

THE ROGUE REPORT



June 2020

Desk of Our Chairman

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June is the traditional month when schools get out, summer begins, PCS moves take place and many of us begin to think about things like vacations, baseball and NASCAR. This year, other than summer starting on June 20th and Father's Day, nothing will be the same. School was closed months ago, PCS moves have been delayed, sports have been cancelled or seriously pushed back and vacations either delayed or cancelled. The level of fear present in the United States is at or nearing an all-time high.

Those of us who have served in the military have been trained or at least exposed to leadership. If you have ever been in a combat zone, you know what fear is and the fear that Americans are exposed to today is real. It is unfortunate that the media and some of those in positions of leadership are choosing to push fear rather than courage. True leaders guide those under their direction on how to get through stressful times. Right now, it is not just you that is impacted by COVID-19, but it is also your family and others that you love. That makes it worse because we care for those we love.



When in combat, you and your fellow members of the armed forces are there. Your family is secure back home. This COVID-19 is an invisible enemy and it is hitting us right where we and our families are at. What can you do to get through this situation? My fellow NCOA members use the experience of having served in the military to guide your families through these difficult times. Try to keep emotions out of the mix.

Leadership is something that has nothing to do with gender or age. Leaders remain calm and provide guidance to accomplish the mission. Right now, our mission is to get through this crisis. Check up on your families, friends, neighbors and fellow veterans. Make sure they are alright and offer to assist if they need help. Mow a lawn, shop for groceries if they need help, take out their garbage and just offer a calming demeanor in these stressful times. Don't let people isolate as that only breeds more fear.

We won't be able to meet this year, but we will be doing online opportunities to share information. We will still be recognizing our Vanguard heroes and sharing the inspiring feats that earned them the recognition. While NCOA isn't the largest or best known organization, we are a powerful and focused group looking out for our enlisted forces and their families. I invite you today to use your training and patriotism to help your community and this nation get through this crisis.

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

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

--Eleanor Roosevelt

WARRIOR'S PIPELINE

Updates for Veterans and Service Members

(Each title is linked to source material)

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 conducts deep-dive study into effects of COVID-19 on Veterans

Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began a national four-year study on the impact of COVID-19 on Veterans to help address critical questions about the disease.

Known as EPIC3 (Epidemiology, Immunology and Clinical Characteristics of COVID-19), researchers will study data and biospecimens, such as throat swabs and blood, to learn how the virus that causes COVID-19 has affected Veterans.

“By analyzing data on COVID-19 risk factors, progression, outcomes and immunity, this VA research promises to significantly advance the fight against the disease,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “The study will complement a similar effort by the Department of Defense (DOD).”

The study involves Veterans infected with COVID-19 and those who have recovered or who may be at risk but have not been infected by the virus. They are volunteers

who are inpatients, outpatients and residents in VA’s Community Living Centers. Each cohort consists of hundreds of Veterans.

A similar study is being conducted by the Department of Defense (DOD) involving active-duty service members. At the end of their respective studies, VA and DOD researchers plan to compare findings from the two study groups.

To learn more about VA research, visit research.va.gov.

VA encourages donations to help homeless

The VA announced today a new initiative requesting the public to make donations to help provide emergency relief and facilitate remote access to health care for Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Individuals and organizations are asked to donate essential items such as nonperishables to combat food insecurity and new mobile phones to

enable Veterans to access VA telehealth services.

Monetary donations will also be accepted to help Veterans pay for security deposits for living arrangements to prevent homelessness.

“VA is working tirelessly to address the urgent needs of Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and with the help of the community — even more can be done,” said VA Secretary Wilkie. “These donations

can make a critical difference in the department’s ability to protect and serve vulnerable Veterans during this public health emergency. VA is thankful for the donations already received for our nation’s heroes during this unprecedented time.”

VA’s work to reduce homelessness has been significant and impactful, especially with assistance from local communities. This initiative will run through the end of the calendar year and may be extended if circumstances warrant.

VA releases new COVID Coach mobile app

The VA announced the launch of the COVID Coach app, a new mobile app designed to help both Veterans and civilians cope with feelings of stress and anxiety they may be experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The app includes practical tools, information and resources that can all be used from the safety of one’s home to track well-being, mood swings and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms.

A personal goal setting tracker can help users work toward achieving small victories. The mindfulness and sleep tools can be helpful for improving mental health and well-being. The indoor activities tool and staying healthy recommendations have been specifically tailored to the current COVID-19 situation.

“VA wants to make sure Veterans have access to every resource available,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “The COVID Coach app provides tools and information to stay mentally and physically healthy.”

Direct links to resources are available within the app for those who may need additional professional support. The COVID Coach can be used independently or while engaged in mental health treatment but is not intended to replace needed professional care.

Prevention Corner: Tips and Tactics to Avoid Scams

The best defense is to say NO if:

- Anyone contacts you and asks for your Social Security number, bank account number, credit card information, Medicare ID number, or drivers license number.
- Anyone contacts you asking for any other personally identifiable information by phone, in person, by text message, or email.
- Someone you don't know contacts you and requests money through a Peer to Peer (P2P) payment app like Venmo or Zelle or through pre-paid gift cards. These methods transfer funds immediately with little recall or retrieval capabilities and can be hard to trace, often making them the preferred choice of scammers.
- Someone you don't know sends you a check, maybe for prize-winnings or for the sale of goods and asks you to send a portion of the money back.
- Something doesn't feel right to you. Trust your gut and reserve the right to say no if it sounds too good to be true.

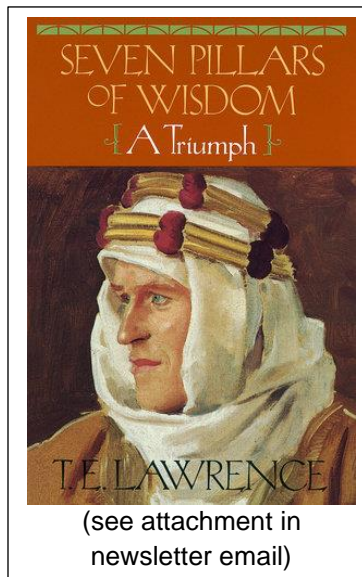
Report scams to [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint). The Eldercare Locator, a public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging, can connect older adults and their families to services. You can also call 1-800-677-1116.



Reading of the Month

The Seven Pillars of Wisdom by T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) - Introductory Chapter & Chapter 1,

In this book, T.E. Lawrence chronicles his adventures and battles against the Ottoman Empire (Turks) during WWI, which ultimately shaped the Middle East as we know it today.



Thought to Consider:

What was the most significant event during your service that profoundly changed you?



Marines in Afghanistan Received Our Care Packages



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 BOARD

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“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 Rogue Chapter taking their oath in March 2020; from L to R: Ron, Dan, Stephen, and Terry)

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.

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.