

THE ROGUE REPORT



August 2020

Desk of Our Chairman

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Several years ago, I made telephone calls to several members at large in the Midwest and New England areas as part of a project to clean up our database. At that time, I was encouraged by many of you regarding your support for NCOA. Several of you even indicated that you might be interested in getting chapters going if enough people could be located to form the core of chapter leadership.

Between 75 and 80% of our association membership is what we call members at large. Recently with the development of new technology anyone with internet access can connect with another member anywhere in the world. We have been toying with the idea of bringing members together virtually to at least communicate with other members. Some ideas have surfaced where members looking for work can come together and exchange information, develop and share leads and assist with all facets of job search. Another option might be members that like to ride motorcycles and want to plan group rides. The options are only limited by one's imagination. For those still on active duty or in the Reserves, there are members available to assist with development of your career options and guide your advancement.



"Brave men rejoice in adversity, just as brave soldiers triumph in war."
—Seneca

Important Dates in August

- Aug. 4th – Coast Guard Birthday
- Aug. 7th – Purple Heart Day
- Aug. 29th – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday

The Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) is here to be what you need us to be. We are here to champion issues in Washington and be the voice that the wearing of the uniform prevents you from directly exercising. NCOA has the potential to be whatever you need it to be. We have a new Facebook page titled "NCOA-The Voice of the Enlisted". It is a great forum to find out what other members have going and to share issues or concerns that you may need help with, but it is a member only group. It is also a great platform to make suggestions for new programs or benefits that you would like to see.

Let's use the extra time that we have due to restrictions from COVID-19 to engage our collective creativity and make NCOA the leading Military Service Organization out there. We all want to be on a winning team and your leadership will work day and night to make that happen.

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.

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 6-12 – National Suicide Prevention Week
- Oct. 1-22 – Veteran

Strength in Unity & Leadership by Example,

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

White House & VA Launch REACH

WARRIOR'S PIPELINE

Updates for Veterans and Service Members

Articles from VA.gov/opa/pressrel

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!



The White House and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today launched the REACH national public health campaign aimed at empowering all Americans to play a critical role in preventing suicide.

The goal of REACH, which was established by the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS),

is to change the conversation around suicide by urging people to recognize their own risk and protective factors — as well as the risk and protective factors of their loved ones.

The REACH campaign website, we are within reach, provides information to help people recognize risk factors for suicide, including financial stress, chronic illness or pain, isolation and mental

illness, in themselves and in their loved ones. It also links to resources that can provide assistance in avoiding the hopelessness that can lead to suicide.

Veterans and service members, including National Guard and Reserve, who need immediate help should call the 1-800 number and press 1 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line, chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat or text 838255.

VA Offers Debt Relief to Vets Through End of 2020

The VA announced its commitment to extend debt relief to Veterans adversely impacted by COVID-19 to the end of 2020 by suspending certain debt collection actions.

The department recognizes Veterans and beneficiaries are still being greatly impacted by the coronavirus prompting the extension of financial relief.

“Veterans and their families should be focused

on their health and safety during the pandemic,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “VA is taking action to give those with pending debts greater flexibility during these challenging times.”

VA is suspending all actions on Veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Treasury Department. This includes the suspension of collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA

debts, whichever the Veteran prefers.

For benefit debts, Veterans should contact the VA Debt Management Center at 1-800-827-0648.

For health care debts, Veterans should contact the Health Resource Center at 1-866-400-1238 or <https://www.pay.govfor> payments.

VA Expands Funding for Emergency Response for Vets Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness During COVID-19 Pandemic

The VA today announced it is allocating an additional \$400 million of its coronavirus relief funding to enhance the department's emergency relief response for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) allocated \$17.2 billion for the Veterans Health Administration of which \$700 million is devoted to expanding services for and addressing the challenges faced by Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The newly allocated funds will be used for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF). SSVF offers several ways to secure housing for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

In total, \$602 million of coronavirus relief funding has now been allocated for this program, which will also help the Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program place Veterans in safe housing to isolate them from the virus.

Other coronavirus relief funding devoted to providing emergency shelter and supportive services for Veterans includes \$88 million for the Grant and Per Diem Program and \$10 million for the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program.

Prevention Corner: Tips and Tactics to Avoid Scams

FTC Launches New Online Tool for Exploring Military Consumer Data

The Federal Trade Commission launched a new tool that explores data about problems military consumers may experience in the marketplace. For the first time, data about reports the FTC has received from active duty service members and veterans will be available online in an interactive dashboard at [ftc.gov/explore data](https://ftc.gov/explore/data).

From 2015 through the first two quarters of 2020, reports received by the Consumer Sentinel Network showed the median fraud losses for veterans and retirees were \$750. For active duty military, the top reported scam type was government imposters, followed by unwanted telemarketing calls. In addition, for “all military”—which includes military families and reservists—65.5 percent of people who reported online shopping problems reported losing money. Many online shopping reports are about merchandise ordered online that never arrives.

The FTC encourages military consumers to report challenges they face. Report scams to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.

Thought to Consider:

How have you changed in a positive way from when COVID-19 began to the present?

Reading of the Month

“How to Tell a True War Story” by Tim O’Brien

Vietnam Veteran uses his experiences in war to show how to tell a true war story.



(see attachment in newsletter email)

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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.