**DEPARTMENT MEMO 2019-2020 #1**

**TO:** **Department of the Chesapeake Camp Commanders**

**DATE: May 12, 2019**

**FROM: Tim McCoy, Department Commander**

**SUBJECTS: 1) Inviting the Department Commander to Attend Camp Events**

**2) Information on 2019 SUVCW National Encampment**

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**Dear Camp Commanders,**

I look forward to the year ahead as the Department of the Chesapeake continues to set the pace for our Order in preserving the history and legacy of the heroes who saved the Union. In addition to Department Orders that I will issue, I would like to continue the immediate past Department Commander’s practice of using a “Department Memo” to address day-to-day matters that I want to communicate to you. Today I bring to you the following two items for your prompt attention:

**1) Inviting the Department Commander to Attend Camp Events**

An important responsibility of the Department Commander is to make himself available, to the extent possible, to attend and participate in those activities organized by Camps across the Department. I plan to continue this tradition but must recognize that the unprecedented nature of the Department Commander residing beyond the boundaries of our beloved Department will likely make it impossible for me to attend in-person most Camp events to which I have had the honor to be invited.

**(continued)**

Nevertheless, I request that Camp Commanders continue to forward such invitations directly to me, as was the practice with PDCs. I commit to treating each request promptly and to working to ensure that a Department Officer is present to represent me at Camp events and activities. Further, owing to the marvels of modern communications technology, it may be possible for me, and indeed I would welcome the opportunity, to join some Camp events virtually, through online no-cost tools such as Skype, WhatsApp and/or Facetime.

The most effective way to communicate such requests to me is via the email address shown

above on the letterhead. If you would prefer to speak with me by phone, please let me know by email and I will work with you to arrange a mutually convenient date and time to have a conversation. Note that I am currently four hours ahead of the US Eastern time zone.

**2) Information on the 2019 SUVCW National Encampment**

The Department of the Chesapeake has a proud tradition of making a strong showing at National Encampment. This year’s National Encampment takes place in Independence, Ohio (a suburb of Cleveland) on August 8-11. I encourage each of you to help us continue our tradition by making plans to attend, and to encourage your Camp Brothers to do the same.

It is reassuring to see the amount of preparation that has already been poured into the 2019 National Encampment by its Organizing Committee. A wide range of information on the National Encampment, including [registration forms](http://2019nationalencampment.org/encforms.htm) for the various Encampment events, details about [Civil War-related tours](http://2019nationalencampment.org/tours.htm), [hotel arrangements](http://2019nationalencampment.org/hotelinfo.htm), etc., is available on the [Encampment website](http://2019nationalencampment.org/). An interesting and very handsome [National Encampment newsletter](http://2019nationalencampment.org/newsletter.htm) was also produced last month by the Organizing Committee. The newsletter is also attached to this message as a PDF.

Please consult the highlighted links above and share their information with Camp Brothers. Note that **July 19 is the pre-registration deadline** for the SUVCW 2019 National Encampment.

If you have questions about any of the information I’ve shared in this memo, please feel free to let me know.

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