

Newsletter

News and Resources for Endorsers and Chaplains

January 2007

Vol 2, No 1

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A publication of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincies (ECVAC)

Issues of Interest

Letter from NCMAF Chairman Herman Keizer

Colleagues in Ministry –

I was encouraged by our recent gathering for the annual meeting of NCMAF and ECVAC in Washington, DC. The number present was a record high and the new endorser orientations went very well. The positive and helpful spirit that permeated the meetings was a blessing to me. Many of you commented on the spirit of the meeting and the importance of the issues facing the chaplaincy.

As many of you who were present experienced, this was the first year in which the various Armed Forces Chiefs of Chaplains hosted their own briefing of Endorsing Agents and they were kind enough to schedule their briefing to coincide with the time and place of our NCMAF meeting. Overall, I believe this was a positive step, but many of those in attendance voiced to me recommendations with regards to the content and style of the presentations offered. I intend to pursue your recommendations with the Department of Defense and the Chiefs of Chaplains in my visits with them.

As part of the briefings by the Chiefs of Chaplains, Dr. Chu, Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) came to personally brief all the Endorsers. We were all deeply appreciative of the commitment of Dr. Chu in supporting Religious Ministry in the Armed Forces and his interest and support of chaplains and the endorsing process. His effort to be with us speaks volumes about the role our endorsed chaplains play in providing for the needs of our military personnel.

One of the significant documents of NCMAF is the Endorsers' Covenant and Code of Ethics (available at www.ncmaf.org/policies/endorsers_codeofethics.htm) that represents the commitment each of us as NCMAF endorsers makes to the rest of our body. I believe it appropriate to ask you to re-read this document as you look forward to your ministry in 2007. I do not need to summarize the content, as the Covenant and Code of Ethics is short and to the point. I do want to emphasize two aspects of it though – the commitment each of has made to this ministry and its stress on collegiality.

In the first paragraph of the Covenant, we as endorsers covenant with God and with our colleagues to uphold this code and to hold one another accountable to upholding it. These are very serious words. I know that some of you are serving as endorsers as only one of the many official responsibilities you have in your respective faith groups. You have many other demands pressing on your time and energy. I do pray that as you consider your priorities for this calendar year that you will very seriously inquire how you can best support the covenant you have made to serve as an Endorser. This is a very serious time in our nation's historical journey and our chaplains and military personnel are being asked to sacrifice in incredible ways. You are a primary link between their pastoral needs and your faith organization's ability to mobilize resources to meet the needs of chaplains and their families. May God grant you wisdom on how you can honor this commitment to pastor your chaplains.

Secondly, I emphasize collegiality. Our nation has been marked in recent years with much division and some very harsh words are being used to divide our people along grounds that should unite and not divide. Even within our Chaplain Corps' we have seen great division. I appeal to each of us to honor the spirit of collegiality that we have made covenant to and encourage our chaplains to do the same. Tensions can run very high at times but even as the tensions are inflamed, understanding, grace, and mercy are ever more necessary and should be emblematic of who we are as the people of God.

Thank you all for your faithful support of NCMAF and the ministry of our chaplains and your faith groups to our military personnel. May God grant you peace in this New Year.

Collegially,

Herman Keizer

Notable Quote

"We encountered and ministered with Navy and Army Chaplain Service personnel (and other professionals)... We wore three different uniforms, but had one purpose, serving God, honoring and caring for all." Maj Kerry Abbott, USAF Chaplain, on his service in Iraq

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Letter from ECVAC Chairman Frank Clawson

Dear Colleagues

The Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC) recently finished what many are calling an informative and inspiring annual meeting. When we are inspired by what is shared, we begin to see the possibilities of what we can accomplish as we work together in a common cause.

From the thought-provoking address given by the Veterans Affairs (VA) Deputy Secretary Gordon H. Mansfield to the inspiring message by VA Chaplain Michael Pollitt, all the ECVAC Endorsers left with the resolve to improve the quality of chaplains serving in the VA.

Since our meeting, there is some good news to report. The judge has ruled in VA's favor on the motion for summary judgment in the lawsuit filed against the VA Chaplaincy. Unless the plaintiffs appeal the ruling, Chaplain Keith Ethridge and others assisting with the case can begin to focus on other issues facing the VA chaplaincy. Also, the Department of Veterans Affairs dedicated the opening of its new state-of-the-art National Chaplain Training Center at the VA Medical Center in Hampton, Virginia. VA Deputy Secretary Gordon H. Mansfield was the keynote speaker and affirmed the importance of spiritual care in the overall health care of our Nation's veterans. (*see story below*)

Sadly, we also learned that the Director of Chaplain Services, Chaplain Hugh Maddry, suffered a severe stroke. He has made tremendous progress thus far in his recovery and as of this writing he is receiving intensive rehab in Johnson City, TN. Hugh has good use of his left arm but has not spoken yet. He showed some enthusiasm about photos from the dedication of the Education Center. Our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family.

It is my hope in the coming year that we will all promote greater collegiality among our chaplains. In the words of St. Basil, "a good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love." I express my deep appreciation for your friendship and kindness. May you find joy and satisfaction in your work and peace and contentment in your life's journey.

Collegially,
Frank Clawson

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Report of Death

BISHOP JOHN KAISING died of an apparent heart attack sometime during the weekend of 13/14 January. His funeral was on Friday, 19 January, 2007 at the Crpyt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D. C. 20017. Bishop Kaising served as the Endorser for the Roman Catholic Church and was previously a member of the NCMAF Executive Committee. Our prayers and thoughts are with the chaplains who enjoyed his ministry as their endorser.

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Former Secretary of State says faith integral to foreign policy - By Robert Marus

Published: November 22, 2006 ABP [News.com](#)

America's first female Secretary of State said Nov. 20 the United States must begin educating its current and future diplomats on faith issues in order to have success in the foreign-policy arena.

Echoing the thesis of her new book, [The Mighty and the Almighty: Reflections on America, God and World Affairs](#), Madeleine Albright told the nation's largest gathering of religion professors that the ignorance of policymakers toward religion is dangerous for the United States. "If Jerusalem were just an issue of real estate, we would have settled it a long time ago. But since all the parties believe God gave them that land, there's another presence in the [negotiating] room," said Albright, speaking to the annual gathering of the American Academy of Religion in Washington.

Albright -- who was raised Catholic in Czechoslovakia and Colorado, converted to Episcopalianism and later discovered she had Jewish roots -- served as Secretary of State under President Bill Clinton and worked for President Jimmy Carter. Prior to becoming Secretary of State in

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1996, she served as the U.S. representative to the United Nations, dealing with the resolution of the decades-long conflict between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland.

When she first began to consider the Ireland issue, Albright said, she was amazed that religion remained such a bone of contention in an otherwise modern nation. "I thought to myself, 'Why are we having a religious war at the end of the 20th century?'"

But she soon became convinced that diplomats were overlooking or misunderstanding faith-related issues and were doing so to America's great peril.

More at <http://www.abpnews.com/www/1518.article.print>

NCMAF Conference

Annual Conference Report – December 2006

The full agenda of the annual conference can be found at <http://www.ncmaf.org/enews/2007/january/fullarticle/NCConfAgenda06.pdf>. The meeting was well attended and began following a morning of presentations and luncheon hosted by the three Chiefs of Chaplains. During the morning presentations, Dr. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness addressed the Endorsing Agents present.

The two plenary speakers for NCMAF were Ms. Kristin Henderson and Rear Admiral Thomas J. Connelly, JAGC, USN, Ret.

Kristin Henderson is an author and the wife of a Navy Chaplain. Her most recent work, *While They're at War: The True Story of American Families on the Homefront* (excerpt later in this letter) is currently on sale in



bookstores across the nation. In the book she provides an in-depth portrait of military spouses in wartime. In a previous work, *Driving by Moonlight*, Ms. Henderson detailed her own experience, especially her spiritual wrestling, during her husband's deployment to Afghanistan following 9/11.

Ms. Henderson's address to NCMAF focused on her book and the experiences of family members enduring deployments during the current military actions. She emphasized many of her findings and encouraged NCMAF in several strategies that faith communities could take to provide ministry for those on the homefront. More information is available at Ms. Henderson's website <http://www.kristinhenderson.com/>



ADM Connelly is the Vice Chancellor of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. He retired from his position as Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Navy (Civil Law) and served on active duty as both a Surface Warfare Officer and a Navy Judge Advocate. He is a 1972 graduate of the United States Naval Academy.

ADM Connelly addressed NCMAF regarding the legal situations facing the various Chaplain Corps of the military departments. CDR William A. Wildhack III, CHC, USN, was originally scheduled to present his paper "Navy Chaplains at the Crossroads: Navigating the Intersections of Free Speech, Free Exercise, Establishment, and Equal Protection." Owing to circumstances beyond his control, Chaplain Wildhack was not able to be in attendance and ADM Connelly graciously agreed to present on the same subject. Chaplain Wildhack's paper is available for viewing at <http://www.ncmaf.org/enews/2007/january/fullarticle/Wildhackart.pdf>.



One other item of note coming from the meeting was the plenary's authorization for the Executive Committee to speak on behalf of NCMAF constituency. You may find the full text of the new policy in the minutes of the meeting at <http://www.ncmaf.org/enews/2007/january/fullarticle/NCMAFpolicyDec06.pdf>.

This new policy was proposed due to the need for NCMAF as an organization to address, in a timely fashion, issues regarding chaplaincy and military ministry as they become part of the discussion within the Department of Defense and Congress. The Executive Committee believed it desirable to permit the Committee to formulate responses to inquiries and approve taking the initiative to address policies and legislative discussions and actions. The Executive Committee may not speak on behalf of or against particular denominational and/or faith group polity or theology.

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A presentation was provided by Chaplain (LTC) and Mrs. Ran Dolinger, an Army Chaplain and his wife during the luncheon on Wednesday. They discussed their experiences during Ran's deployments and how they supported and were supported by their community and faith.

At the conclusion of the luncheon a special tribute was provided to Maureen Francis, the NCMAF/ECVAC Executive Assistant. Maureen will retire this year after serving for 24 years. She is a vital part of our history and our organizations and the chaplaincy will not be the same without her magnificent contributions.



(Full copy of NCMAF Conference minutes at <http://www.ncmaf.org/enews/2007/january/fullarticle/NCMAFConfMinutes06.pdf>)

Chaplaincy News

Veteran's Administration dedicates new National Chaplain's Training Center

History was made Monday, January 8, when the Department of Veterans Affairs dedicated its new state-of-the-art National Chaplain Training Center at the VA Medical Center, Hampton, Virginia. VA Deputy Secretary Gordon H. Mansfield was the keynote speaker. In his remarks, he affirmed the importance of spiritual care administered by professional chaplains to the total health care of our nation's veterans.

The VA Chaplain School has a long and proud history. In August 1964, VA established the Veterans Administration Chaplain School at the VA Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri under the direction of Chaplain Roy F. Reynolds. Upon completion of training, they were given a permanent assignment at a VA health care facility. New training facilities at Jefferson Barracks were dedicated on February 24, 1972. In 1975, the school was closed for lack of funds.

In May 1984, Director of Chaplain Service Simeon Kobrinetz began efforts to establish a new Chaplain School by convening a Chaplain task force to review education opportunities for VA chaplains. On April 1, 1985 a chaplain workgroup submitted a "Suggested Academic Guide for the



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New Chaplains School." In July 1985, VA opened the new National Chaplain Training Center at the VA Medical Center, Hampton, Virginia. The Center was housed in Building 115 with eight bedrooms for students. The first Director of the Center was Chaplain C. Ronald Phelps. The Center established a four-week curriculum for new Chaplain Orientation. The Center was officially dedicated on May 20, 1987 by Thomas E. Harvey, Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

In 1992, the Education Center became a part of the National VA Chaplain Center of Excellence, established by Chief Medical Director, James Holsinger, M.D. Chaplain Wallace Przybylski was selected as Associate Deputy Director for Education. In 1994, the Education Center staff helped establish an innovative training partnership with the Portsmouth Naval Hospital, bringing active duty Navy Chaplains to the VA as Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Residents. The partnership was so successful that it was duplicated on the West Coast in San Diego in 2004.

The Education Center continues to improve and expand training opportunities in Spiritual and Pastoral Care for the benefit of VA Chaplain providers. Distance Education has been developed, including regularly scheduled Spiritual Care Grand Rounds and half-day video teleconferencing presentations.

In 2005, recognizing the need for improved residential and educational facilities at the Center, VA Central Office approved funding to renovate the second floor, in Building 114, as a new location for the National Chaplain Training Center. The new Training Center contains state-of-the-art education equipment and congenial accommodations for students. The current Associate Director for Education is Chaplain Lowell Kronick.

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A Place of Grace in Al Asad by Chaplain Douglas Vrieland

(The following is from an account of Columbus Day evening in Iraq by Chaplain Vrieland. The entire text is located at www.ncmaf.org/enews/2007/january/fullarticle/APlaceofGraceinAlAsad.pdf)

I leave the Expectant Area and wander down the hospital corridor, greeting several of the corpsmen from my unit. When I return I notice everyone around the bedside of the dying (Iraqi) soldier is covered. I ask the Army chaplain what is going on. He tells me he doesn't know. What happened next amazed me. Four Marines approach the body on the stretcher. They salute in slow motion. Following the commands of the senior Marine, they turn, take hold of the stretcher, slowly lift it up, and begin walking. It is only at that point that I realize the soldier has died. I fall in ahead of the Marines, step out into the hallway, and ask the bystanders to make way. As the dead soldier's body is slowly carried down the passageway, all activity stops and the fallen hero is saluted by each service member. This fallen Iraqi is given all the honors that would have been given to an American casualty. He is one of our own.

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Yearning to Be Whole Again **Sergeant Sees the Light after Year of Emotional, Family Turmoil** **By Donna St. George, Washington Post Staff Writer Friday, November 24, 2006**

(This story is testimony to the importance of the faith community in the service of our men and women in uniform. The full story of grace and hope is located at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/23/AR2006112301236.html>.)

When they called her name, she could not move. Sgt. Leana Nishimura intended to walk up proudly, shake the dignitaries' hands and accept their honors for her service in Iraq-- a special coin, a lapel pin, a glass-encased U.S. flag. But her son clung to her leg. He cried and held tight, she recalled. And so Nishimura stayed where she was and the ceremony last summer went on without her. T.J. was 9, her oldest child, and although eight months had passed since she had returned from the war zone, he was still upset by anything that reminded him of her deployment. He remembered the long separation. The faraway move to live with his grandmother. The months that went by without his mother's kisses or hugs, without her scrutiny of homework, her teasing humor, her familiar bedtime songs. Nishimura was a single mother --with no spouse to take over, to preserve her children's routines, to keep up the family apartment.

Recently, Nishimura switched military jobs, becoming a chaplain's assistant. She wants to make the military a career, although she could be redeployed. "I tell [the children] that if God needs Mommy to go. . . then Mommy's going to have to go again and they're going to have to let me."

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NCMAF/ECVAC Newsletter Vol 2, No 1, January 2007- 6 **Tools for a War Zone: The Bible and a Teddy Bear**

By SAMUEL G. FREEDMAN December 16 2006 New York Times

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — In the evening, after she led a workshop on combat stress, after she talked some paratroopers through the anxiety of their final training jumps, the Rev. Shareen Fischer drove home a few miles off this sprawling Army base and tended to her own soul.

She serves as both a captain and a chaplain in the 78 2nd Brigade Support Battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division, and next month she is to deploy with her 470 soldiers to Afghanistan. On an oddly balmy December night recently, she had arrangements to make.

She had learned the routines back in 2003, when she was sent with her fresh ordination papers into the Sunni Triangle of Iraq. Appliances would have to be unplugged, the car locked in the garage, the neighbors given a spare set of keys. Of all the material things that Captain Fischer had accumulated by age 35, she had already selected the three that could fit in her rucksack: a Bible, a book of psalms and a teddy bear.

As she had in Iraq, she would use the Bible to lead services. She read the psalms as a personal devotion, a habit she had acquired while learning Hebrew in seminary. As for the teddy bear, it ensured that for all the hugs Captain Fischer expected to dispense to her soldiers in the months to come, there would be at least the sensation of someone who could hug her back.

(More at www.ncmaf.org/enews/2007/january/fullarticle/ChaplainPinkie.pdf)

News You Can Use

Excerpt from - *While They're at War: The True Story of American Families on the Homefront* – by Kristin Henderson

A civilian reporter once asked me, "Does it ever bother your husband that you're..." He fumbled for the right words. "That you're writing about the wives instead of the real story?"

The question itself speaks volumes. Despite the fact that America is once again engaged in major combat operations overseas, most Americans have only a limited grasp of what it means to go to war, and no wonder. The Persian Gulf War and the Iraq and Afghan Wars a decade later are the first major wars in America's history that have been fought without broad-based conscription to mobilize all levels of American society.

Going forward, this is a potentially ominous development for our democracy. In a country of nearly three hundred million people, only two and a half million serve in the active-duty armed forces, the Reserves, and the National Guard. Only these warriors and their families are experiencing the day-to-day sacrifices, small and large, that war requires.

Yet in our American democracy, the warriors themselves don't get to decide when those sacrifices are to be made. Civilians make that decision. It's up to our civilian Congress to declare war. It's up to our civilian president to send the troops into battle. And it's up to the civilians who elect those leaders to pay attention, to make sure that the cause of the hour is worth the sacrifices being made on their behalf.

The sacrifices start as soon as a person signs an enlistment contract or accepts an officer's commission. Those who join the United States Armed Forces give up many of their constitutional rights in order to ensure that other people can continue to enjoy them. They give up their freedom of speech. Sometimes, they give up their right to live. No other institution in America wields so much power over the lives of its members. And even though their families haven't joined the military, it controls the families' lives, too.

(Kristin Henderson is the wife of a Navy Chaplain who has written extensively on the issues facing military spouses in our current military conflicts. She was a speaker at this year's NCMAF Conference – see above. The link to her website <http://www.kristinhenderson.com/whiletheyreatwar.htm#Excerpt>)

[NCMAF/ECVAC Newsletter Vol 2, No 1, January 2007- 7 H.R. 6003, Psychological Kevlar Act of 2006](#)

Co-Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and Rep. Virgil Goode (R-VA)

A short summary of the bill as contained in Kristin Henderson's website.

Plan for Prevention: Under this legislation, the Secretary of Defense would develop and implement a plan to incorporate evidence-based preventive and early-intervention measures, practices, or procedures that reduce the likelihood that personnel in combat will develop PTSD or other stress-related psychopathologies (including substance use conditions).

- **To help the Department of Defense** develop and implement this plan, a working group including the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine would be established to draw upon the government's expertise in the field of mental health.
- **Outreach and Education:** This legislation would bolster efforts intended to enhance understanding and awareness of PTSD among officers, NCOs, front-line medical professionals, and primary care providers. Additionally, outreach efforts designed to inform service members and their families about the signs and risks of PTSD and combat stress, as well as what resources, programs and treatment options are available, would also be increased.
- **Peer-Reviewed Research Program:** A new Peer-Reviewed Research program within the Defense Health Program's research and development function would be established. This program would specifically focus upon the research and development of evidence-based preventive and early-intervention measures, practices, or procedures that reduce the likelihood that personnel in combat will develop PTSD or other stress-related psychopathologies (including substance use conditions). The program would be authorized for \$50 million

While treatment and awareness of war-related mental health issues is greatly improved and higher than it has ever been before in the past, critical research and more preventive efforts to guard against the development of mental health problems are needed.

We have fought to send our troops into battle with the best equipment possible. We have worked to ensure they receive the best possible training. But we need to take further steps to better protect their minds and mental well-being against the shattering experience of war.

(For more information, please contact Dominic Nguyen at (202) 225-4911. The full text and current status of the bill can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:h.r.06003>.)

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Where Atrocity Is Normal - Understanding Christian soldiers who have seen the horrors of war.

Patrick Stone | posted 6/30/2006 12:00AM – Christianity Today

Some of the news reports from Iraq regarding the conduct of U.S. soldiers have been disturbing these past months. We have heard about the torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison and more recently the alleged mass killing of at least 24 civilians in Haditha, Iraq, in November 2005 by a squad of U.S. marines following an improvised explosive device (IED) that killed one of their comrades. How do we as Christians react to such events, especially when the men or women involved return to our homes and churches? Denial and feigned ignorance has generally been the historical reaction during previous wars. Let the former soldiers remember (and suffer) in silence. Let them work it out with God.

Nothing in this article should be seen as justification for war crimes, but Christians need to be informed and transformed as we struggle with the moral, ethical, legal, and spiritual issues raised by these events.

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Several years ago, I was teaching at an African university when a Christian student asked to talk with me. She had heard that I had been a soldier. Over several hours, she struggled to share her story with me. At a young age, her family had emigrated from an East African country to the West where she was raised and educated. At age 16 she requested to return to her homeland to see relatives and discover her roots.

While visiting, a war broke out between her country and its neighbor. Because she was a legal citizen and had just turned 17, she was conscripted into the army. The young woman saw horrific combat, but one event disturbed her most. While on patrol, her squad captured eight young enemy soldiers. Since no prisoner of war facility existed in the country that could pass the Geneva Convention mandates, she and her squad were ordered to execute the prisoners. The squad leader went to each member of the squad and handed them one bullet with the instruction to either execute one of the prisoners or use it on themselves. This student took her prisoner into the desert where the young man pleaded for his life. They were close in age, and he showed her pictures of his family and his grade reports from school. With great difficulty she shot him, but two years later she told me about her daily memories and nightmares of her action and its victim.

(Full text of article at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2006/juneweb-only/126-52.0.html>)

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Navy Chaplains and the State Funeral for President Ford

(The following is an excerpt of the letter from Chaplain Bob Burt, Navy Chief of Chaplains, to the Navy Chaplain Corps. Full text available at <http://www.ncmaf.org/enews/2007/january/fullarticle/FuneralNavy.pdf>)



Members of the Armed Forces Honor Guard bear the casket of former President Gerald R. Ford into St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert, Calif., Dec. 29, 2006.

On 2 January, at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., I had the privilege of participating in the state funeral of President Gerald R. Ford, a former naval officer. It was a very special event. However, it was Captain Tom Thies, our Naval District Washington Chaplain, who played a significant role in honoring President Ford's legacy of service to the nation and the Navy. For ten days through three states and five different services, Tom provided care to the Ford family and so many others associated with the event. Quality ministry from a quality Chaplain!

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V a c a n c y A n n o u n c e m e n t

The National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) is accepting applications for a part-time Executive Assistant position.

This is a telecommuting position with flexible hours, ideal for someone who seeks part-time work from home.

The position will become available on 1 July, 2007.

Interested persons can see the attached Position Description for further information. There are two different versions of the same document, a pdf and a .doc so that everyone should be able to open the attachment.

Please disseminate to possible candidates.

(Position Description available at <http://www.ncmaf.org/enews/2007/january/fullarticle/JobDescription.pdf>.)

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D a t e s a n d E v e n t s

AFCB – All Endorsing Agents must provide a list of their currently Endorsed Chaplains and a reaffirmation of their compliance with DoD guidelines to the AFCB by 31 January 2007. Please contact CAPT Jon Frusti, CHC, USN, for more information at Jonathan.Frusti@osd.mil.

Army

Senior Leadership Conference – Westin Resort Hilton Head SC March 5th through 8th 2007. All Endorsing Agents are invited.

**FY2007 BOARD SCHEDULE
(Promotion, Accession, and Others)**

2ND QUARTER

LTC PROMOTION	6-9 FEB 2007
MAJ SELCON	6-9 FEB 2007
CPT REVIEW	12 FEB 2007
ACCESSIONS	21-23 MAR 2007

3RD QUARTER

MAJ PROMOTION	3-6 APR 2007
CPT SELCON ACCESSIONS	3-6 APR 2007
CSC (SPECIAL BRANCHES)	17-18 APR 2007
ACCESSIONS	16 MAY 2007
SSC (SPECIAL BRANCHES)	15-16 MAY 2007
	15-25 MAY 2007
COL PROMOTION	5-8 JUN 2007

4th QUARTER

CPT REVIEW	9 JUL 2007
ACCESSIONS	14-17 AUG 2007
CIVILIAN SCHOOL BOARD (ACS/DCP)	14-17 AUG 2007
ACCESSIONS	18-19 SEP 2007

DA SECRETARIAT MANAGED BOARDS IN RED

***CCH ADVISORY BOARDS IN BLUE HELD ANNUALLY AND REPLACES THE BOARDS CONNECTED WITH CVI**



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Navy Promotion Boards –
Active O6– convenes Feb 06, 2007
Active O5– convenes Mar 27, 2007
Active O4– convenes May 15, 2007
Reserve O4, O5, O6 – convenes Feb 27, 2007
Navy Chaplain Corps Birthday – November 28th

Air Force Promotion Boards

2007 – 27 Nov to 14 Dec – Col,CHAP; Lt Col,CHAP; Maj,CHAP

(Editor's note – The above schedules and terminology are taken directly from service information. For more information or clarification please contact a service representative directly)

NCAAF New Endorser Training – January 7, 2008

Annual Meeting – January 8 and 9, 2008

ECVAC Annual Meeting – January 9 and 10, 2008

Links You Can Use

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

Air Force Chaplaincy Newsletter – Leading Edge – December 2006 – www.ncmaf.org/enews/2007/january/fullarticle/LeadingEdge.pdf

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>

[//www.spirit-filled.org/memberlinks.htm](http://www.spirit-filled.org/memberlinks.htm)

Christian Reformed Church Resources for Soldiers

http://www.crcna.org/pages/resources_soldier.cfm



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Opinion

Dear Colleagues,

I join with Herm in expressing my appreciation for the participation of so many endorsers during our recent annual conference for NCMAF and ECVAC. The interaction and cooperation shown by you was encouraging and productive. For those who were able to attend, thank you for your efforts in being with us for these important meetings of information and inspiration.



Earlier in this letter you may have noticed the announcement that we are accepting applications for the NCMAF/ECVAC Executive Assistant's position. All applications must be submitted not later than 31 March, 2007.

This part-time (24-30 hours a week), telecommuting opportunity will become available 1 July, 2007. This position is becoming available since Maureen Francis will be retiring soon. Maureen has endeared herself to so many of us during her 26 years of faithful and effective service. Even as we seek her relief, which is critical to our functioning, I know that Maureen cannot be replaced. She is a very unique part of our history and her support and accomplishments have been crucial to our success and growth.

In the coming year, one of my primary initiatives is to seek a formalized and mutually beneficial relationship with the AFCB and the office of the Undersecretary of Defense of Personnel and Readiness. Up to this time in our history we have relied upon an informal relationship with the various Chiefs' of Chaplains and the Armed Forces Chaplains Board (AFCB). We are deeply appreciative of the mutual support and ministry that we continue to enjoy with these friends.

Even as we treasure this informal relationship, various legal developments have moved us to seek a more formal recognition. Prior to our annual meeting, Herm and I had the opportunity to personally visit with Mr. Bill Carr, Dr. Chu's Deputy, who oversees the AFCB and the issues associated with religious ministry at the Secretary of Defense level. The meeting was beneficial and productive. We explored with Mr. Carr some ideas of how we can be more fully engaged in our mutual interests of providing top quality religious ministry for all of the men and women in the military in timely, supportive and effective ways. Mr. Carr has invited us to continue this dialogue. We are pleased to do so and covet your prayers and suggestions as we pursue how best to advance the positive relationship we have enjoyed throughout our history.

In the near future, we will experience some changes for NCMAF and ECVAC. Maureen will retire, her relief will come on board, we will move our annual meeting to January from December, we will be pursuing a better means by which we support the Department of Defense, and our military and VA chaplains will continue to be engaged in providing ministry in trying and sometimes dangerous places. I thank you for your continued support for our personnel and the ministry we share. May God grant each of us wisdom as we continue to serve all those entrusted to our care.

Jack Williamson



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Thank you to our contributors

Recent Designated Offerings to NCMAF

Fort Knox
Air Force Village Chapel Fellowship, Riverside, CA
Cannon Air Force Base
Los Angeles Air Force Base Catholic Community
Spangdahlem Air Force Base
Eielson Air Force Base
Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station, New Jersey
Langley Air Force Base
Lackland Air Force Base
Peterson Air Force Base
Anderson Air Force Base
RAF Manwith Hill Station

*(*Bold are new since last newsletter)*

To join the list and assist in our ministry you may send your contributions to:

NCMAF

7708 Griffin Pond 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?

Do you have a question about the newsletter?

Please contact Jack at Jack@ncmaf.org or Lyman at Lyman@ncmaf.org for any of the above.