



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

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19 Feb 25

**MEMORANDUM FOR ALL RESERVE COMPONENT CHAPLAINS**

From: Chief of Chaplains, OPNAV (N097)

To: Navy Reserve Chaplains

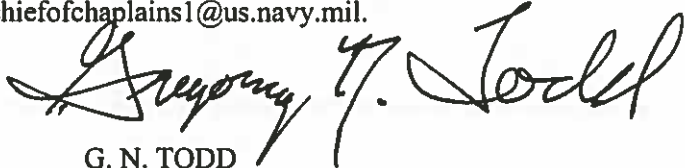
Subj: CONSIDERATION FOR A CALL TO SERVICE

1. A much younger Chaplain Todd, a LT in the Navy Reserve, found great satisfaction as the chaplain for Third Battalion, 24th Marines. Pastor Todd also loved the country parish in Southern Illinois, a stone's throw from the Mississippi River. Several times denominational leaders asked "Pastor Todd" to consider the call to be "Chaplain Todd" full-time on active duty. The need in the Navy was great. Many trusted veterans reminded Pastor Todd that not all pastors had the right stuff to be a Navy Chaplain, the stuff they saw in Pastor Todd, and Chaplain Todd, could do great things on active duty. Still Pastor Todd hesitated. To be truthful, with a wife and five very young children, Pastor Todd felt safer in the country parish in Southern Illinois.

2. We were safe until 1993 when the Mississippi River flooded and my family evacuated the parsonage, the National Guard removed the priceless altar and furnishings from our church, and the faithful worshipped on folding chairs waiting for the possible flooding of their homes and communities. Eventually, the water receded, church furnishings were restored, and my family returned but I was left with the realization that the only truly safe place is in trusting God and following His call. So, the next time I was asked to consider active-duty Naval chaplaincy, I said, "yes". I was not sure what the future held but confident in Who held the future. It has been much longer than the single tour I had intended to sign up for, but God has been faithful, watching over my family and me, and giving me unparalleled opportunities for ministry. No, it has not been easy, but it has been extremely gratifying to have a front-row seat to see God working day by day in young people's lives.

3. I am writing to you, as a colleague, to consider the call to serve as an active-duty Navy Chaplain. The need is great and, as a reserve component chaplain, you have already shown that you have the stuff to be a Navy Chaplain. I encourage you to simply consider a single tour, since a career is so hard to guarantee. Yet in a single tour, it will be packed with experiences, memories, and relationships that will last for a lifetime. This will be true for you and your family. If God calls you to a career in the Navy, all the better but we will let God be in charge.

4. We have opportunities for the indefinite recall of eleven Reserve Component Lieutenant Chaplains to active duty. Please spend some time in prayer with your family to listen for God's call to serve. If you have questions, you may contact my office at [chiefofchaplains1@us.navy.mil](mailto:chiefofchaplains1@us.navy.mil).

  
G. N. TODD