

Greetings National Naval Officers Association, friends and supporters,

I am humbled and honored to address you as President of the National Naval Officers Association. As I stated previously, I serve at your pleasure and look forward to pressing forward with the same visionary focus of our illustrious founders. I want to first thank Tony Barnes, Captain USN (ret.) for his steadfast leadership, the Board of Directors for their honest, faithful and dedicated service and Kudos to the Bayou Chapter and Lamar Johnson USCG (ret.) for the flawless execution of the 40th Celebration of the National Naval Officers Association. BRAVO ZULU!!! That said, there are fifty one other weeks in the year that require our collective and focused efforts to ensure that we are pressing forward toward attainment of our strategic vision and goals.

I am committed toward answering the questions of "Is NNOA still relevant?" and "What can NNOA do for me?" My challenge to you is also critical. I challenge every member to assist in DOUBLING, yes DOUBLING, paid membership before the next Annual Conference. Accordingly, that would catapult our membership to approximately 1600 for the 2013 Professional Development Conference. My challenge to you is directly in keeping with our recruitment goals. Additionally, as each of the Services Chiefs echoed, NNOA is one of the best resources available to facilitate recruitment efforts, officer retention and most importantly mentorship, with an end state of increased diversity at the senior officer and flag grades.

It should not come as a surprise to anyone that the DoD fiscal environment has changed dramatically thus requiring an adjustment of fires to accomplish our assigned missions. That said, the Board of Directors requires and values your input as we seek to improve our operating processes and maximize efficiencies. We are aggressively moving toward the objective and expect to have the organization's revised Strategic Plan published before December 2012.

I respectfully request that you update your personal and respective chapter information contained on the members only section of the National website. We want to maximize all available means to keep the lines of communication open in both directions so we can resolve issues in an expeditious manner and engage the next target.

Again, I thank you for this awesome opportunity to serve the National Officers Association. Let's sure up our flanks, kick in the after-burners and get to work!!

Very respectfully,

Colonel R. C. Clements, USMC

President

National Naval Officers Association