisis of faith. When the article was written he was being treated for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at Walter Reed Medical Center. I am sure we all hope for his complete recovery.

We may wrongly assume that a chaplain's faith is unshakeable. Commanders and soldiers look to the chaplain as the one person whose faith is rock solid. Yet, as the article so vividly illustrates, "God can be found or lost in a foxhole, but rarely does war leave someone's faith untouched."

VA chaplains minister daily to the casualties of war. These men's and women's wounds vary from life changing physical trauma to debilitating emotional and psychological disorders. Many of these heroes experience a crisis of faith as they strive to put the pieces of their life back together and deal with their traumatic experiences. Like the chaplain portrayed in Newsweek, our VA chaplains can become weary in their ministry as well.

I encourage all VA chaplain endorsers to be more than paper endorsers. I believe the counsel of the Christian Apostle Paul applies directly to all of us as endorsers and chaplains: His initial warning should be taken seriously as he encourages us "not be weary in well doing" (Gal 6:9). In other words, don't neglect taking time for yourselves. But he also follows up with an admonition which has universal import for all people of faith. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal 6:10).

Endorser, take the time to personally contact your chaplains. A visit is best, but if that isn't feasible, a phone call goes far in helping your chaplain recharge his or her spiritual batteries. It will remind and confirm you are concerned for them. Please, make the visit or the call.

Collegially,  
Frank Clawson



## Proposed Initiatives from the Military Chaplains Association (MCA)

The Military Chaplains Association is working on several new initiatives to support the dramatic efforts underway by both the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. These Departments are executing Executive and Legislative Branch direction for improving the care for military members and Veterans involved in the Global War on Terror.

The first MCA initiative involves a "master notebook" of resources for assistance to family members, pastors, and others in the civilian community who might be involved in helping our returning warriors. MCA is particularly concerned about those who have limited or no access to many of the briefings that are sponsored by DoD or VA. The notebook will include several models of community workshops. Major topics are: 1) prevalent injuries in the Global War on Terror, 2) warning signs of Combat Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, 3) spiritual crises that result from war, 4) care for those with psychological wounds, 5) steering through the referral maze for help from government agencies, and 6) spiritual support for healing. This project will be considered by our National Executive Committee in November for potential approval and implementation.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> initiative involves enhancement of the MCA Information & Referral ministry. This principle function of the Association has grown dramatically since 9/11. Security concerns and increased deployment tempo have limited access by the general public to active duty chaplaincies. MCA's national network of members routinely provides volunteer pastoral support ranging from crisis intervention and Casualty Assistance to memorials and funerals to briefings and mentoring chaplain candidate officers. MCA is working on new data search and contact methods for activating and deploying our network.

There is a wealth of valuable material on Warrior Care currently available. MCA is seeking to gather the best examples that address the most important topics with the least amount of technical language. Perhaps you

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have developed specialized materials on the care of military personnel and their families. Or, perhaps your religious faith group has prepared such items. MCA would deeply appreciate access to any of these materials. Please contact the Executive Director, Chaplain Gary Pollitt, [chaplains@mca-usa.org](mailto:chaplains@mca-usa.org), with suggestions about informative materials or presentation models for possible inclusion in our notebook.

Endorsing Agents will soon receive a letter from Chaplain (BG) James T. Spivey, AUS Ret), MCA National President, regarding these matters. Please keep an eye out for this communication and consider how you can help the effort.



**Personnel Updates**

**Navy Chief of Chaplains - Rear Admiral Robert Burt, CHC, USN**

**From a letter to the Navy Chaplain Corps in June**

Health wise, I'm "fit for full duty!" I underwent another bone marrow biopsy two weeks ago and received a call from my oncology doctor last week while in Bangor. The phone call gave me reason to rejoice in that the results showed that my blood plasma contained less than 1% of the myeloma cancer. My doctor recommends occasional tests and perhaps in six to eight years, I'll need another stem cell transplant. Evelyn and I continually felt the strength of your prayers and support through this whole process. Not once during the treatment did we ever feel alone!

**Director of VA Chaplain Service Hugh Maddry**

**From Jeni Cook at the Veteran's Administration on August 29**

I talked to Janet Maddry today. The Maddry family continues to experience multiple health issues and very much values the prayers of the Endorsers' community. Hugh continues to improve, although slowly. Janet says he's getting more strength in his right leg and in his right arm also. In therapy, he is walking better and navigating some stairs fairly well. He has walked without any assistance in a pool. He is gradually adding new words to his vocabulary. They are very hopeful that he will be able to go to the National ACPE meeting in October and receive, in person, his lifetime achievement award.



**Rebecca Waldman—**

Please welcome Rebecca Waldman, ([rebecca@ncmaf.org](mailto:rebecca@ncmaf.org)), to our NCMAF/ECVAC team. Rebecca follows her mother, Maureen Francis, as our new NCMAF/ECVAC Executive Assistant. We welcome Rebecca's contributions and skills, not unlike the never ending fount of wisdom and advice of Maureen.

**Annual Conferences**

**Annual Conferences for NCMAF and ECVAC:**

**Meeting Dates**

**January 7, 2008** NCMAF New Endorser Half-Day Training

**January 8-9, 2008 -** NCMAF Plenary

**January 9, 2008** ECVAC Plenary

All meetings at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel, Alexandria, Virginia  
(Note - An abridged version of our [agenda](#) for the 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> is at the end of this letter)

**January 10, 2008** Military All- Endorser Briefing hosted by the Armed Forces Chaplains Board  
Where - Pentagon Conference Center -

Time - Arrive at the conference center by 0800

Registration materials for the AFCB All-Endorser Meeting will be sent by the AFCB.

(Note - due to space limitations only one person per Endorsing Agency will be permitted to register prior to 15 Nov 2007.) .



**Chaplaincy News**

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**Air Force Chaplain Shares Faith in Afghanistan**

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein, Special to American Forces Press Service

CAMP EGGERS, Afghanistan, Aug. 5, 2007 – From sitting down to lunch with Afghan mullahs, or Islamic leaders, to performing Catholic Mass for international service members, one Air Force chaplain is experiencing a deployment here in Kabul that is very different than others he’s had in the past.

“I’m part of a large team which is experiencing similar fears,” he said. “There is a distinct mission. It’s important that people understand we are not here to occupy this land. Instead, we are supporting the Afghan people and it’s a unique experience to see those efforts bearing fruit. You can’t get that kind of satisfaction elsewhere.”

Though Weber has been in country only for a few weeks, he’s already found himself dressed in full “battle-rattle”, or body armor, accompanying (Command Chaplain Navy Captain James E.) Fisher outside the wire to meet with local mullahs as part of the religious and cultural affairs ministry program.

“If we do not win the mullahs, we will not win this war,” said Fisher, referring to the Islamic leaders of the local villages. “Once we gain their trust, then the people will trust us, too.”

Weber said his first meeting with the mullahs really helped in understanding the Afghan culture. “This is the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,” he said. “Their entire culture and way of life is based upon their religion. Even though mine is a different religion, they saw me as a religious person and they respected that. There was a sense of camaraderie. We both understand the importance of religion in people’s lives and because of that, we were able to come together and share ideas.”

Sharing ideas is exactly the mission of the religious and cultural affairs ministry with U.S. military chaplains acting as mentors to their Afghan counterparts. Similar to U.S. military chaplains, the Afghan chaplain corps provides religious support to its service members. That includes family services, counseling and morale, welfare and recreation services, all while being mindful of the Islamic way of life.

Weber said that while being in a war zone is stressful, he’s thankful for the opportunity to serve here.



U.S. Air Force Chaplain Lt. Col. Michael Weber leads the Catholic daily mass at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan, July 23, 2007. *U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi*

**Burned Iraqi children need medical supplies; chaplain seeks help**

By John Hall *Texas Baptist Communications*

DALLAS—A Baptist General Convention of Texas-endorsed Army chaplain is encouraging churches to send medical supplies to support a U.S. military-run medical clinic in Iraq for child burn victims.

U.S. military personnel treat as many as 100 young people a week in South Central Iraq during the winter and 25 a week during the summer. One in five patients is burned as a result of the conflict there. Most of the burns are a result of accidents, since many Iraqis cook with gasoline and heat their homes with diesel heaters.

In the process of working on the burns, doctors also discover and treat other medical issues children have. In extreme cases, children are referred to a nonprofit group that seeks to provide free medical care.

“The burn clinic offers the only medical facility where trained doctors and medics see burn victims and offer sanitary medical treatment,” said Army Chaplain Mark Richardson, who made the request for supplies. “Without the clinic, numerous children each year would contract infections, would be disfigured and some would die of complications from burns.”

Bobby Smith, director of BGCT chaplaincy relations, said Richardson’s request is an opportunity to meet the physical and spiritual needs of Iraqi children.



Mark Richardson, a military chaplain endorsed by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, boards a plane for Iraq. Richardson has requested medical supplies for a clinic for burned Iraqi children.



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“Chaplain Richardson’s primary responsibility is to provide pastoral care to United States military personnel and their families, but his ministry heart goes beyond that to try to meet the needs of hurting children in Iraq,” Smith said. “This request empowers Texas Baptists to reach their arms around the globe to help one of their own minister there in a practical way.”

**Needed:** medical supplies include bandages, dressings, medical scissors and hydrogen peroxide. [Here is a complete list of requested items.](#)

Items can be mailed directly to Chap. Mark Richardson, CSC Scania, APO AE 09331. For more information, call Reba Gram at 888-244-9400 or e-mail [Reba.Gram@bgct.org](mailto:Reba.Gram@bgct.org)



**Wiccans dedicate grave at Arlington**

By [Leo Shane III](#), Stars and Stripes Mideast edition, Thursday, July 5, 2007

WASHINGTON — The Rev. Selena Fox said Wednesday wasn’t the first time she visited a Wiccan’s grave site at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. It was just the first time one was identified that way.

“This is the first time the Christian cross and Wiccan pentacle have both been engraved on a tombstone here, and it’s great news for us,” said the senior minister of Circle Sanctuary, a Wisconsin Wiccan community. “It’s recognition we’ve fought for so long.”

On Wednesday Fox, members of her congregation, and other pagans held a consecration ceremony at the grave site of Jan Deanna, a Wiccan minister who passed away more than two years ago.



Her husband, Army Capt. William O’Rourke, passed away nine years earlier and had the Christian cross engraved on his tombstone. But Deanna’s side was left blank, because until May the Department of Veterans Affairs had no symbol to recognize her faith.

Wiccan groups have been pushing for the pentacle as a recognized religious symbol for almost a decade, but efforts have been stymied by paperwork and administrative delays by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This spring, after new rules from the department and continued unsuccessful lobbying by pagan groups, Circle Sanctuary and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State sued the department for the right to put the symbol on gravestones and plaques.

*Leo Shane III / S&S.* The Rev. Barry Lynn (left) of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and Rev. Selena Fox of Circle Sanctuary in Wisconsin deliver a blessing over the grave site of Jan Deanna O’Rourke on July 4.

In May the department settled the suit, agreeing to include it among the 38 other religious symbols permitted for veterans’ memorials. Veterans and military spouses at Wednesday’s event called it an important First Amendment victory.

The event was designed not just to celebrate the legal victory but also to remember Deanna, who friends called a kind and generous woman. The Rev. Paula Johnson, who belonged to the same worship community in Florida, said she worked with local charities every Christmas to help poor families with gifts for their children.

“A year before she died, she spoke often about not tolerating religious persecution,” Johnson said. “She’s an inspiration to us all.”

Deanna’s tombstone is one of two in the cemetery bearing the symbol; Pfc. Abe Kooiman, a World War II veteran who died in 2002, also left instructions to have his headstone marked once a Wiccan symbol was approved. Fox said at least four other veterans have also had the symbol etched into memorial plaques since the lawsuit was settled.

“And now, I’m hearing from people that are requesting and getting it without me being included in a fight,” she said. “That makes us very, very happy.”



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**Florida pastor serves those who care for America's war dead**

By JONI B. HANNIGAN Managing Editor Published August 23, 2007

DOVER, Del. (FBW) — Ready to collect the remains of her husband from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, a woman looks closely at Chaplain Klavens Noel and says the first thing that comes to mind. "Chaplain, there are no words. No words to say in these circumstances," Noel remembers her telling him.



Chaplain Klavens Noel (l) and David J. Sparks stand in front of The Wall of Significant Events at the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where they serve. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Joseph Springfield

For Noel, however, the brief encounter with a family member who has lost a loved one during a time of war is an opportunity for him to deliver a glimpse of hope.

"God does all things well," Noel recalls gently telling the woman. "Look to God for the silver lining in the cloud, so that we can move on and find out the purpose of all of this. ... Focus on your faith."

Noel said rarely do the families of those killed in war show up at Dover's gates, but when they do, he shares with them pretty much the same message he lives 24-hours a day with the nearly 100 others who are present in the mortuary building where the war dead are brought to be identified, prepared, cosmetized, dressed for burial, and delivered to their final resting places.

Instead of becoming hardened or desensitized, Noel said the environment "on the contrary, brings us closer to who we are."

"It takes off the veil, it takes off the front that we carry in our life," Noel said. "Now we become real, sensitive."

**New Chief of Chaplains Reports for Duty**

Aug 24, 2007 by [Elizabeth M. Lorge](#) Photo by [Don Wagner](#)

*Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas L. Carver became the 22nd chief of Army chaplains July 12.*

Washington (Army News Service, Aug. 24, 2007) – According to Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas L. Carver, the Army's new chief of chaplains, chaplains in today's Army are more important than any time since World War II. Their very mission – nurturing the living, caring for the wounded and honoring the dead – is essential to an Army at war.



Both a man of God and a Soldier's Soldier, Chaplain Carver knows what it is to minister to Soldiers who are looking for comfort and reassurance, and he remembers how it feels to huddle in a bunker during a missile attack, praying for strength and courage. He is passionate about bringing "God to Soldiers and Soldiers to God," whatever their faith or creed.

"One of my priorities is to ensure that every deploying unit has a chaplain to provide for the spiritual needs of Soldiers," he said. "They need that chaplain. In combat, you will hear Soldiers cry out for their mother, the medic and their chaplain. In these kinds of situations, the chaplain is there to bring comfort and peace, not only to the wounded and the dying, but to the living."

Faith and belief in a higher power become more important in danger and uncertainty, Chaplain Carver said, recounting a story another chaplain told him. A wounded Soldier was being carried onto a helicopter, singing a hymn. As he lost blood, he could only hum the tune, and was finally too weak to sing anything. The four Soldiers carrying his stretcher finished singing the hymn for him.

"That's the kind of fellowship, this sacred bond we have as Soldiers. I won't leave a fallen comrade behind, and I will even sing him into eternity," he said. "You talk about Army strong, and I really believe that if we are spiritually strong, if our Soldiers are exercising their spiritual faith, that is what gives them the strength and resilience to face whatever the Army calls them to do. They do it without complaining, with great character and integrity. Our Soldiers are great ambassadors for the United States and it's a humble honor to serve them."

Another of Chaplain Carver's priorities is ensuring Soldiers have the time and help they need to reunite with their Families after a deployment. Chaplains, he said, can provide the bridge to normalcy that a Soldier needs when returning from the horrors of war-through prayer, counseling and caring for their Families.

The Army is short about 500 chaplains, especially Catholic, Orthodox and Episcopal priests, Muslim imams and Jewish rabbis. While Bible study groups and worship services are available almost every day in-theater, this shortage means that some Soldiers can only attend their faith's services every three or four weeks,

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Chaplain Carver said. Recruiting more chaplains is a vital part of giving Soldiers and their chaplains the support they need, he said, pledging never to stop talking about the importance of ministry in the military. During a "Consider the Call" weekend in October, chaplains will ask their military congregations if any of them have ever felt called to the ministry.

Chaplain Carver is a former field artillery officer who wears the Air Assault Badge and Ranger Tab. He also received a Bronze Star for his service as the V Corps chaplain during the early Iraq war in 2003.



**Living and learning together - Chaplains gather during semiannual conference**

By Army Spc. Laura M. Bigenho, 28th Public Affairs Detachment Aug 18, 2007 - 6:42:41 PM

Blackanthem Military News, BAGHDAD, Iraq - Chaplains from eight different nations gathered at Camp Victory for a day of discussion and fellowship during the semiannual Coalition Chaplain's Conference Aug. 7.

The conference took place at the Joint Visitors Bureau and was followed by a Bible study at the Main Chapel. Troops from the United States, South Korea, Britain, Australia, Poland, Romania, El Salvador and Czech Republic chaplaincies were in attendance.

Army Col. Micheal Hoyt, Multi-National Force-Iraq command chaplain, opened the floor with welcoming remarks. "I hope you enjoy yourselves here today," Hoyt said. "We are here to learn from each other and to enjoy the similarities we have."

Each chaplain briefed how they operate and deliver ministry to troops. "Shoulder to shoulder, Soldier to Soldier, we are here to help others in theater," said El Salvadorian Marine Maj. Exon Ascencio, Coalition operations chief planner, MNF-I. "I truly believe Soldiers who have a faith are power Soldiers because God is the protector of these Soldiers."

Army Lt. Col. Patrick Hahn, chaplain chief of operations, MNF-I, said every country has varying responsibilities and a different way of doing things, especially in the Chaplain's Corps. He also said it is good to compare what everyone does so they can benefit and learn from each other. Hahn also explained that a majority of Coalition Forces deploy without a Chaplain's Corps, mostly due to the smaller number of troops they have. Several chaplains end up serving other nations due to the shortage.



Army Col. Micheal Hoyt, Multi-National Force-Iraq commanding chaplain, welcomes coalition forces to the Coalition Chaplain's Conference held Aug. 7 at the Joint Visitor's Bureau on Camp Victory. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Laura M. Bigenho)



Chaplains from eight different nations gather at the Camp Victory Joint Visitor's Bureau for a semiannual Coalition Chaplain's Conference Aug. 7. Chaplains took turns briefing the others on how they operate in their individual chaplaincies. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Laura M. Bigenho)

"Some of the countries we have here only have a few hundred (troops), so they don't bring a chaplain with them," Hahn said. "(Americans) have the most people here, but we must remember there are many other countries who are also involved in this war on terrorism."

Those in attendance will be able to take back some of what they learned and apply that knowledge to not only their own troops, but to troops from other nations. "After going to a conference like this, you're always tempted to try something these other (chaplains) have been doing to see if it works in your own environment," Hahn said. "It's also a big opportunity for the United States to say 'thank you' to our Coalition partners."

Hahn said he looks forward to the next chaplain's conference, which will be held sometime early next year. "We all learn from each other at these conferences," Hahn said. "It's a win-win situation."



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## Overwhelming support for first Hindu prayer in US Senate



Punjab Newline Network Monday, 06 August 2007

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg of New Jersey, in a release, said, "The Hindu prayer opening the Senate this month was a historic milestone for religious tolerance and diversity in America". The American spirit is ultimately welcoming and the vast majority of people saw this occasion as I did as a source of pride and celebration.

Presidential candidate and Senator Christopher J. Dodd from Connecticut, in a release, said, "Our nation was founded on the importance of religious freedom. I was honored to have Rajan Zed deliver his blessing last week and introduce his faith on the Senate floor".

Reverend Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, President of Chicago Theological Seminary, said, "It is crucial for this country, that has such a vibrant and increasingly diverse faith community and that has peaceful relations among the religions, to have a Hindu lead prayer before the Senate."

Episcopal Bishop of Washington, a diocese that encompasses 93 congregations, Reverend John Bryson Chane, was of the view, what some may believe, that a Hindu chaplain opening a session of the United States Senate with prayer has somehow violated the notion of One Nation under God, is absurd.

Muslims for Progressive Views Co-founder, Pamela K. Taylor, said, "I believe it is important to recognize that the outcry over prayers led by a Hindu reveal the thinly veiled religious bigotry."

Foundation for Pluralism President, Mike Ghose, in a release, said, "We congratulate the Hindu American community of America for this blessed step."

United States India Political Action Committee chairman Sanjay Puri said in a release, "The fact that Rajan Zed was allowed to give prayer before the US Senate should make us all proud as Americans. Religious diversity and tolerance are the foundation on which the United States was built."

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness, in a media release, said, "The incident clearly indicates the need to increase education about religion in the United States, to enhance awareness of and respect for the diversity of religious expressions that exist today in our country".

Hindu American Foundation, in a release by its Executive Director Ishani Chowdhury, said, "Rajan Zed's prayer recitation shared with our fellow Americans the Hindu belief in a transcendental, immanent God and the eternal Hindu search for enlightenment and universal peace."

## **N e w s   Y o u   C a n   U s e**

### **Army Ministry Suggestions for Civilian Clergy**

Early this year the Army Chief of Chaplain's Office released a package of information to assist Civilian Clergy in ministry to family members of Reserve Forces and returning members of the Armed Services. The package is described below and is available in its entirety by requesting it from [Jack@ncmaf.org](mailto:Jack@ncmaf.org).

SUBJECT: Information Papers to assist Civilian Clergy in providing ministry to family members of mobilized members of the National Guard and Reserves.

1. The U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains is grateful to partner with civilian clergy of various denominational backgrounds to more effectively minister to community based family members of the military Reserve Forces.
2. Information papers are designed to present facts in a clear and concise format. Hopefully, the paragraphs contain only essential facts concerning the subject indicated on each paper.
3. The subjects of the Information Papers are:
  - a. Coming Home Brochures for soldiers and their families
  - b. Contact Points for State National Guard Family Program Offices
  - c. Healthcare Benefits for military Reserve Force Members when on Active Duty for more than 30 days and their families.
  - d. An internet "One Source" point of contact to find help for military family members of mobilized military Reserve Forces.



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- e. Resources to help mobilized military Reserve Forces family members learn about their benefits.
- f. Stress Management resources
- g. Normal Experiences After Combat and what to do about them
- h. Access to the American Red Cross
- i. Ministry to soldier families in times of grief.
- j. The Emotional Cycle of Deployment: A Military Family Perspective

4. Please make suggestions for change or additional information to the Directorate of Ministry Initiatives: 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway Suite 10600, ATTN: CH (LTC) Randall C. Dolinger, Arlington, VA 22202-3259, (703) 601-0075; [Randall.Dolinger@us.army.mil](mailto:Randall.Dolinger@us.army.mil)

**Scholarships Available for Potential Military Chaplains**

The new [Church, State, and Industry Foundation](#) (CSIF) wants to support your call financially in accordance with the following goal:

“To provide encouragement and support to those experiencing a Call from God to serve as a Military Chaplain (in any of the Armed Forces of the United States of America in any status – Active Duty, National Guard, or Reserve) – as qualified clergy (Ministers, Priests, Imams, Rabbis, etc.), particularly by providing financial assistance which will help to ameliorate the financial pressures inherent in meeting the requisite educational requirements for commissioning and service.”

Applications and guidelines for submitting requests for scholarships are available at the [CSIF](#) website. Requests must be postmarked by Nov 18, 2007.

**Preaching with Passion- Fall 2007**

The Brehm Center for Worship, Theology and the Arts and the Horner Center for Continuing Education at Fuller Theological Seminary invite you to share in the passion and knowledge of Lloyd John Ogilvie. Former Chaplain of the U.S. Senate and president of Leadership Unlimited, Dr. Ogilvie and guests will share about the preacher's heart, secrets of resiliency, the art of listening and the discipline required for dynamic preaching. Join this intimate group for a time of worship and incredible growth! More information is available at the link above.

WHEN                      Tuesday, October 9, 2007 1:00 PM through Thursday, October 11, 2007 1:30 PM

WHERE                    Fuller Theological Seminary  
135 N. Oakland Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91182  
626-584-5669

PLANNER                [Jeff Frymire](mailto:Jeff.Frymire@fuller.edu) - [brehmevents@fuller.edu](mailto:brehmevents@fuller.edu)

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR MILITARY ETHICS  
(formerly, JOINT SERVICES CONFERENCE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS)**

WHEN                    January 24-25, 2008

WHERE                   University of San Diego Conference Hotel: Dana Hotel on Mission Beach, San Diego, CA

THEME                   Opening plenary session - Conscientious Objection.  
Papers might involve issues such as:  
\* Selective conscientious objection.  
\* Conscriptation.  
\* Are the obligations of officers different than those of enlisted personnel?

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Subsequent sessions - Society's Obligation to Soldiers

Papers on this theme might address issues such as:

- \* The role of the media.
- \* Patriotism vs jingoism.
- \* The obligations of the senior military personnel who advise civilian leaders.
  - \* Sub-topic: Military Leaders in liberal democracies: lessons from the past.
  - \* How can military personnel determine if an order is lawful?
- \* Liberty vs security.

**Pastoral Position in North Carolina**

The historic Village Chapel in the heart of Pinehurst, North Carolina seeks an ASSOCIATE MINISTER for its 870 member congregation. The Village Chapel is an interdenominational Christian community serving a wide cross-section of denominational backgrounds.

The candidate will be a mature, proven pastor, with experience in leading and developing congregations. The Associate Minister will be fully trained with advanced degree(s) from an accredited Theological Seminary, ordained and in good standing with one of the recognized Christian denominations. He/she must be committed to teamwork with other pastoral staff, lay leaders, volunteers and ministries within the church.

Please visit our website at [www.thevillagechapel.net](http://www.thevillagechapel.net) to learn more about the Chapel and its programs. Interested candidates should send a letter of application and complete resume to Peter Zimmermann, Chair of Search Committee, c/o The Village Chapel, PO Box 1060, Pinehurst, NC 28370 or email to [tpz40@aol.com](mailto:tpz40@aol.com).

**Two Christian Liturgies for Use in Community Settings**

Chaplain Laura Bender, a minister of the United Methodist Church, has prepared two Christian liturgies designed to help faith communities support those deploying or returning from combat areas ([An Order for Blessing Service Members Deploying for War](#) and [Returning Warriors Liturgy](#)). Chaplain Bender recently completed her assignment as the Non-Resident Training Manager at the Naval Chaplains School in Newport, RI. She is currently participating in funded graduate education at Boston School of Theology where she studies Religion and Conflict Transformation. Chaplain Bender's previous assignments include a tour of duty with the United States Marine Corps in support of US operations in the near east. A sample of the liturgies is included below. Thanks Chaplain Bender.

*The service member responds:*

**I have returned from war – help me continue my journey home.**

*The service member may kneel or stand.*

*Pastor to congregation:*

Let us be in prayer:

*The pastor and the congregation pray together:*

*Almighty and merciful God, we lift up to you this day our brother/sister \_\_\_\_\_ who through your great love has been returned to us. For your protection, guidance and sustaining presence while he/she was in harm's way, we give you profound thanks.*

*With \_\_\_\_\_ (first name), we mourn the loss of all those who did not return home and pray for all those who have been wounded in body and spirit. We pray also for their loved ones, that in you they might find a source of hope and strength.*

*Silence may be kept for the remembrance of names or specific individuals may be named aloud.*

*Remembering that even your son Jesus still had scars after he was resurrected, we pray that you will continue to uphold \_\_\_\_\_ (first name) as he/she seeks healing for the wounds that inflict the spirit of all who endure a struggle. Help him/her to let go of painful memories. Help him/her to reconnect with those who love him/her. Help him/her to know that he/she no longer needs to be quite so vigilant, for you have the watch over his/her life. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen*

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**Navy Chaplain Corps Aligns for the Future**

From the Office of Public Affairs, Navy Chief of Chaplains – August 17, 2007

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) -- The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) have given their blessing to the Chaplain Corps' Strategic Plan.

The Chaplain Corps Strategic Plan is the latest effort to maximize the effectiveness of religious ministry support in the Department of the Navy.

The new strategic plan reflects the vision of the Chaplain Corps: Mission ready Sailors, Marines, and their families, demonstrating spiritual, moral and ethical maturity supported by the innovative delivery of religious ministry and compassionate pastoral care.

In addition, the CNO and CMC validated four Chaplain Corps capabilities: facilitate, provide, care and advise.

Based on the vision and capabilities articulated, the new mission statement reads: "A Chaplain Corps which delivers religious accommodation, care, and advisement, to strengthen faith, values, and virtues, so that Sailors and Marines, and their families may better serve our country."

The Chaplain Corps developed four guiding principles: promote the spiritual well-being of Sailors, Marines, and their families in accordance with the First Amendment, by respecting and accommodating their diverse religious requirements; demonstrate spiritual and moral integrity; model and teach that every person should be treated with human dignity; and promote professionalism and accountability.

Rear Adm. Robert Burt, the Chief of Chaplains, commissioned Rear Adm. Alan T. Baker, Deputy Chief of Chaplains to lead the strategic planning process.

"The Chaplain Corps is poised to reflect the diversity present in our ranks and among our families," according to Baker. "Special attention will be paid to lessen shortfalls in recruiting, accessions, training, detailing and retention initiatives. An implementation and performance measurement system will be constructed that can quantify value and identify costs."

Baker views the strategic planning process as critical to accomplishing the mission.

"I challenge chaplains to look at the way we envision and practice our ministry within the unique and demanding institutions of the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. We must be the corps that prays for God to guide us every step of the way, as we shape the future Chaplain Corps that will serve the generation of warriors yet unborn, because that's the legacy we leave," said Baker.

Chaplains manage and execute command religious programs that accommodate diverse religious requirements. They personally provide worship services, religious and pastoral counsel, scripture study and religious education within their faith traditions.

Chaplains advise leaders at all levels on issues relating to morals and ethics, spiritual well-being, morale and the impact of religion on operations. The Chaplain Corps has been a part of the Navy and Marine Corps team for over 231 years.

For more news from the Chaplain Corps, visit [www.news.navy.mil/local/crb/](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/crb/).

**Historical Notes**

**Heroic chaplain honored**

By [Scott Schonauer](#), **Stars and Stripes** European edition, Saturday, May 12, 2007

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Kapaun would not leave the wounded and dying men.

Communist forces in the fall of 1950 had overrun the 1st Cavalry Division in northern Korea near the Chinese border, and American commanders ordered their forces to retreat. Kapaun, a Catholic priest with the 3rd Battalion, refused and stayed to care for the men who couldn't flee.

When enemy forces captured Kapaun and dozens of other U.S. soldiers, story has it that he was administering the last rites to a dying soldier.



An Air Force Honor Guard lays a wreath at the foot of a monument honoring Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Kapaun at a military installation named after the Korean War hero in Kaiserslautern, Germany. *Scott Schonauer / S&S*

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Although few people who live and work at the military base here named after him know the history, Kapaun is legendary among the generation of chaplains who follow him.

On Thursday, about 50 people held a memorial service to honor the Korean War hero, who died a prisoner of war 56 years ago this month.

“We are fortunate to be stationed on an installation named after him,” said Col. Earl Matthews, commander of the 435th Air Base Wing.

While in captivity, Kapaun risked his life to steal food from the surrounding fields and sneaked away to a nearby river to clean cotton bandages for the wounded held in a dirty and unsanitary prison camp.

Many veterans who have survived the camp credit Kapaun for helping them get through the ordeal. He is remembered for defying camp rules forbidding religious services. On Easter Sunday in 1951, he held Mass using broken wood to make a cross and barbed wire to form a rosary.

On May 25, Kapaun died while in captivity. The military posthumously awarded Kapaun the Distinguished Service Cross, but Korean veterans have requested that he receive the Medal of Honor. In 1993, the Vatican named him a “Servant of God.” Some Catholic war veterans are campaigning for Kapaun to become a saint.

Kapaun Air Station in Kaiserslautern is believed to be the only U.S. military installation named after him. The military base is home to the Defense Commissary Agency’s Europe regional office, Kising Noncommissioned Officer Academy and the 38th Combat Support Wing.

On Thursday, an Honor Guard laid a wreath in front of a bust of Kapaun before attendees walked over to cut the ribbon in front of a new annex.

“We want to keep the heroism of his story alive,” Air Force Chaplain (Maj.) Richard Crozier said.

**About 50 people gathered on Thursday to pay tribute to the legendary chaplain and cut the ribbon for a refurbished chapel annex.** *Scott Schonauer / S&S*



**Korean POW, author, Air Force chaplain dies**

Phil Riddle - [editor@weatherforddemocrat.com](mailto:editor@weatherforddemocrat.com)

It’s a rare combination of characteristics that makes a man a warrior and a missionary — Larry Zellers was both.

The 84-year-old Weatherford resident, World War II veteran and survivor of a Korean prison camp, died Sunday leaving a legacy of service to his country and his God. After graduating from Weatherford High School, then Weatherford College, Zellers volunteered to join the fray, which was WWII. He trained for the Army Air Corps in Utah and was stationed in England, where he served as a radio technician on C-46 Commando aircraft. After the war was over, Zellers ferried planes back to the United States until he got out of the service and answered the ministerial call.

He studied at Southern Methodist University and joined the Fellowship of Christian Reconstruction to teach Japanese and Korean students. His assignment in Korea led him to meet a fellow missionary, Frances Rogers, who became his wife. Their union lasted 57 years. “The thing that kept us together so long was our faith,” Frances said. “Our faith grew together, almost like a fusing, we were so close in our beliefs.”

As a newly-married Methodist missionary in a small South Korean village near the 38th parallel in late June of 1950, Zellers was taken prisoner by North Korean soldiers and kept in brutal conditions for three years. His experiences surviving brutal cold and inhumane treatment led him to write what was widely regarded as one of the most accurate accounts of the Korean war ever penned, “In Enemy Hands: A Prisoner in North Korea.” Frances admitted she was afraid while Larry was being held, but held on to her faith. “The people in church, in Weatherford and in Fort Worth, accepted me and put me to work,” said the then-recent Georgia transplant. “It was the best thing for me, too. It gave me something to do to pass the time.”

Friend David Aiken, also of Weatherford, said Zellers and his fellow prisoners were treated horribly while in custody of the North Korean army. “He was on a forced march in the dead of winter and survived the



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brutality of a North Korean Major nicknamed ‘Tiger’” Aiken wrote, reporting Zellers’ death. But, in spite of the treatment Zellers received at the hands of his captors, he eventually returned to the armed forces, serving as a chaplain, drawing on his life’s experiences to become a missionary to warriors.

Larry served as an Air Force chaplain for 18 years, where, along with his ministerial duties, he did family counseling and survival training, still combining his unique skill sets. While on duty in Yokosuka, Japan, he met Reverend Mitsuo Fuchida, the planner of the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor. Zellers later returned to Korea at the request of the United Nations to help negotiate the recovery of buried remains of the “Tiger” Unit.

## Recruiting News

### Nurturing the Living

**Susan Wunderink** |Christianity Today - posted 8/21/2007

*“The Army chaplain shortage is less about low numbers than about redefining what chaplains are for.”*

The Army chaplaincy, which is going through a much-publicized shortage, has actually grown, not shrunk, over the last decade. The shortage began in 1998 as the direct result of a reversal in peacetime policy, says Lt. Col. Randall Dolinger, a spokesman for the Army Chief of Chaplains Office. The Army, as usual during peacetime, had quietly reduced the number of active-duty chaplains during the 1990’s. Following the 1997 [scandal at Aberdeen](#) Proving Grounds, where twelve instructors were charged with sexual misconduct, there was an outcry for the proportions of chaplains to troops to be raised again.

Chaplains are in the Army “to nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the dead” and to make sure each soldier has the opportunity to worship as he or she wants. Now, they have taken on a new role as a force to make the abuse of power seen at Aberdeen less likely. In response, the Army invited reserve chaplains back into active duty and began to recruit.

For the army chaplaincy, the shortage has eased a bit with the latest round of recruits. As of May, 452 of 3000 chaplain positions remained open, down from 580 open positions in March.

The tactic is working, says Dolinger, citing the reduction of Aberdeen-like incidents.

Now, the problem is filling the guard and reserve positions, which do not require a full-time commitment but may actually be more inconvenient. “The church doesn’t really support the person for leaving once a month and then for a year,” Dolinger said. He hasn’t seen many firings, but says most ministers feel the need to leave their local church within a year of service as a chaplain.

Dolinger points out that trends affecting clergy in general—such as an aging population and increasing numbers of students who are studying for ministry but not for the pastorate—are reducing the number of religious workers eligible for chaplaincy. Some institutions have tailored programs to match requirements for a chaplain, but since the Army reduced the required hours, Dolinger says, “we kind of semi-regret what we did. We weren’t trying to get institutions to lower their standards.”

The faith traditions of troops are proportionately represented in the chaplaincy—with the exception of underserved Roman Catholics, according to Dolinger.

The shortage, while it doesn’t represent a loss in numbers, does represent a need. Chaplains are volunteering for multiple deployments and caring for increasingly strained military families.

For more information on qualifications for US Army chaplaincy, visit the website at <http://chaplain.goarmy.com> or call 866/684-1571 and follow the prompts to reach your local Chaplain Recruiting Team (CRT) who can answer your questions.

CH (LTC) Kenneth L. Beale, Jr.

Chief, Chaplain Recruiting Branch, USAREC

Phone: (502) 626-0722

E-Mail: [kenneth.beale@usarec.army.mil](mailto:kenneth.beale@usarec.army.mil)

“Providing Spiritual Strength to the Army Strong”



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## Air Force Chaplain Accessions

The Air Force Chaplain Accessions Office continues to recruit the most qualified chaplains to minister to the various needs of its members. The Chaplain Accessions Office met its goal of recruiting 25 chaplains for fiscal year 2007 and is on target to meet the same goal for fiscal year 2008. You will find Air Force Chaplain Accessions recruiters visiting various conferences, gatherings and seminaries throughout the country as they continue to search for qualified applicants to take-on the challenge and privilege of military ministry.

Ch Bill Coker, former Deputy, Chaplain Accessions, was promoted to major 1 August 2007. He recently PCS'd to Ft Hood, TX where he is currently attending the Army Family Life course. Ch, Maj (sel) Richard Anderson replaced Ch Coker as the protestant chaplain recruiter for Air Force Chaplain Accessions.

Chaplain [Col John F Kurzak](#) or 1-800.803.2452

## Navy Chaplain Recruiting

John Paul Jones, America's first well known naval hero in the Revolutionary war, wrote "If fear is cultivated it will become stronger; if faith is cultivated it will achieve mastery." As a great naval leader in time of conflict, John Paul Jones understood the crucial need for military readiness. I am convinced that he had what we might call today a holistic strategic approach. No one would argue that our Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen need to be physically and psychologically prepared for the mission at hand. John Paul Jones, however, understood on some level the need for spiritual readiness.

For the past several years our Navy Chaplain Corps Reserve force has been dwindling. Fewer clergy are responding to the call to serve God and Country. To put it in Biblical language from the Christian tradition, as Jesus was walking through the countryside, he made an important observation, and remarked to His disciples: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." The need for ministers, rabbis, priests, and imams as chaplains in the Navy Reserves is colossal. As you continue to identify and prayerfully vet applicants for Navy service, I ask that you join with me in asking the Lord of the harvest to send out workers. You are the lynch pin in our recruiting process. Thanks be to God for our partnership!

CAPT Diana Meehan, CHC, USN – [diana.l.meehan2@navy.mil](mailto:diana.l.meehan2@navy.mil) or (901) 874-9216  
<http://www.navy.com/careers/officer/clergy/>

## Links You Can Use

Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD - <http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/>

The Military Chaplain's Association <http://www.mca-usa.org/>

The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life <http://pewforum.org/>

Religious News Service <http://www.religionnews.com/>

Coalition of Spirit Filled Churches Member Groups <http://www.spirit-filled.org/memberlinks.htm>

Christian Reformed Church Resources for Soldiers [http://www.crcna.org/pages/resources\\_soldier.cfm](http://www.crcna.org/pages/resources_soldier.cfm)

[J.M. Dawson Institute of Church State Studies – Baylor University](#)

Religion Clause - <http://religionclause.blogspot.com/>

U.S. Department of Defense – Defense Link <http://www.defenselink.mil/>

Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty <http://www.bjcpc.org/>

The American Legion <http://www.legion.org/>

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## Executive Director's Note

### Letter from NCMAF/ECVAC Executive Director Jack Williamson

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

The NCMAF Executive Committee recently met at the Army Chaplain School, Fort Jackson, SC where we were treated to two impressive events. The first was the graduation ceremony for the Army Chaplain Officer Leadership Course (CHBOLC). 121 Army Chaplains graduated making this the largest Basic class in the school's history. As I write this, these new chaplains are being sent forward to provide ministry around the globe; potentially for the next 30 years.

The second impressive event was the briefing we received regarding the co-location of the three Service Chaplain Schools at Fort Jackson. You may remember this was directed by the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) report of 2005. Plans are now well underway to consolidate into one location the training and equipping of all military chaplains and chaplain's assistants. Each service will continue to be responsible for its own training but will be able to accomplish the training in a combined setting. This can only strengthen the overall capabilities of future chaplains and assistants as they care and provide for all.

The main topic of discussion at our Executive Committee meeting was our upcoming annual meeting 7-9 January, 2008 at the Hilton Mark Center Hotel in Alexandria, VA. Our focus will be on both supporting the ministry of our chaplains in uniform and expanding the ministry to all who are in need. While we have some great speakers lined up, the real meat of the meeting will come from you who are endorsers and your participation. (Attached is a Draft Agenda for both our NCMAF and ECVAC Conferences. On-line Registration materials will be sent to all NCMAF and ECVAC Endorsers soon.)

There are countless initiatives being pursued by military chaplains and individual civilian pastors and faith communities to provide ministry, particularly to returning active, Reserve, and Guard members as well as veterans and families. The vision we pursue in January is a means by which we can communicate to others the initiatives which have proven successful. Please be in prayer as we approach our meeting and consider what you can do now to prepare for your participation and contributions to this important effort.

Our chaplains and chaplain's assistants are doing impressive work and are being supported in a magnificent fashion. The time we had at Fort Jackson revealed some of the incredible resources that are being made available to contribute to their success. A key component of their support is not and cannot be provided by the military alone. It must also come from Endorsers representing our various communities of faith.

As we reviewed the NCMAF budget it is clear we continue to need your earnest efforts to ensure adequate funds flow to NCMAF. These funds and your efforts permit us to continue to have a voice in ensuring ministry is available to all our Armed Forces.

Endorsers, please help us ensure your chaplains have considered NCMAF as a worthy recipient of a designated offering from their worshipping communities.

And **please be sure to forward this Newsletter to all of your endorsed chaplains.** This is a way you can stay in contact with your chaplains and at the same time provide them informational and inspirational resources they may not get in any other way.

Collegially,  
Jack Williamson

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***Thank you to our contributors***

**To assist in our ministry you may send your contributions to:**

**NCMAF**

***7724 Silver Sage Court***

***Springfield, VA 22153***

- ***Do you have an article or comment for the newsletter?***
- ***Would you like to receive future newsletters sent directly to your address?***

***Please contact Jack at [Jack@ncmaf.org](mailto:Jack@ncmaf.org) or Lyman at [Lyman@ncmaf.org](mailto:Lyman@ncmaf.org) for any of the above.***



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**Abridged Draft Agendas**

**2007 NCMAF/ECVAC ANNUAL CONFERENCES**

**NCMAF CONFERENCE  
7, 8, 9 January 2008**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 7**

New Endorser Training Day 12:30 – 4:30 PM

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 8**

**Topics and Speakers:**

1. **“unchristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity...and Why It Matters”**

Mr. David Kinnaman, Barna Group, President and Strategic Leader

2. **“What Wounded Soldiers and Their Families Can Expect in Medical Care”**

Mr. William Carr, Deputy Under-Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9**

**Topics and Speakers:**

3. **“Instruments of Accommodation: The Military Chaplaincy and the Constitution”**

Dr. Robert Tuttle and Professor Ira Lupu, Professors of Law and Religion, George Washington University Law School

4. **Combined NCMAF/ECVAC Luncheon**

Speaker: Dr. Robert Frame

VA National Global War on Terrorism Liaison and Wounded Veteran from the Iraqi war

**ECVAC CONFERENCE**

**9 January, 2008**

**1:30-5:00 PM**

**Mr. Allen Clark, Vietnam Veteran and Double Amputee**