



National Geospatial-Intelligence Alumni Association (NGAA)

NGAA Board of Directors and Chapter Officers Call With Admiral Sharp

April 28, 2020 – Minutes

At the request of the Dir/NGA, the NGAA Board of Directors (BoD) and NGAA-E and NGAA-W Chapter officers met with Admiral Sharp on 28 April at 0930 (eastern daylight time).

1. Admiral Sharp welcomed all the NGAA BoD and Chapter officers and was glad to have the opportunity to address everyone.
2. Joe Steel introduced all the NGAA BoD and Chapter Officers.
 - a. Joe gave a short description of NGAA make-up.
3. Admiral Sharp talked about the open letter his office sent to the NGA employees concerning Covid-19 response.
 - a. Protect and preserve employees and contractors: NGA Achieved 15% workforce being present at any one time after a week of challenges.
 - b. Continue mission outside NGA buildings when possible.
 - c. Massive SBU upgrade to potentially be able to handle tens of thousands of remote connections
 - d. Implemented nautical terminology as a more common language used from the front office
 - e. Implemented Covid-19 testing of employees looking for signs of infection (fever being the main indicator).
 - f. Post Covid-19 recovery planning activities initiated.

4. Joe Steel talked about several initiatives that are important to NGAA:
 - a. Competitive Scholarships that NGAA-East gives out to college students of NGA employees and NGAA members.
 - b. NGAA-E is now including international members.
 - c. NGAA-E efforts to establish an IAGS memorial.
 - d. The importance of the NGA historical program and museum offices.
 - e. NGAA-W involvement with mentoring and science projects in local schools.
 - f. NGAA would like to better participate with the retirement classes and presentations to inform upcoming retirees of NGAA.
5. Admiral Sharp has initiated weekly unclassified virtual meetings with the at-home employees and their families for the past 4 weeks. Over 7,000 remote connections have been made at one time. Adm Sharp also has smaller virtual meetings with select groups.
 - a. The Admiral said he would ensure NGAA is more informed of retirement planning presentations. He did mention retirement events are truncated at this time.
 - b. The Admiral is planning on having a group retirement ceremony for those that are retiring during the Covid-19 event.
 - c. The Admiral went over several senior retirements and personnel moves: Phil Chdoba will replace Jennifer Schnarre as Associate Director for Capabilities as Jennifer and Fred Schnarre retire; Brett Markham will replace Ed Mornston and Brett's position will be renamed as Chief of Staff; Sue Pohlman will take on the West Executive role and will continue with her NCW lead role; Ed Mornston will move on to the Army Futures Command; Gary Weir (NGA Historian) has retired, and his position will be filled in the future.

6. Jack Hild talked about the international members of NGAA and the get-togethers that have occurred already and the one that may or may not occur this year in Romania. A decision on the trip is to be made in June.
 - a. Jack talked about the IAGS memorial and 2021 being the 75th anniversary of IAGS, hoping to dedicate the memorial next year.
 - b. Adm Sharp did mention his recent international meetings that occurred prior to the Covid-19 lock down and trying to get Great Britain retired senior members to join NGAA international.
7. NGAA-East President Barry Tilton re-iterated the scholarship program acknowledging this year will be unique in awarding the scholarships.
8. NGAA-West John Doty acknowledged Adm Sharps understanding, support and advocacy of geomatics emphasis, especially in NGA StL.
9. Admiral Sharp reiterated his appreciation of geomatics and its importance, providing a couple of discussions he's had with his peers. He ended with comments about the family feeling he gets around NGA.
10. Meeting adjourned at 1012 eastern daylight time.

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Joseph Spytek
Secretary, NGAA BoD