

THE HIGH HOLY DAYS IN NHA TRANG

All military personnel from the II Corps Area were invited to Nha Trang for High Holy Day services. Coming from all over the area, the EM and Officers, numbering over 200, met in Nha Trang and participated in services conducted by Chaplain (MAJ) Ernest D. Lapp at the Nha Trang Sub Area Command Theatre.

Services for the High Holy Days began on erev Rosh Hashanah with Rabbi Lapp chanting the service. The congregation numbered over 170 (which proved to be the consistent average at all the services during the High Holy Days) and the congregation attentively responded and joined in with Rabbi Lapp in many of the prayers that they found familiar to this holiday. For many it was the first High Holy Day period spent away from home and loved ones, and the Rosh Hashanah melodies and prayers brought to mind some of the warmth and beauty of the holiday period and the great pagentry and celebration that they knew at their own synagogues.

Rabbi Lapp was assisted in the services by his assistant, PFC David Levenson, in the responsive and unison readings. The morning services were highlighted by the Torah reading. SP 4 Jacob Buttnick, a former student at Yeshiva University, skillfully chanted the portions from the Torah, as those called forward looked on.

During the services Rabbi Lapp gave sermons on the meaning of the Holiday period both in times of peace and conflict. He spoke of the modern day application of those beliefs central to Rosh Hashanah and of the renewed opportunity all are given in the sight of G-d with the coming of the New Year. The Rabbi concluded each service with a special blessing for all those present who would experience danger, and an earnest prayer for peace.

Following each Rosh Hashanah service a Kiddush was held and all joined in the singing of the blessing and a special toast to Chayim (Life).

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Kol Nidre, chanted by Rabbi Lapp, began the Yom Kippur holiday. Services were held on the following day until the final

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