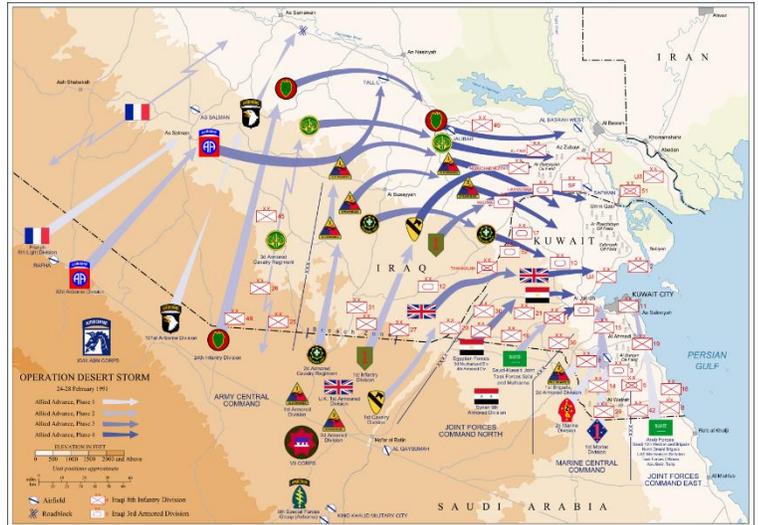


Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

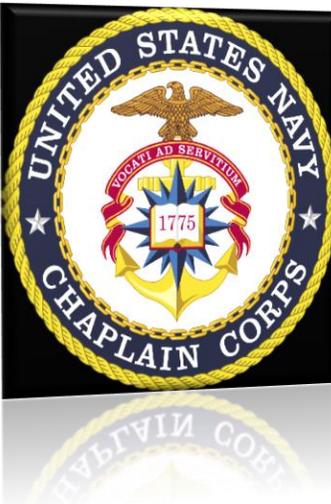
January 2, 2018

For the last six years of my Navy career, I was the Chaplain for Amphibious Squadron Eight. Those years included Desert Storm, the first Gulf war, and the units we “augmented”¹ were in the desert.

This meant that we lived for those LONG months “on pins and needles,” knowing that we might be leaving—tomorrow—for the desert; and there might be a pretty good chance that we wouldn’t come back. As the Coast Guard puts it, “We have to go out. We don’t have to come back.”



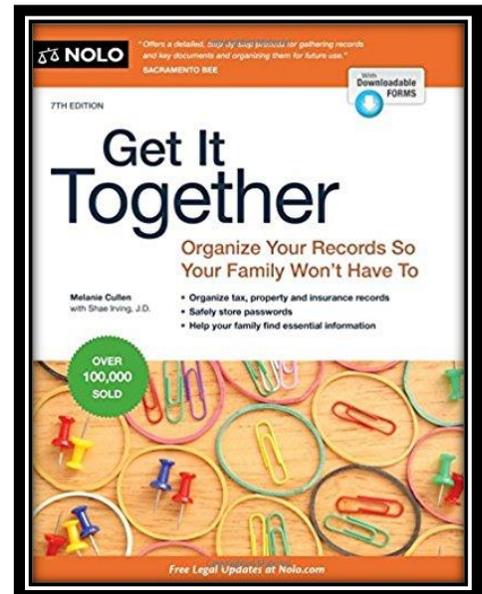
While the responsibilities of a military chaplain include all the normal pastoral duties, it is also the chaplain’s duty to see that the troops are ready to leave—spiritually, yes, but also with respect to the more mundane responsibilities of life. It was therefore my responsibility to do all I could to encourage our troops to take care of completing wills and other documents that would become essential for our loved ones if we came back in body bags. It was in this way that the New Year’s Day Ritual in which I engaged yesterday became an annual part of my life.



There are many ways in which such documentation might be compiled. In recent years, I’ve found it useful to follow the outline provided in a resource published by www.nolo.com: *Get It Together: Organize Your Records So Your Family Won’t Have To*.² Complete with downloadable forms, this book is a great help in organizing essential records.

The first time through takes a long time and lots of persistence. My own document is now 80 pages long, and it pretty much takes all day to update it on New Year’s Day. But I can tell you that it’s a good feeling when it’s done.

For myself, I have this password-protected document set up so that whenever I change it on my computer, it also changes on Jill’s computer. I also carry it on a tiny USB drive in my pocket, and our children and my brother (my executor) have it, too.



¹ Reservists are trained in large part to replace combat casualties.

² https://smile.amazon.com/Get-Together-Organize-Records-Family/dp/1413312713/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1514910875&sr=8-2&keywords=get+it+together+planner All of Nolo’s resources are worth considering.

In order for such a document to be complete, there also need to be current wills, healthcare directives, and powers of attorney. Getting all that done requires effort, but other than one's relationship with God, there's very little that should have such priority.

Help with such documents is available through Howard County's Horizon Foundation at www.speakeasyhoward.org. Jon Goldsmith has also pointed out that there will be a class at the HoCo General Hospital Wellness Center from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, March 8. You can register for that class at www.high.org/events.

Don't put it off. You'll sleep better when this is done . . . and so will those who love you.

Dave

Table of Contents

1. Letter to Loved Ones
2. Instructions
3. Biographical Information
4. Children
5. Others Who Depend on Me
6. Pets and Livestock
7. Employment
8. Business Interests
9. Memberships
10. Service Providers
11. Health & Health Care Directives
12. Durable Power of Attorney for Finances
13. Organ or Body Donation
14. Burial or Cremation
15. Funeral and Memorial Services
16. Obituary
17. Will and Trust
18. Insurance
19. Bank and Brokerage Accounts
20. Retirement Plans and Pensions
21. Government Benefits
22. Credit Cards and Debts
23. Secured Places and Passwords
24. Taxes
25. Real Estate
26. Vehicles
27. Other Income and Personal Property
28. Other Information

The Personal Affairs Records of David Crittenden Stancil

Last Updated: January 1, 2018

These pages will serve as a guide in the event of my incapacity or death.
Please begin by reading the first section, "Letter to Loved Ones."

© 2008 Nolo

Get It Together! Planner

Page 1