



From the Desk of the President

I hope this finds you all well and safe during this unique and challenging time. It is a pleasure and honor to be serving as your 18th president and national commander of our Non Commissioned Officers Association. Just about 60 years ago, NCOA was established to bring an enlisted voice to DC. Since then, we have shifted to an all-volunteer force and increased recruiting standards. Investment in tuition assistance and the GI Bill attracted and retained an increasingly educated, professional enlisted force. Military leadership's awareness of the value of our families is a crucial retention and morale tool which has grown tremendously. Today, that force is serving forward, world-wide, and fighting across the spectrum of warfare communities and specialties. They want to and are making a difference.

Just as that force has changed and evolved, so must NCOA. Knowing and understanding our organizational history is essential—it provides us context and an appreciation for those who had gone before us and shaped what we are today. But, the needs of yesterday are not necessarily the needs of today. I am a firm believer that we must understand and adapt to the needs of today's enlisted military members, whether they are serving on active duty, in the reserves, veterans, or retirees.

Many organizations such as ours—you can call them professional military organizations or military/veteran service organizations--have grown in number. And although well-intentioned, many are competing in this space of advocacy and support. I've come to learn that there are three general lines of efforts we are striving to achieve--advocacy, professional development, and education, and the networking and outreach power of our general membership and local chapters. These are the areas I plan to work with our board of directors, chapter leaders, and my enlisted networks over the next year. Together we will raise awareness, increase our membership, and ensure NCOA remains relevant and engaged.

To do this well, we are going to have a strong message of who we are, what we do, and what membership offers beyond the discounts and dues. Every member of NCOA must be a marketer and recruiter for what we do. Furthermore, we must do a better job of growing and using all of our communication tools to communicate what our chapters and members are doing AND to keep our membership informed on what's going on.

We are at a crossroads in our history. If the NCOA is to continue its proud legacy of helping advocate for and support the enlisted force towards mission accomplishment and command excellence, we all must reflect on the relevance of our organization and chapters to TODAY's enlisted force and families. With more than 40,000 members from every branch of service - including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, veterans, and their families. We must strive to be a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of enlisted military professionals at every stage of their careers.

At this moment in the 21st century, in an era of rapid change, unrelenting mission requirements, fiscal constraints, and social change. Each member of NCOA must look inward to build upon our strengths and improve upon weaknesses. NCOA at large will look inward and outward for opportunities to remain credible and relevant while holding on to our heritage. Now is the time to holistically evaluate how we can more fully support and enable the new enlisted force to meet readiness requirements, warfighting capability, and post-service support.

I still have a lot to learn as I grow into this role, but I'm excited and proud to serve as your President and National Commander. Thanks to each of you for your service and what you do to strengthen NCOA. I look forward to working with you all to ensure we maintain "strength in unity" and best serve as "the voice of today's enlisted force."