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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*Non Commissioned
Officers Assoc.*

October 9, 1981

TO: Elizabeth H. Dole

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MB*

RE: Additional Support on AWACS

Attached are two concrete examples, from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Non Commissioned Officers Association, of results from our AWACS briefing on October 6.

General Milnor Roberts has asked for a list of all the attendees at that briefing. He intends to work with them in the time available to convince the Senate to approve the sale. You may remember that General Robert's organization, the Reserve Officers Association was the first of the military and veterans organizations to take a leadership role on behalf of the AWACS sale.



NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE

NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STRENGTH IN UNITY

110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Suite 304
Box 43
Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone (202) 546-7891
546-7892

October 8, 1981

Dear Senator:

The Non Commissioned Officers Association of the USA (NCOA), representing more than 250,000 members, is convinced that the sale of the AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control Systems) aircraft is in the best interest of national defense.

The Association has been reluctant to give its undivided support to the sale because it shared some of the concerns expressed by many members of the Senate and House. However, recent developments, coupled with the situation existing in the Middle East since 1978, have overshadowed the controversy demonstrating the need to move forward on the sale.

The United States has realigned its forces to provide permanent defense capability in that strategic area. It is imperative that we have full and equal participation with the Saudis in our efforts to maintain security in the region and, at the same time, recognize Saudi Arabian sovereign interest in their own defense as we have done for the Israelis.

The Association believes the President is offering the proper solution by providing the Saudis with their own defense capability— one that insures U.S. presence for some years yet to come. This can be done without jeopardizing the security of the State of Israel. Most importantly, it will offer the United States prepositioned facilities, equipment and weapons systems in the event our interests are openly threatened requiring the interdiction of U.S. Forces.

The Association urges your favorable consideration of the sale and extends appreciation for your commitment to an adequate defense of the United States and its vital interests abroad.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Johnson, Jr.
National Legislative Director

International Headquarters
NCO ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 33610
San Antonio, Texas 78233
(512) 653-6161





Telephone
202-543-2239

NEWS Release

Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002



"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(7 OCTOBER 1981)

VFW TERMS AWACs SALE A "POLICY IMPERATIVE"

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- "Following the shocking, brutal assassination of President Sadat it should be as clear to the 97th U. S. Congress, as it is to us, that a body of 535 individuals is spectacularly ill-equipped to 'fine-tune' American foreign policy initiatives in a turbulent and unpredictable world.

"I now describe the AWACs sale, which I earlier supported on a narrower basis, as a policy imperative and I urge the Congress to approve it promptly and by a generous margin."

Arthur Fellwock, VFW National Commander, continued by citing the following factors as adding up to a policy imperative on AWACs:

"(a) the clear need to extend clear support to a moderate Arab regime--Saudi Arabia--in the wake of the loss of Anwar el-Sadat, our best Arab friend;

"(b) the ungrudging support for the AWACs sale by all three living ex-Presidents, all six living ex-Secretaries of Defense, all five living ex-Presidential National Security advisors, two former Secretaries of State, and all three living former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shows the wide, bi-partisan support for this national security initiative; and, finally

"(c) a short two days before his death, President Sadat warned of a Libyan plan to invade the Sudan as part of a larger Soviet scheme to control the oil-rich Middle East. President Sadat termed the 36,500 Communist Bloc troops in Libya and Ethiopia

PAGE 2

a Soviet 'Rapid Deployment Force' in place for use in the Persian Gulf, North Africa or the Horn of Africa.

"Surely," Mr. Fellwock concluded, "this is no time for America to wobble or falter as we seek to build an area-wide strategic consensus to halt further Soviet encroachment.

"The AWACs sale was important before President Sadat's passing; it is an inescapable strategic necessity today."

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Non Commissioned
Officers Assoc.*

October 9, 1981

TO: Max Friedersdorf

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell



Attached is a letter from the International Secretary of the Non Commissioned Officers Association, which was very active in supporting this pay bill in Congress. They request a letter from the President and apen which they want to frame for their headquarters. Their draft of a proposed letter is attached also. I would appreciate it if you could accomodate their request. Attached also is their strong letter to all Senators urging their support of the AWACS sale.



NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE

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STRENGTH IN UNITY

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Telephone (202) 546-7891
546-7892

October 8, 1981

The Honorable Morton Blackwell
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

This letter is a follow-up to your conversation of Oct. 6 with "Mack" McKinney concerning The Armed Forces Pay Act of 1981 which was passed by the House and Senate on October 7. It will be in the hands of the President for his signature, perhaps, by the time you receive this request.

The Association was very active in supporting the pay bill and used its full resources to gain favorable consideration in Congress. As Senator Exon wrote to NCOA in a recent letter: "Having the weight of NCOA behind an important piece of legislation such as this is indeed a most helpful endorsement."

Additionally, many of the arguments offered by the Association to the House and Senate were presented on the floor to gain acceptance of the bill.

In this light, the Association will be honored if the President would recognize the efforts of NCOA by addressing a letter to its president, Normand M. Gonsauls, and enclosing a pen which is symbolic of attesting his signature to the Act. The letter and pen will be framed and suitably displayed in the Association's International Headquarters in San Antonio, Texas.

A suggested letter for the President's signature is attached for your consideration. Mack has taken a few days off asking that I get this letter off to you during his absence.

With warmest regards and gratitude for your continual interest in behalf of the Association and its membership, I am,

Sincerely,

Charles R. Jackson
International Secretary

Encl;

International Headquarters
NCO ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 33610
San Antonio, Texas 78233
(512) 652-6161



SUGGESTED LETTER

Mr. Normand M. Gonsauls
President
Non Commissioned Officers Association of the USA
P.O. Box 33610
San Antonio, TX 78233

Dear Mr. Gonsauls:

I am delighted that I have this opportunity to commend the Non Commissioned Officers Association of the USA (NCOA) for its efforts in behalf of the Armed Forces Pay Act of 1981. The new pay structure signed into law by me this date will do much to bring about a fairer pay comparability for the active, reserve and guard members of the U.S. armed forces and alleviate some of the pay compression suffered over the years by noncommissioned and petty officers.

The Act also will give the military departments greater incentives to work for increased recruitment and retention rates for the All Volunteer Force. I am, of course, dedicated to the AVF and will continue to work toward its complete success. I am pleased that the Non Commissioned Officers Association of the USA (NCOA) joins me in achieving this goal.

Enclosed is a Presidential pen commemorating my signing of the legislation.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE

NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STRENGTH IN UNITY

110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Suite 304
Box 43
Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone (202) 546-7891
546-7892

October 8, 1981

Dear Senator:

The Non Commissioned Officers Association of the USA (NCOA), representing more than 250,000 members, is convinced that the sale of the AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control Systems) aircraft is in the best interest of national defense.

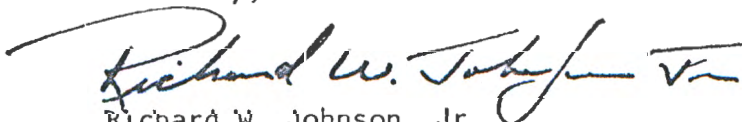
The Association has been reluctant to give its undivided support to the sale because it shared some of the concerns expressed by many members of the Senate and House. However, recent developments, coupled with the situation existing in the Middle East since 1978, have overshadowed the controversy demonstrating the need to move forward on the sale.

The United States has realigned its forces to provide permanent defense capability in that strategic area. It is imperative that we have full and equal participation with the Saudis in our efforts to maintain security in the region and, at the same time, recognize Saudi Arabian sovereign interest in their own defense as we have done for the Israelis.

The Association believes the President is offering the proper solution by providing the Saudis with their own defense capability— one that insures U.S. presence for some years yet to come. This can be done without jeopardizing the security of the State of Israel. Most importantly, it will offer the United States prepositioned facilities, equipment and weapons systems in the event our interests are openly threatened requiring the interdiction of U.S. Forces.

The Association urges your favorable consideration of the sale and extends appreciation for your commitment to an adequate defense of the United States and its vital interests abroad.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Johnson, Jr.
National Legislative Director

International Headquarters
NCO ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 33610
San Antonio, Texas 78233

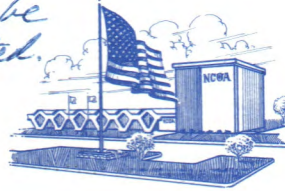


C. A. "Mack" McKinney
Sr. VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
PH (202) 546-7891 or 546-7892



*Thought you'd be
interested.*
N C O ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE
SUITE 304, BOX 43
110 MARYLAND AVE., N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002



Non Commissioned Officers Association

of the United States of America

110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Suite 304, Box 43
Washington, D.C. 20002



"STRENGTH IN UNITY"

Normand M. Gonsauls
President

Robert J. Walker
Vice President

John D. Spooler
International Treasurer

Charles R. Jackson
International Secretary

C.A. "MACK" McKINNEY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

September 5, 1981

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The subject covered herein concerns the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 recently signed by you into law. One of the provisions contained in the Act is causing considerable dismay among the military services and is alarming many of the senior officers and noncommissioned and petty officers. The Association's offices have been swamped with protests not only from military personnel who have been affected, or will be affected, but military leaders of all grades who are concerned with the task of making the All Volunteer Service an allowable success.

As the voice for more than 250,000 noncommissioned and petty officers, most of whom are on active duty with the U. S. Armed Forces, the Association must call your attention to the insensitive and demeaning clause that *awards military personnel with unacceptable performances while penalizing those who have served honorably in accordance with the good standards of the military services*. The proviso is that which denies unemployment compensation to former servicemembers who do not wish to reenlist in the armed forces.

It is unreasonable to refuse assistance to the new veteran who was a model soldier, sailor, marine, airman or coast guardsman. He or she has served the Nation well for the term of enlistment, but for some just reason or another not adaptable to pursuing a career in the Armed Forces. Yet, the individual who departs the military service either voluntarily or because of a poor performance or is denied reenlistment, is eligible to receive unemployment compensation on discharge or release from active duty.

The President
Sep. 5, 1981
page 2

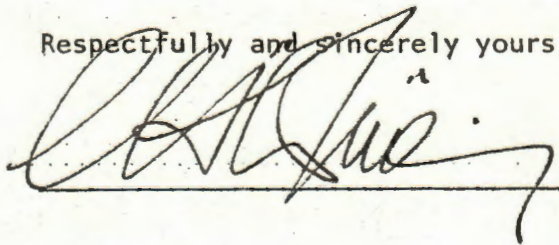
The Association is well aware of your position on reinstituting the draft. You believe it is not necessary at the time. This is why there is considerable dismay that you are condoning a form of compulsory service for those who have already served faithfully their Nation and Commander-in-Chief. Surely there can be no true All Volunteer Force if such a discriminating statute remains as a law of the land.

The military cannot accomodate every servicemember eligible for reenlistment. The practice of accepting all would slow down promotions and virtually stagnate the forces. Currently, the military services claim success in retaining sufficient numbers of first term reenlistees. Thus, the provision is not necessary and is not in the best interest of the military.

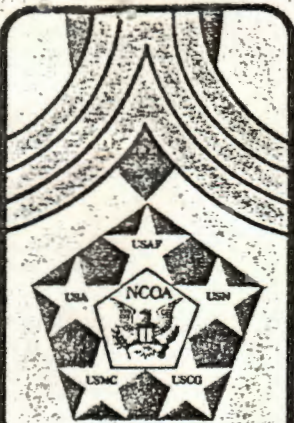
The Association urges you to rectify the problem at the earliest. It also encourages your Administration to offer immediate legislation that will correct the glaring injustice to the Nation's young veterans.

They believe in you. Please do not let them down.

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Ronald Reagan", written over a horizontal line.

CAM/wbh



Non Commissioned Officers Association

of the United States of America

110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Suite 304, Box 43
Washington, D.C. 20002

C.A. "MACK" McKINNEY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

"STRENGTH IN UNITY"

Normand M. Gonsauls
President

Robert J. Walker
Vice President

John D. Spooler
International Treasurer

Charles R. Jackson
International Secretary

August 26, 1981

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Association wishes to express its deep concern over recent news articles that suggest the Office of Management and Budget is seeking ways to reduce military retirement benefits and terminate subsidies to military commissaries.

Without belaboring its distress in quantitative terms, the Association is unequivocally opposed to any adverse change in the current military retirement system and the termination or reduction of appropriations for military commissaries.

The military retired community has experienced a number of congressionally-sponsored financial setbacks over the past 20 years. A few of them are listed here for your information:

- Disability retirement rules tightened,
- Active duty pay increases compressed or capped,
- Thousands of career-oriented noncommissioned and petty officers involuntarily separated following the Vietnam conflict without severance pay or the opportunity to remain in service to establish eligibility for retirement,
- Unemployment compensation denied upon retirement,

President Reagan
Page 2

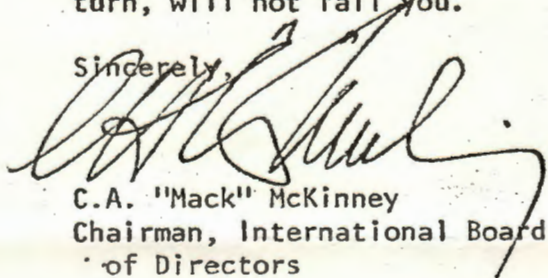
Adjustments to retired pay to offset inflation amended to reduce amounts received three (3) times in 18 years; twice in the past 6 years.

As for commissaries, the subsidy is certainly justified. It is the result of an earlier Congressional decision to direct the military services to provide commissary employees with the same pay and benefits given federal workers. The payroll increased significantly and the subsidies are necessary to continue offering the savings experienced by commissary patrons over the years.

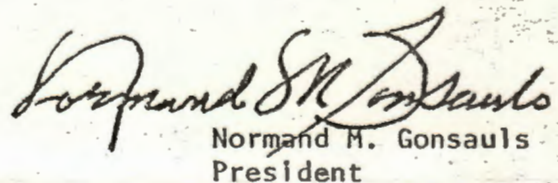
The military community has experienced a great feeling of security under your leadership as its Commander-in-Chief. It believes you are understanding and sympathetic with the sacrifices and hardships demanded of and suffered by the men and women who serve or have served in the Nation's armed forces. It is not a matter of entitlement based on social, welfare or economic necessity, but a right earned as a result of faithful service to country and corps.

The Association believes that what has been promised should be honored. Too many of your predecessors failed to meet this commitment. Our membership as well as all members of the military services trust that you will not fail them. We, in turn, will not fail you.

Sincerely,



C.A. "Mack" McKinney
Chairman, International Board
of Directors



Normand M. Gonsauls
President

for EHD

Non Commissioned
Officers Assoc

file

Sept 22

6 to 8:30

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 8/17

TO: Morton

FROM: Diana

For your info _____

Per our conversation _____

Other:

pls. recommend

I suggest a drop by is
appropriate. This is an effective
group. Morton 8/19

per Martha
EHD not
attending
9/22

9/22

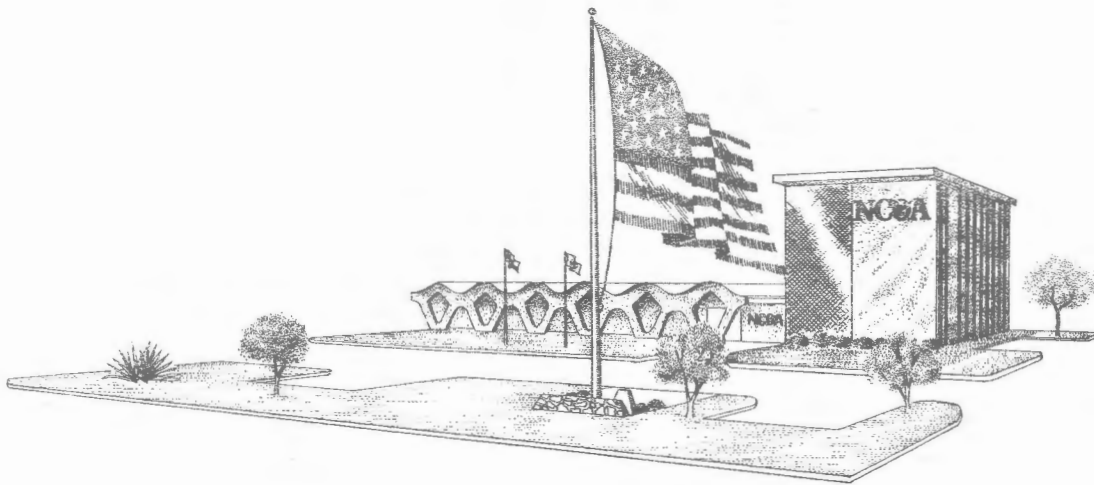
Kathy
attended -
for Morton —

THE SITE FOR THE NCOA RECEPTION,
22 SEPTEMBER 1981, HONORING
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM L. ARMSTRONG,
HAS BEEN CHANGED TO
THE RUSSELL COURT YARD.

IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER IT
WILL BE HELD IN 1202 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE
BUILDING.

*The
Non-Commissioned Officers
Association
of the
United States of America*

-- -- -- -- --



*The Honorable Strom Thurmond, United States Senator
President Pro Tempore*

and the

*Non Commissioned Officers Association
of the United States of America*

cordially invite you to a reception honoring

The Honorable William L. Armstrong, United States Senator

1981 recipient of the NCOA

"L. Mendel Rivers Award"

Tuesday, September 22, 1981

6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

1202 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Yes _____

No _____

RSVP - Regrets only

202 546-7891

8/17

Informal



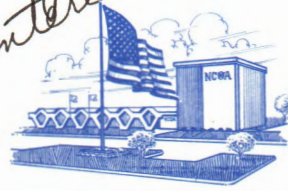
C. A. "Mack" McKinney
VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
PH (202) 546-7891 or 546-7892



N
C
O ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE
SUITE 304, BOX 43
110 MARYLAND AVE., N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

*thought you'd
be interested*



Non Commissioned Officers Association

of the United States of America

110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Suite 304, Box 43
Washington, D.C. 20002



"STRENGTH IN UNITY"

Normand M. Gonsauls
President

Robert J. Walker
Vice President

John D. Spooler
International Treasurer

Charles R. Jackson
International Secretary

C.A. "MACK" McKINNEY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

July 2, 1981

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America (NCOA), representing more than 250,000 men and women of the U.S. armed forces, joins the concerned members of Congress and organizations seeking your careful consideration of U.S. participation in the proposed construction of the Soviet Yamal natural gas pipeline.

The Association is in receipt of a copy of a June 24 letter to you expressing the reservations of certain distinguished members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The communique discusses their proposals for an alternate program. The Association cannot do better than agree with their rationale that a completed pipeline will have geostrategic implications in increased NATO dependence on Soviet resources.

The Association believes the Administration should heed the advice of the distinguished national congressional leaders who are signatories of the proposal. Their valuable assistance in guiding the Nation to a viable foreign policy has always been second to none.

We implore you to strongly consider their position.

Sincerely,

C.A. "Mack" McKinney

Richard W. Johnson, Jr.
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
PH (202) 546-7891 or 7892



*Send Comp David
Picture*

N
C
O ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE
SUITE 304, BOX 43
110 MARYLAND AVE., N.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File

NCO Assoc.

June 8, 1981

Mr. Richard W. Johnson, Jr.
National Legislative Director
NCO Association
Suite 304, Box 43
110 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Richard:

Photographs of Camp David are rare due to security reasons. However, your liaison has produced once more. Hope you enjoy these.

Cordially,

Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to
the President

C. A. "Mack" McKinney

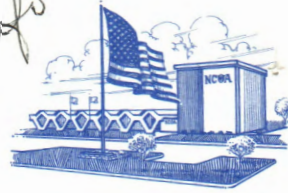
SE. VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
PH (202) 546-7891 or 546-7892



for your info

N
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SSOCIATION

NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE
SUITE 304, BOX 43
110 MARYLAND AVE., N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002



file

Non Commissioned Officers Association

of the United States of America

110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Suite 304, Box 43
Washington, D.C. 20002

C.A. "MACK" McKINNEY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

May 26, 1981

President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President and Mrs. Reagan:

On behalf of the International Board of Directors and the president and officers of the Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America (NCOA), I have the privilege and honor of inviting you to be our most distinguished guests at the Association's 20th Annual International Convention Banquet, June 13, 1981, at the Hotel Raddison-Muehlebach, Kansas City, Missouri.

This year's convention assembly will be saluting the Honorable William L. Armstrong, United States Senator from Colorado, Admiral Thomas B. Hayward, Chief of Naval Operations, and the senior enlisted chiefs of the U.S. armed forces.

Senator Armstrong will be presented the 1981 "L. Mendel Rivers Award for Legislative Action," the Association's top tribute to a Nation's legislator. Past recipients have been, among others, the Honorable Messrs. Strom Thurmond, John Tower, Bob Dole and Bob Wilson, M.C. (Ret.).

Admiral Hayward will be recognized for his outstanding contribution to the Nation's defense posture while the senior enlisted chiefs of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard will be saluted for their leadership and devotion to duty.

"STRENGTH IN UNITY"

Normand M. Gonsauls
President

Robert J. Walker
Vice President

John D. Spoler
International Treasurer

Charles R. Jackson
International Secretary

President and Mrs. Reagan
Page 2

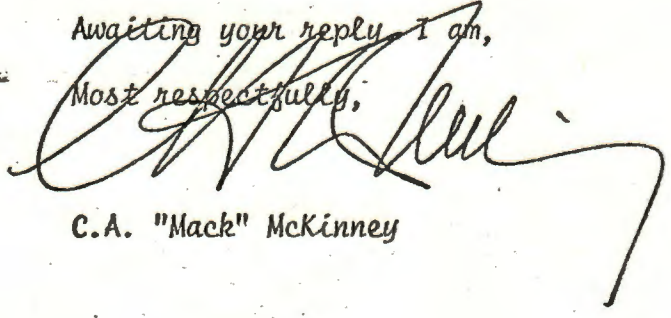
Also in attendance will be a high ranking officer of the Canadian armed forces, representing the Canadian government, and about 50 NCOA chapter delegates from Europe.

The Association is a quasi-military organization composed of noncommissioned and petty officers of the U.S. armed forces; active, retired, reserve, national guard and veteran. More than 83 percent are on active duty with the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. It is accredited by the Veterans Administration as a veterans service organization and now ranks as the fourth largest following The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and Disabled American Veterans.

The membership will be extremely grateful if its Commander-in-Chief would be at the convention banquet to receive a life time membership as an honorary noncommissioned officer and, if possible, to offer a few remarks to a dedicated group of patriotic Americans.

Awaiting your reply, I am,

Most respectfully,



C.A. "Mack" McKinney

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: MORTON BLACKWELL

FROM: _____

DATE: 3/5-

The attached is for your:

Information	Review & Comment
<u>CHD</u> - Letter Response	Action
Signature	File
Other	

COMMENTS: _____

File



"STRENGTH IN UNITY"

Normand M. Gonsauls
President

Robert J. Walker
Vice President

John D. Spooler
International Treasurer

Charles R. Jackson
International Secretary

Non Commissioned Officers Association

of the United States of America

110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Suite 304, Box 43
Washington, D.C. 20002

C.A. "MACK" McKINNEY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

February 27, 1981

Mrs. Elizabeth Dole
Assistant to the President, Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Dole:

The Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America (NCOA), representing more than 211,000 noncommissioned and petty officers of the U. S. Armed Forces; active, retired, reserve, national guard and veteran; is curious as to whom its contact will be at The White House.

Recently, a few quasi-military organizations—significantly fewer in numbers than NCOA—were invited to the White House for a briefing on President Reagan's budget. This Association, with an 83 percent active duty membership, was disappointed that it was not asked to attend.

NCOA is a member organization of the prestigious Ad Hoc Committee, an unofficial group of quasi-military and veterans' organizations interested in defense-related issues. It is one of the few in the group that is invited annually to testify before congressional panels having oversight of defense programs.

In addition to its active support for the military, NCOA also serves the veterans' community as an accredited veterans service organization. Currently, it is the fourth largest organization offering this program to the Nation's veterans.

3/5

Dole
The White House
page 2

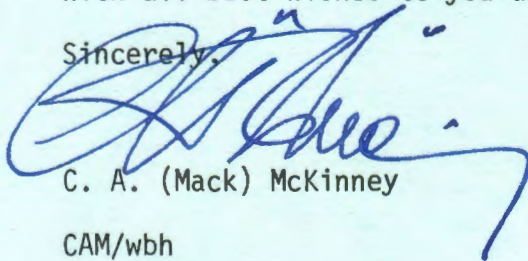
Each year NCOA recognizes a prominent legislator who, in the opinion of the Association, deserves special recognition. Past recipients—among others—are the Honorable Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, the Honorable John Tower of Texas, the Honorable Bob Dole of Kansas and the Honorable Bob Wilson, former Congressman from California. The 1981 award will be presented to Senator William Armstrong of Colorado.

NCOA will be most grateful if you will ensure that its name is added to the appropriate White House list, particularly the one that records the quasi-military and veterans' organizations vitally interested in and concerned for the Nation's defenses and veterans.

Please feel free to call upon the Association for its assistance. My staff and I stand ready to serve.

With all best wishes to you and the members of your staff, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. A. (Mack) McKinney", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

C. A. (Mack) McKinney

CAM/wbh



Non Commissioned Officers Association

of the United States of America

110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Suite 304, Box 43
Washington, D.C. 20002

C.A. "MACK" McKINNEY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

February 1, 1982

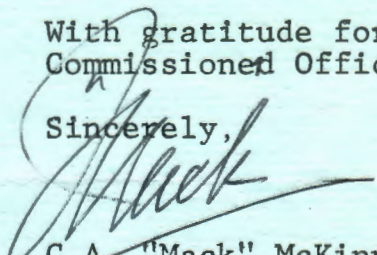
Mr. Morton Blackwell
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

Please be advised that the Association's president and chief executive officer, Normand M. Gonsauls, resigned January 14, 1982, for personal reasons. Replacing him until the convention in July 1982 is Robert J. Walker, formerly Executive Vice President.

With gratitude for your continued interest in the Non Commissioned Officers Association, I am,

Sincerely,


C.A. "Mack" McKinney

Chairman, International Board of Directors

November 23, 1982

Dear Fleet Master Chief Lister:

It was a privilege for me to sign the Proclamation making the fourth week in June of this year National NCO/Petty Officer Week. If ever a group has served our nation with courage and dedication, that group is the Noncommissioned Officers and Petty Officers of our Armed Forces.

However, even though their service has often been above and beyond the call of duty, their accomplishments have not always received the recognition they deserve. You and your organization are performing a valuable service in reminding us of those accomplishments. I commend you and all of our nation's Noncommissioned Officers and Petty Officers for your patriotism and dedication to duty.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

FMC Frank Lister, USN
President
NCO Association of USA
National Capital Office
219 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Enclosure: Proclamation of National NCO/Petty
Officer Week, 1982

cc: Morton Blackwell

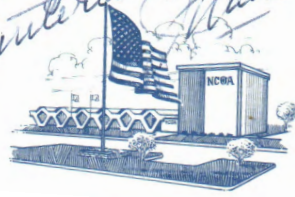
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C. A. "Mack" McKinney
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



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C
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A
SSOCIATION

219 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
(703) 549-0311



*Morton -
Thought you'd
be interested in
"Mack"*

THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"STRENGTH IN UNITY"



STATEMENT OF

C.A. "MACK" MCKINNEY
Sergeant Major USMC Ret.
Executive Director for Government Affairs

before the

COMMITTEE on VETERANS AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE
SECOND SESSION, 97th CONGRESS

on

Confirmation of the
Honorable Harry N. Walters
as Administrator of Veterans Affairs

NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE

219 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 * Tele: (703) 549-0311

~~NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D.C.~~

~~110 Maryland Ave., N.E. * Washington, D.C. 20002 * Tele: (202) 546-7891~~



MR. CHAIRMAN. I am delighted to have the opportunity to appear today before this distinguished committee concerning the confirmation of the Honorable Harry N. Walters as the next Administrator of Veterans Affairs. I represent the Non Commissioned Officers Association of the USA (NCOA) and its more than 200,000 members, all veterans of service in or with the Armed Forces of the United States. The Association is accredited by the Veterans Administration and takes great pride in its service to the Nation's veterans and their families and survivors.

NCOA representatives have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Walters since his appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. During his tenure as ASA (M&RA) Mr. Walters has demonstrated a keen insight into the needs of and quality-of-life improvements for our soldiers stationed around the world. He has done so in such a manner that anyone who associates with him knows that he is a man of integrity fully devoted to reaching the goals he believes are important to those to whom he has a responsibility for their well-being.

The quality the Association admires in Mr. Walters is his willingness to seek challenge and, once found, look it directly in the eye and meet it head on.

He has done so as an honorably-mentioned All-American football player at West Point, as a civilian, and as the Army's top civilian manpower chief. He again is displaying that will to meet challenge by seeking this appointment as head of the VA.

Frankly speaking, if Mr. Walters was your average citizen, he would be content to remain in his current position. However, he is not your usual political appointee. He sees an opportunity to meet the greatest challenge of his lifetime- and, in spite of the obstacles he knows are there, is willing to accept the responsibility of directing the third largest federally-funded agency in our government.

The Association respects such an individual who is ready, willing, and able to give up a relatively safe appointment to literally step into an open furnace. He'll be on stage every minute he sits in that chair. He will be on the receiving end of more heat than any political appointee other than perhaps cabinet-level officers. Not only will he be scrutinized by the press, but every move he makes will be monitored by this distinguished committee, Congress, the Administration, each and every veterans organization, and nearly 30 million veterans and their public supporters.

It's an awesome position and it will take a man of vision, leadership, many skills, and empathy toward the veteran to accomplish the task. Harry Walters possesses these qualities and my Association has complete faith in his ability to get the job done and done right.

As the ASA (M&RA) he worked diligently for the well-being of more than 775,000 soldiers and their families. They, too, are veterans in their own right with the majority eligible to receive or are receiving veterans' benefits. His outstanding performance in that position certainly qualifies him to administer to all our veterans, their families and survivors.

It is an honor and a privilege for me to extend to this distinguished committee my Association's full support of Mr. Walters as the next Administrator of Veterans Affairs.