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From: Mark.Steiner

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 2:11 AM

To: Hardwick, Hon. Kevin

Subject: Thank you from Chaplain Steiner U.S. Naval Forces Central Command

The Honorable Kevin R. Hardwick:

On behalf of the men and women assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. FIFTH Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces, please accept my gratitude for the wonderful Valentines cards. They certainly boosted the morale of our troops. We are grateful for your encouragement.

The Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command is responsible for 2.5 million square miles of water area and includes the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman and parts of the Indian Ocean. This expanse, comprised of 20 countries, includes the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and the Strait of Bab al Mandeb at the southern tip of Yemen. The countries in this area of responsibility are the following: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.

In support of our Commander, our staff provides religious ministry to Carrier Strike Groups, Amphibious Ready Groups, and ships assigned to independent operations. We coordinate community relations projects to enhance our Nation's partnership capability in this region. Additionally, we support the Warrior Transition Programs in Sembach, Germany and Qatar.

Again, thank you for supporting the "Valentines for Veterans" program.

Very respectfully,

Chaplain Steiner

CAPT Mark G. Steiner, CHC, USN

Force & Fleet Chaplain

COMUSNAVCENT

U.S. FIFTH Fleet

Combined Maritime Forces