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## **Faith in action - Navy Chaplains graduate from the Basic Leadership Course**

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- Rear Adm. Brent Scott, chaplain of the Marine Corps, welcomed the newest officers into the Chaplain Corps at a graduation ceremony at the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center (NCSC) Nov. 20.

Of the 31 chaplains who completed the Basic Leadership Course (BLC), 19 chaplains will serve on active-duty, and 12 chaplains will join the reserve forces.

Lt. Robert Clark, a reserve chaplain, said the most memorable part of his BLC training experience was meeting members from other faiths.

"I have come to appreciate ministers and religious leaders from many denominations and faith groups that I would have otherwise missed if it were not for this course," he said. "We were taught the importance of being pluralistic without losing our own faith beliefs."

Capt. Mark W. Smith, NCSC commanding officer, commented on the training students receive during the BLC during the ceremony.

"We have sought to foster professional curiosity, honor our callings, and look to the sea while training these new chaplains in what it means to apply their religious ministry expertise to the storied traditions of those who have cared for the Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, " said Smith. "Our nation is better served by the spiritual fitness these fine officers will bring to those who serve in our armed forces."

Lt.j.g. William Daniel, a member of the graduating class, was the recipient of the Stanley Beach Leadership Award.

"I am honored to receive this award. As class leader, I learned a lot about myself while working with my classmates," said Daniel. "I have learned to work with people rather than working over people. It is all about relationships."

During his graduation address, Scott reminded the students that they are taking on significant responsibility as military chaplains.

"For all that you have been taught at Chaplain School, it is courage; courageous care that we need in the sea services – individuals who are willing to do and to say what is right regardless of the temporal cost."

Lt.j.g. Aaron Bell, a chaplain who will soon serve with the Seabees in Gulfport, Miss., said that the BLC was well worth the time spent.

"This entire experience has been challenging and rewarding," said Bell. "I am honored to have this opportunity to graduate and proudly serve as a Navy chaplain."

For more information on the Navy Chaplain Corps and Naval Chaplaincy School and Center, visit: [www.chaplain.navy.mil](http://www.chaplain.navy.mil) and <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/chaplain/>

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Story by Lt. Cmdr. Troy Todd, Naval Chaplaincy School and Center Public Affairs