



# Ministry of Defence

Secretariat  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
Kingston Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
B75 7RL

E-mail: diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk  
www.gov.uk/DIO

24 June 2019

Ref: FOI/2019/05022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 25 April 2019 requesting the following information:

*1) I would like to see all correspondence, including email, between members of staff at Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and Liverpool John Moores University between 1st June 2018 and 31st August 2018 in regard to Operation Nightingale and Soldier On! and/or Soldier On, and a Workshop on Fieldwork as Therapy. 2) I would like to see all correspondence, including email, between [REDACTED] of DIO and/or Operation Nightingale and staff at The National Trust between 1st June 2018 and 31st August 2018 in regard to Operation Nightingale and Soldier On!, and/or Soldier On, and Workshop on Fieldwork as Therapy. 3) I would like to see all correspondence from DIO staff that mentions the charity Soldier on! and/or Soldier On between 01 January 2018 and April 2019. 3) I would like to see all references to Soldier On! and/or Soldier On from messages and postings on the OP Nightingale Facebook pages.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held.

Under section 16 FOIA (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to know that the Facebook pages are completely independent of the MOD, and the Department has no responsibility for those. This element of your request therefore falls outside the scope of the FOIA.

The information you have requested can be found at Annex A but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) FOIA and has been withheld or redacted.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 FOIA. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

DIO Secretariat

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 23 July 2018 10:23  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: 20180717-PRIVATE Workshop on Fieldwork as Therapy

Hello

VMT for site of this. An extraordinary thing.

is a leading exponent of having no medical/psychological support on site so this really is odd. Furthermore I would be astonished if did not ask Op Nightingale to be involved in any such dayschool given we were the first, have by far the largest numbers of people and ALWAYS have ppsc support and medical assessments throughout (oh and stat body and MOD partnerships, HLF etc etc)

'Soldier on – a very small charity which was about to cease – and  
You will be aware that Op N is linked in with many Universities too.

Don't know what to advise really. You are aware of my opinions on – of course NT is entitled to do whatever it wishes (I know they are having some Breaking Ground Heritage vets over to Avebury very soon). And (I have worked with many moons ago – I think on one of digs but can't quite remember) with whomsoever It would probably seem a bit strange however if wasn't to include us for the above reasons. Very happy! to speak with me of course!

You probably know that Defence Archaeology Group still exists and is liaising with the NT on projects? It would be odd (given their mixture of archaeologists, military and medics) if they too weren't included!

[REDACTED]

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 12:14  
**To:** DIO!  
**Subject:** 20180717-PRIVATE Workshop on Fieldwork as Therapy

Between you and me what do you think to the below? The hyperlink should work, if you press Ctrl and click.

heavily involved.

Not sure how I should respond so any advice welcome.

The National Trust, Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2NA,

Tel: 6

e-mail: 6

-----Original Message-----

From: 6

Sent: 16 July 2018 06:36

To:

Subject: Workshop on Fieldwork as Therapy

Good morning

I hope things are going well for you. Thanks for replying so quickly.

a day workshop to put-together the structure of national guidelines for fieldwork intended, at least in part, as therapy for participants with some physical or mental health-care need.

"Fieldwork as Therapy" is popular with archaeology clubs and businesses, conservation groups and others. Fieldwork opportunities for military veterans, in particular, has helped such organisations receive outside funding, for example from the HLF.

archaeological field skills. Among these are people with a range of special needs for whom fieldwork presents opportunities or challenges to which we have to adapt and for whom we provide support.

working with military veteran's charities and I've recently become aware of their concern that fieldwork and training is being offered by organisations - commercial archaeology units, local clubs and many others - without sufficient thought to the complex professional support many participants require and without the in-house skills to provide it.

I share these concerns and so I and

6 Soldier On

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, are organising a one-day workshop on 13 October to bring together professionals and other stakeholders to write the outline of a good-practice guide for field projects intended to provide traumatised veterans and others with therapeutic outdoor activities. The aim is to then circulate it for comment and refinement so it can be released at an international conference on Fieldwork as Therapy in October 2019.

We are limiting participation in the workshop to people with specific experience or expertise to share, and with a hard-headed attitude to achieving our goal of creating practical guidance to ensure that adequate support is designed into such projects from the beginning.



We expect to have expert participants from the key national and local bodies - NHS England, a range of CCGs; Historic England, English Heritage, the armed forces, the major medical charities, the national nursing bodies, the principle bodies providing for veterans psychological support and so on.

In particular we have the support of HLF who recognise the need and who want better means to identify the support required and better means of assessing the success of therapeutic outcomes claimed by projects they fund.

Given the important role and vast experience of NT in fieldwork projects I wonder if you might be able to nominate an appropriate staff member to take part. I very much hope they would find it worthwhile and a final document would certainly be more authoritative with NT involvement.

Best wishes,

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Liverpool John Moores University

\_\_\_\_\_  
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**From:**  
**Sent:** 23 July 2018 14:07  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Workshop on Fieldwork as Therapy

Sounds an interesting project. My first reaction is surprise to see no mention of Operation Nightingale? As you will be aware the MOD is heavily involved in this, and indeed during the project's gestation. I've copied in so you two can liaise over this as any guidance without their involvement would be diminished.

As for NT input most of work has been with Op Nightingale and the Defence Archaeology Group so a joint /NT presence would seem sensible.

For the 13<sup>th</sup> October I doubt I could make it as I have to be somewhere but I will ask some of the staff who have worked with the military whether they are available.

Best wishes.

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The National Trust, Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2NA,

Tel:  
e-mail:

-----Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** 16 July 2018 06:36  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Workshop on Fieldwork as Therapy

Good morning

I hope things are going well for you. Thanks for replying so quickly.

a day workshop to put-together the structure of national guidelines for fieldwork intended, at least in part, as therapy for participants with some physical or mental health-care need.

"Fieldwork as Therapy" is popular with archaeology clubs and businesses, conservation groups and others. Fieldwork opportunities for military veterans, in particular, has helped such organisations receive outside funding, for example from the HLF.

[REDACTED]

**From:**  
**Sent:** 24 July 2018 18:00  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Workshop on Fieldwork as Therapy

Further to my email yesterday [REDACTED] has kindly agreed to cover any NT input required for your workshop in October. [REDACTED] worked with the Defence Archaeology Group (DAG) and Operation Nightingale on a site on NT land in the Peak District so knows how it works.

I've copied [REDACTED] in so you can make contact. I've also copied [REDACTED] is aware of NT involvement.

Best wishes.

[REDACTED]

The National Trust, Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2NA,

Tel:  
e-mail:

-----Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** 16 July 2018 06:36  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Workshop on Fieldwork as Therapy

Good morning [REDACTED]

I hope things are going well for you. Thanks for replying so quickly.

[REDACTED] a day workshop to put-together the structure of national guidelines for fieldwork intended, at least in part, as therapy for participants with some physical or mental health-care need.

"Fieldwork as Therapy" is popular with archaeology clubs and businesses, conservation groups and others. Fieldwork opportunities for military veterans, in particular, has helped such organisations receive outside funding, for example from the HLF.

[REDACTED] archaeological field skills. Among these are people with a range of special needs for whom fieldwork presents opportunities or challenges to which we have to adapt and for whom we provide support.

[REDACTED] working with military veteran's charities and I've recently become aware of their concern that fieldwork and training is being offered by organisations - commercial archaeology units, local clubs and many others - without

[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

27 July 2018 10:04

**To:**

**Subject:**

RE: Workshop on Fieldwork as Therapy

Dear

I was very pleased that [REDACTED] copied me in to a reply to you.

[REDACTED]

As you probably know, we have been running Operation Nightingale since 2011 and we have run a huge number of sites, with hundreds of veterans and WIS benefitting. To this end we also have scrutinised results both from an archaeology and recovery perspective, with much data produced by partner organisations for the latter. We are also very much au fait with the efficacy of certain methodologies and support procedures which we apply in a bespoke fashion for all projects.

I thought you would like to hear that we have already established a working group of major stakeholders to produce the sort of output you seem to be aspiring to. This includes:

- CIFA
- HE
- NT
- BAJR
- CBA
- Several Universities
- MOD (and service branches)
- Leading commercial field companies
- Medical health practitioners (inc Mental health)
- Veteran charities involved in archaeology endeavours
- The leading providers of veteran archaeology recovery projects

In many cases this included the Chief Executive/MD of the above organisations or otherwise their archaeology lead. Rather than you try to duplicate what is already underway, with your LJMU hat on, would you like to join us on a meeting? I must emphasise that this offer is for you and LJMU only – I don't believe that 'Soldier On' would add anything we don't already have.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 14 January 2019 10:34  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: Workshop 'Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork'  
**Attachments:** Conference covering letter.doc; Agenda York.docx

Dear all,  
Please see the concerning email from HE below. You will note insinuations in the 'covering letter' document, and the fact that [redacted] has in fact sent out the incorrect agenda (an Op N one [redacted] as  
[redacted] 'Solider' on calling note. The fact that this is all something we are doing already, with all the major stakeholders at top level is greatly concerning. I do wonder if there is anything we can do  
Best

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2019 10:23  
**To:**  
**Subject:** FW: Workshop 'Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork'

Morning both.  
I imagine you are aware of this but just in case.....  
Atb.

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 13 January 2019 23:46  
**Subject:** Workshop 'Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork'

Dear Colleague,

Manchester Metropolitan University, Solider On!, Liverpool John Moores University, in association with the Heritage Lottery Fund, are organising a one-day workshop '*Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork*' on the 4th March 2019, to be held at Manchester Metropolitan University (Please see invite letter and agenda workshop details which are attached).

The aim is to pool expert knowledge and experience, to provide a starting point for the creation of a 'Good Practice Guide' for any organisation working within the heritage space to use to ensure projects protect vulnerable individuals' wellbeing, health, safety and welfare, whilst participating in heritage projects

This workshop is free of charge, and refreshments and lunch will be provided. Please could you respond to this invitation by email to \_\_\_\_\_ by Friday 1st Feb 201

**Solider On!**

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**Solider On!**

Reg Charity Number: 1136567



**Historic England**

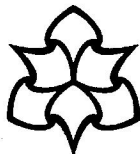
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**solder on!**



**Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University**



Dear Colleague,

Manchester Metropolitan University, Solider On!, Liverpool John Moores University, in association with the Heritage Lottery Fund, are organising a one-day workshop **'Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork'** on the **4th March 2019**, to be held at Manchester Metropolitan University (Please see agenda workshop details attached).

The aim is to pool expert knowledge and experience, to provide a starting point for the creation of a 'Good Practice Guide' for any organisation working within the heritage space to use to ensure projects protect vulnerable individuals' wellbeing, health, safety and welfare, whilst participating in heritage projects.

The reason we are doing this is as a result of conversations that have taken place at various heritage conferences where it has been made clear by some organisers of heritage activities, whose participants are vulnerable individuals, that they don't always have the knowledge or guidance required to meet the highest standards in 'Duty of care'. Further discussions led to us wondering, what could the consequences be, for example, where an unqualified person engages in medical interventions?

A 'Good Practice Guide' will help staff at all levels to understand the issues they need to be aware of, the dangers that might arise, and how best they can support their colleagues and participants during their activities.

In addition to discussing the practical application of safeguarding on-site, we will also examine how organisations can ensure data collection for impact assessments, or other forms of research, is conducted to the highest ethical and approved academic research standards.

Rather than approaching this solely from a 'heritage' perspective we are seeking to bring together a range of professionals from various fields including medical professionals and research specialists to engage in this workshop. Thi will help ensure that best practice in meeting the needs of participants and staff in heritage projects are met. Given your background and knowledge in this area, we hope this might be of interest to you and would like to enquire if you would be able to attend and engage in the discussions on the day?

This workshop is free of charge, and refreshments and lunch will be provided. Please could you respond to this invitation by email to \_\_\_\_\_ by Friday 1st Feb 2019

Kind regards

\_\_\_\_\_

Manchester Metropolitan University

Solider On!

Reg Charity Number: 1136567

## OPERATION NIGHTINGALE

An unique approach to Archaeology and well being

**MARNE AND BEYOND:****ACHIEVEMENT AND LEGACY**

A One-day Symposium at York St John University

April 16, 2016

**Draft Programme**

- 09.30 Registration and Refreshments
- 10.00 Welcome (Vice Chancellor or Dean)
- 10.30 Keynote (Big name - \_\_\_\_\_)
- 11.00 Operation Nightingale a Medical Research Overview - \_\_\_\_\_  
University of Chester
- 11.30 Nightingale at Marne: The project - \_\_\_\_\_
- 12.00 Achievement and Legacy: The Archaeology \_\_\_\_\_
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Achievement and Legacy: The Cultural Heritage - \_\_\_\_\_
- 14.00 Achievement and Legacy: The People - \_\_\_\_\_
- 14.30 Tea
- 15.00 Current and Future Projects: Waterloo \_\_\_\_\_ V Base  
\_\_\_\_\_ American Op N: \_\_\_\_\_
- 16.00 Plenary and discussion: Marne and Beyond: Where do we go from here?
- 4.30 Close



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2019 11:14  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Workshop 'Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork'

Yes – I think it only right that our group are aware that Soldier On are doing something similar.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2019 10:47  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Workshop 'Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork'

May I share the below with our steering group on Op N as it is something that they should be aware of

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 January 2019 23:46  
**Subject:** Workshop 'Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork'

Dear Colleague,

Manchester Metropolitan University, Solider On!, Liverpool John Moores University, in association with the Heritage Lottery Fund, are organising a one-day workshop '*Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork*' on the 4th March 2019, to be held at Manchester Metropolitan University (Please see invite letter and agenda workshop details which are attached).

The aim is to pool expert knowledge and experience, to provide a starting point for the creation of a 'Good Practice Guide' for any organisation working within the heritage space to use to ensure projects protect vulnerable individuals' wellbeing, health, safety and welfare, whilst participating in heritage projects

This workshop is free of charge, and refreshments and lunch will be provided. Please could you respond to this invitation by email to [REDACTED] by Friday 1st Feb 201

[REDACTED]  
Solider On!

Solider On!  
Reg Charity Number: 1136567



 Historic England

**From:**

**Sent:**

14 January 2019 11:38

**To:**

**Cc:**

**Subject:**

Re: Workshop 'Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork'

I think there are two aspects to consider here:

1. The use of the phrase Op Nightingale in the agenda title (unclear what logos will be put in the placeholders) and the participants (not clear if these people have agreed to speak or whether it is aspirational).
2. The premise of the meeting which seems to be to start a conversation on developing a best practice guide.

Covering point one you could approach the university organiser and point out MoD's ownership of the title Op Nightingale and that no permission has been given to use it for this event. However this is not the same as saying that reference to the history of this activity cannot be made and it would be wrong and counterproductive to try and [redacted] It would be useful to know if [redacted] is talking and if he is aware that [redacted] Likewise [redacted] - I would be surprised if he has agreed to talk after what went on. Not sure of [redacted] position.

On point two yes we have all agreed the production of a best practice guide is a good idea and we certainly have had HE and other significant parties in the room when we discussed this. However to date we have not actually produced anything for people to actually use. I understand completely that there are competing work pressures here and absolutely do not raise this as a criticism. Simply in the absence of a 'product' it is difficult to criticise if others seek to fill the gap (and I realise of course that [redacted] is simply talking about it at present and hasn't, as as I know, produced anything). Notwithstanding the lack of our product it may be worth drawing the university's organisers attention to the fact that we are at least somewhat down the road on this and that it would be unhelpful to have multiple guidelines.

On 14 Jan 2019, at 10:34,

[redacted] wrote:

Dear all,

Please see the concerning email from HE below. You will note insinuations in the 'covering letter' document, and the fact that [redacted] has in fact sent out the incorrect agenda (an Op N one - [redacted] as [redacted] 'Solider' on calling note. The fact that this is all something we are doing already, with all the major stakeholders at top level is greatly concerning. I do wonder if there is anything we can do

[REDACTED]

**From:**  
**Sent:** 14 January 2019 11:58  
**Subject:** Archaeology and Heritage with Veterans/WIS toolbox  
**Attachments:** Conference covering letter.doc; Agenda York.docx

Dear all,

I have seen the below and attached and wanted to highlight this to you AND your organisations given this is something we are already working on. I wish to highlight that this is NOTHING to do with Op Nightingale and I believe that the 'Agenda' from 'Solider' on must have been sent out in error – it appears to be a draft of something [REDACTED] that occurred in 2016.

I will leave it to your organisations to decide whether it is wasted capacity in trying to duplicate what we are already undertaking as a steering group  
All best wishes

[REDACTED]

**From:**  
**Sent:** 13 January 2019 23:46  
**Subject:** Workshop 'Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork'

Dear Colleague,

Manchester Metropolitan University, Solider On!, Liverpool John Moores University, in association with the Heritage Lottery Fund, are organising a one-day workshop '**Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork**' on the 4th March 2019, to be held at Manchester Metropolitan University (Please see invite letter and agenda workshop details which are attached).

The aim is to pool expert knowledge and experience, to provide a starting point for the creation of a 'Good Practice Guide' for any organisation working within the heritage space to use to ensure projects protect vulnerable individuals' wellbeing, health, safety and welfare, whilst participating in heritage projects

This workshop is free of charge, and refreshments and lunch will be provided. Please could you respond to this invitation by email to [REDACTED] by Friday 1st Feb 201

Solider On!

Solider On!  
Reg Charity Number: 1136567

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**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** 14 January 2019 17:00  
**To:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject:** RE: Workshop Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork

Hi!  
Given our past history with \_\_\_\_\_ it would be utterly impossible for  
Long story, best over a pint!  
Best

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**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** 14 January 2019 15:57  
**To:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject:** FW: Workshop Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork

**WARNING:** An attachment to this email may contain a potentially harmful file. If this email is unsolicited **DO NOT** open the attachment and advise your local help desk immediately. If you requested the attachment ensure that a virus scan is carried out before the file is opened.

Here's the revised programme. What do you think? I don't want this to feel adversarial so maybe you could attend? I'm not really clear myself

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**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** 14 January 2019 11:33  
**To:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** Workshop Therapy and Wellbeing through Heritage Fieldwork

I wish to apology for our earlier email as I have attached the incorrect agenda so please disregard previous email.

Please see correct one attached

--  
**Solider On!**

**Solider On!**  
Reg Charity Number: 1136567

**From:**  
**Sent:** 17 April 2019 20:16  
**To:**  
**Subject:** FW: Catching Up

Hi,  
Appreciate a steer on this!

Context – a posting on the Op N Facebook page about an interview on BFBS with Soldier On (don't know who was speaking – haven't seen it) with a question asking on our FB page as to whether Op N was linked. I replied on the FB page that OpN had nothing to do with Soldier On but it was All fine. A couple of making the odd negative comment without naming anyone but fine.

The below then from [REDACTED]

I am happyish to speak with [REDACTED] However, were I to do so, I would have to make it clear that I personally would not be content for OpN to ever be associated with Soldier On as long as [REDACTED]

I fear that a call may go down fairly negative routes with allegations/counter-allegations which helps nobody. It is probably best that all three groups just continue to do their own things. Perhaps I email to that end? Any thoughts?

Clearly, [REDACTED] does not know the half of it, nor I would imagine does [REDACTED]

I will wait to discuss before responding. Have a good Easter!  
Cheers

**From:**  
**Sent:** 17 April 2019 14:46  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Re: Catching Up

Hi!  
Thank you for kind email.

happy to chat whenever suits you.

On Wed, 17 Apr 2019, 13:15t

wrote:

Hi

I hope all is well. I've just been flicking through facebook and seen some Nightingale chat about Soldier on and BFBS. Really glad to see its a lot politer these days, but obviously some folk still a little upset.

Anyway, looking to the futures and making the most of an oppportunity, I wondered if I could introduce you to \_\_\_\_\_ and would is interested to hear your story and put the whole ugly Nightingale argument behind us. We are after all on the same team when it ones to supporting veterans, so any in-fighting can't really be useful to us, or the veterans we support. If it is fighting that got a lot of them into the mess they are in in the first place, it is probably best they don't get dragged into another fight if we really want to help them. Something really worth thinking about, and the harm this whole thing could actually be doing people.

I am sure it can only be for the

Very best wishes,