

THE ROGUE REPORT



NCOA®

February 2020

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Desk of Our Chairman

February is here and we celebrate President's Day, which commemorates Lincoln's birthday on February 12th and Washington's Birthday on February 22nd with one national Holiday so that most of us get a three-day weekend. Additionally, February is Black History Month and we must celebrate the many contributions made to our nation by our African American brothers and sisters as well as other descendants from non-African cultures.

There have been some questions about the creation of the sixth branch of the military that I want to address. I have seen a logo for Space Force and the new commander was recently sworn in,

but it has been estimated that the full roll out could take up to 18 months. It appears that manning for this new branch will come out of the Department of the Air Force and installations will transfer from current Air Force properties to Space Force. Doctrine, Policies and Procedures, Regulations and other administrative and regulatory processes will take time to create and implement. I can assure you all that our Board of Directors and National office are aware and thoughtfully proceeding forward with a plan to make whatever changes are necessary in a comprehensive process.

We continue to look at potential partners to join forces with who will add purpose and offer meaningful opportunities to our members to step up and make a difference in our communities and for our nation. We are also looking for the right fit for benefits that truly meet the need of our members and their families. Our goal is not to be like all of the other organizations out there, but to be unique. We are now an organization that represents all enlisted members, whether active or reserve, and those separated from the armed forces. Up to this point in history, no war was fought exclusively by a single branch of the military. It took the teamwork of all five branches up to this point, and now we add a sixth to deal with the complex problems of the 21st century. A vibrant, educated and well-trained enlisted force makes the United States military the best and most formidable fighting force ever compiled. Be proud of that!

The Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) holds a unique place amongst military service organizations. We need you to help us remain in this unique position. If each one of you brought one family member or current or former member of the military into our roles, we would explode up the ranks of organizations. *Can you help? Will you help your fellow Veterans?*

If you have any ideas or suggestions, either contact headquarters or contact me at chairman@ncoausa.org and I can assure you that your leadership will take note.

Strength in Unity & Leadership By Example,

Terry M. Haines
Chairman, Rogue Chapter & International Board of Directors
MCPO (SCW), United States Navy, Retired



"If there is not the war, you don't get the great general; if there is not a great occasion, you don't get a great statesman; if Lincoln had lived in a time of peace, no one would have known his name."

– **Theodore Roosevelt**

WARRIOR'S PIPELINE

Updates for Veterans and Service Members

(Each title is linked to source material)

VA launches Diabetes Campaign

The VA has launched a new campaign to start the year: to combat rising levels of diabetes. The VA wants to educate Veterans on the high numbers within the Veteran population. The *Understand Your Diabetes Numbers* campaign educates Veterans and their families on the science, symptoms, and prevention of diabetes.

“One in four Veterans enrolled in VA health care services has diabetes,” said VA Secretary Robert Willkie. “This public health campaign encourages Veterans to be proactive with their health care teams by improving their understanding of diabetes test results. The campaign reflects VA’s ongoing commitment to improve the health care

experiences of Veterans by empowering them to be active partners in their care.” VA’s Office of Patient Care Services is overseeing the year-long campaign, which addresses treatment goals, medication and nutritional management, and patient safety.

The **NCOA Rogue Chapter Scholarship Fund** is one of the newest and most important benefits within the Chapter.

Established in 2019, its sole purpose is to help dependents of NCOA members continue their education beyond high school.

Consider donating by visiting www.ncoarogue.org/donate

All donations received are used for scholarships and grants. No administrative or overhead expenses are deducted from the donations received.

Your donation will help enable the NCOA Rogue Chapter Scholarship Fund continue to be a valuable resource for NCOA members and their dependents!

VA Gives Equal Treatment of Faith-Based Orgs in VA-Backed Social Services Programs

The VA has proposed a rule, Jan. 16, that would implement President Trump’s, May 3, 2018, Executive Order (EO) establishing a White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative, to remove regulatory barriers allowing religious and non-religious organizations equal treatment in VA-supported social service programs. The proposed rule ensures VA-supported

social service programs are implemented in a manner consistent with the Constitution and other applicable federal law.

The proposed rule will also clarify that religious organizations may apply for awards on the same basis as any other organization and that when VA selects award recipients, VA will not discriminate based on an organization’s religious

character. The proposed rule further clarifies that religious organizations participating in VA-supported social service programs retain their independence from the government and may continue to carry out their missions consistent with religious freedom protections in federal law, under the First Amendment.

Some Civilians Who Served in Vietnam Are Getting Veteran Status

A recent ruling by the Defense Department has granted Veteran status to a group of civilians who served in Vietnam. Specifically, the group consists of "Department of the Navy civilian special agents who served in direct support and under control of the Department of the Navy within the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975." The ruling determines that this group will be "considered as having served on active duty for the purposes of all laws administered by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs."

That means that they and their family members may be eligible for health, disability and burial benefits, just like military members who served during that time period. They won't, however, be eligible for any retroactive benefits. They may also be eligible for state veteran benefits.

If the veteran is deceased, a surviving family member may still file the application for veteran status.

Crime Prevention Corner: Veteran Scam Awareness

Veterans Are Twice as Likely as Non-Vets to Be Targets of Online Scams

From U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans are twice as likely to lose money to fraud because of identity theft, phishing, impostor scams, and investment, loan, or donation deceptions.

Many scammers target Veterans to alter or access their government-provided aid, swindling them out of the money or benefits they have earned. This is a widespread issue. Nearly 80% of Veterans say they have been targeted by scams due to their service, according to an AARP survey. These scams are diverse and range from phishing attempts to solicitations for fraudulent Veteran-focused charities.

Scammers and identity thieves also target financially stressed Veterans with promising investment opportunities. Recently, a man defrauded about 2,600 people—many of whom are pension-holding Veterans—in a Ponzi scheme. The investor told these pension holders to make monthly payments and disguised them as cash flows.

Veterans can take simple actions to better protect their information:

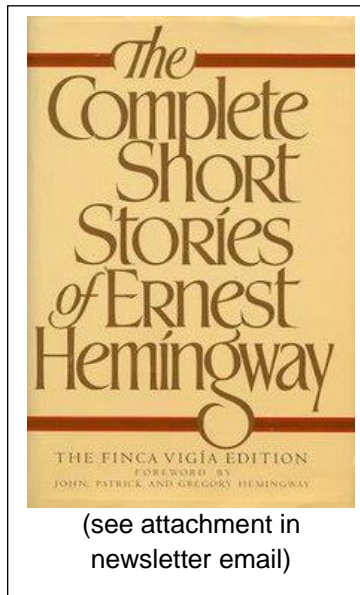
- Use unique passwords. Re-using passwords increases the risk of cyber theft.
- Use multi-factor authentication (MFA). This combines more than one authenticator type based on information users know and information users receive. It also adds another level of security when Veterans log in to access and manage VA services and benefits.

Reading of the Month

““Big Two-Hearted River,” Parts I & II (Short Story)
by Ernest Hemingway

This story portrays Hemingway’s signature character, Nick Adams, as a post-war Veteran struggling with the trauma of war finding healing effects out in nature and solitude.

This is not a plot driven story and requires attention to details. Service members who have been deployed to a combat zone will identify with this character, particularly in how nature and self-reliance have regenerative effects and a reconnection between mind and body.



War Story or Letter to the Editor

Do you have something you’d like to say to the NCOA in terms of what we could do better, what we should focus on, or how we can better help the Veteran community? Please write a letter between 100-200 words for consideration in next month’s *Rogue Report!*



Recent Rogue Chapter Accomplishments & News

- NCOA Rogue Chapter Pizza Social
- The *Medford National Guard Armory* is now doing **ID card renewals** M-F on Walk-In **ONLY** from 9:00 to 16:00.
- VeteRun Donation Awards—Totaling More Than \$16K Raised & Donated
- New Chapter Newsletter: *The Rogue Report*

Thought to Consider:

What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? Can you define each?

Do you have an interesting military story or joke? Consider sharing it in writing (in 150-250 words) for possible publication in our next newsletter. Send your text and/or picture (keep it rated PG-13) to rogue.newsletter@gmail.com

MEET YOUR ROGUE CHAPTER TRUSTEES

CONTACT INFORMATION

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(From left to right: Bud Cordes, Knight Advisor; Bill Parks, Trustee; Dan Reno, Trustee & Editor)

Terry Haines, Chairman: Terry enlisted in the US Navy for active duty between 1971-1977, honorably discharging as an E5. He then served in the US Naval Reserves between 1982-2006, retiring as a Master Chief Petty Officer (E-9), and he deployed twice for Iraqi Freedom between 2002-2003 and 2005-2006.

Ron Kohl, Treasurer/Trustee: Ron served in both the Air Force as a Tech Sergeant, and the Army as a Staff Sergeant before he retired. He also served in law enforcement and is committed to helping locals avoid fraud and scams.

Bud Cordes, Knight Advisor: Bud Cordes was a USAF Tech Sergeant who retired after 20 years of service in 1978. He served in Vietnam between 1968-1969.

Bill Parks, Trustee: Bill spent 3 years active and deployed on two, 9-month, west Pac Cruises while aboard the USS Enterprise. He then served 21 years in the Naval Reserve with NMCB-18, achieving 1st Class Petty Officer (E-6), acting as the NMCB-18 Battalion Career Counselor for his last 6 years.

Dan Reno, Trustee: Dan is an Army Veteran, Sergeant, who served between 2010-2015. He had one combat deployment to Logar Province, AFG for Operation Enduring Freedom ('12-'13). Dan is also *The Rogue Report* Newsletter Editor and contributor.

Stephen Bobian, Trustee: Stephen served in the United States Coast Guard from 2006 to 2014 and honorably discharged as an E-5 Boatswains Mate. He then went on to earn his Captain's license at the Maritime Program and was stationed at Motor Lifeboat Station Quillayute River, WA, Training Center Yorktown, VA, Aids To Navigation Astoria, OR and the United States Coast Guard Cutter Hickory, which is a 225' Buoy Tender out of Homer, AK.

"Strength in Unity!"



NCOA Creed

"It is with the conception and full understanding that many things of great need and importance can be accomplished in unity and cooperation. Thus, do the members of the Non-commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America agree to join their efforts and strength to work together for the well-being of the individual, the group, and for the greatest benefit of our beloved nation."

NCOA MEMBERSHIP

Membership is the lifeblood of the Association!

Today the NCOA remains a vital fraternal, benevolent non-profit organization and acts as a conduit between the military and civilian communities in local areas and promotes positive community relations. The Association is proud of its efforts in three primary areas: Legislative Representation; Social and Fraternal Programs; and Member Benefits in the area of specialized services and discount programs. NCOA has much to offer its members and you too can join our numbers. Membership in NCOA is open to all, however, you must meet certain criteria to be a voting member of the Association, but this does not prevent you from being an Associate member and supporting our organization and reaping the benefits of being a member.

If you are already a member, please promote this fantastic and beneficial membership to fellow service members and Veterans looking for a supportive military community. If they are interested or have questions have them contact us or visit www.ncoa.org/membership.