**EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY**

**THE HONORABLE ERIC K. SHINSEKI**

**SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA COURTESY VISIT**

**SECRETARY'S SUITE 1000**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013**

**1 P.M.**

**POINT OF CONTACT**:

Mr. Kevin Secor, Veterans Service Organization Liaison, (202) 461-4835, cell (202) 379-8216.

**PURPOSE OF EVENT:**

 Decisional X Courtesy Visit Pre-Event

**ATTENDEES:**

Mr. Rodrigo Garcia, Chairman of the Board

Mr. Wayne Robinson, Executive Director

Mr. Brian Hawthorne, Board Member

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Student Veterans of America is a non-profit organization focused on addressing the needs and concerns of Veterans in higher education. They are best known for being an umbrella organization for student Veterans groups that advocated for improvements in Veterans Educational benefits. Their mission is to develop student Veteran groups on college and university campuses and coordinate by region between existing groups; connect student groups with resources; and advocate on behalf of student Veterans at the state and national level. They have two major components: the executive staff and student Veterans groups, and advocate on behalf of student Veterans at the local, state, and national level. The event is designed with “leadership development” as it principal goal.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:** SVA has no topics they will raise. This is primarily a courtesy call to introduce the new President and Executive Director, D. Wayne Robinson, CSM (ret),

**ATTACHMENT:**

Overall of meetings with USB Hickey, Dr. Sowers and Asst. Secretary Mooney

Talking Points

Bio Sketches

**Overall of meetings with USB Hickey, Dr. Sowers and**

**Asst. Secretary Mooney**

Wayne Robinson has meet with USB Hickey, Asst. Secretary Sowers, and Asst. Secretary Mooney, as well as Danny Pummel and MG (ret) Worley at VBA.

Conversations with Asst. Secretary Sowers and Asst. Secretary Mooney were mostly a meet and greet, though Asst. Secretary Sowers took the time to show SVA the Second Thing campaign footage. SVA is looking forward to hear more about it and will support as we can.

SVA conversation with USB Hickey and senior staff was much more substantive. They discussed the following:

* Graduation rate research - MG (ret) Worley indicated that the data should be coming shortly from VBA. SVA is looking forward to receiving so they can begin their analysis. SVA understands VBA will be conducting its own analysis, but SVA would like to begin comparing it to the National Student Clearinghouse data.
* Discussed the opportunities available to veterans not interested or able to pursue higher education, and agreed that technical training and apprenticeships should be a topic that SVA and VBA can collaborate on.
* SVA strongly believes that everyone is a lifetime student, whether enrolled or not, and are looking forward working with VBA on encouraging veterans to consistently seek opportunities to advance their minds and careers, especially in technical educations, community colleges, and apprenticeships.
* Discussed ways to encourage companies in offering internship opportunities to student veterans during and after their educational experiences, which they would like to work towards together in the future.

**Talking Points**

Meeting is meant to be an open dialog. Some topics of consideration:

* Congratulations on your new assignment
* Also want to congratulate SVA for being honored by Google with their Global Impact Award!
* Understand SVA has now 897 Chapters – Great accomplishment
* You have met with Asst. Secretary Sowers, Asst. Sec Mooney along with Under Secretary Hickey. Understand all went very well.
* Vet Success – Help us, where are the student populations
* We need to focus on graduation rates
* Ensure student Veterans are receiving the services and benefits they deserve
* Received your Invitation for you January conference. Been to all so far and I would like to continue to do so, but may be unable to. We are looking either the new Deputy or even Under Secretary Hickey
* We need to remain focused many good things VA is doing