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## **Newest Members of Navy's Religious Ministry Team Join the Fleet**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The latest class of Religious Program Specialists (RPs) graduated from the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center (NCSC) at Fort Jackson, May 8.

These 28 new RPs will provide their chaplains with the administrative, technical and logistical support needed to carry out religious programs and services in the fleet and around the world. They are also charged with safeguarding chaplains - who are noncombatants and therefore not authorized to carry weapons.

Religious Program Specialist Seaman Krystal Monroe said the training gave her a unique insight that helped understand the RP rating.

"I had a good experience and I enjoyed learning the rate and the duties I will perform," said Monroe. "I look forward to the opportunity of helping others. The classroom experience was relatable -- it was nice to have computers and instructors to expand my learning. I feel confident with my duties and I am ready for the fleet."

According to class honor graduate Religious Program Specialist Seaman Anthony Ferretti, his training experience prepared him to hit the ground running.

“My training experience was invaluable. All of my learning tied into the RP rating and I feel prepared to support the religious team on land or sea,” said Ferretti.

“My training was a well-balanced combination of hands-on and computer based training. My favorite part of the course was all the hands-on activities, and learning how to manage volunteers.”

The guest speaker for the graduation ceremony, Senior Chief Religious Program Specialist Scott Shields, NCSC Command Senior Chief, asked the graduates to take what they have learned and apply it to their lives.

“As new RPs, you have spent the last few months learning the basics about being a Sailor, and learning the basics about being a Religious Program Specialist,” said Shields. “As you leave Fort Jackson today and begin the next chapter of your Navy adventure, remember to continually practice and test your knowledge, skills, and abilities. Take what you have experienced so far and apply it to your everyday lives.”

Chaplain Capt. Kyle Fauntleroy, the center’s commanding officer, said NCSC is committed to training, developing and inspiring Religious Program Specialists.

“At NCSC we cultivate the character of our students to be ethically, intellectually, professionally, and physically prepared to serve their country and humanity,” he said. “Our RPs must be strong in their resolve to build on the long maritime heritage and proud of the accomplishments of the United States Navy.”

For more news from the Chaplain Corps, visit

<http://www.navy.mil/local/crb/> .

For information about the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center, visit

<https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/chaplain/> .

Story by Chaplain Cmdr. Carla Barry, Naval Chaplaincy School and Center, Public  
Affairs