



## National Geospatial-Intelligence Alumni Association

**SUBJECT: NGAA Policy Memorandum #5 – Oral History Program**

**DATE: December 1, 2015**

**TO: NGAA Membership**

1. **Background.** The NGAA Oral History Program had its genesis beginning early in the century when the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency initiated a formal oral history program. Shortly thereafter, an NGA contractor trained alumni on how to conduct oral interviews and the association provided the unclassified interviews to NGA for use as appropriate. The Alumni oral history program then underwent a few years of inactivity but was reenergized in 2015. Key elements of the rekindled program include (1) agreement that to the maximum extent possible NGAA will provide individual oral histories as requested by the NGA History Office, (2) interviews will include signing a Volunteer Agreement (Enclosure 1) that has been approved by the NGA Office of General Counsel and (3) a cadre of NGAA members will be trained in the techniques of conducting an oral history.

2. **Policy.** It is NGAA policy to capture for posterity the experiences of selected NGAA members who worked for NGA or one of its predecessor organizations. If deemed desirable and appropriate, interviews of non-NGAA members may be conducted.

3. **Procedures:**

a. The NGAA Board and its Chapters will take appropriate steps to ensure a cadre of members is trained in oral history techniques.

b. Volunteer oral historians will be provided recording equipment that is either on loan to NGAA from NGA or owned by NGAA.

c. The NGAA East and West chapters on January 30<sup>th</sup> of each year will submit a current copy of their membership roster to the NGA Historian.

d. The NGA Historian and his/her staff will select from the lists people for whom they would like to have an oral history conducted for their records.

e. The NGAA East and West Chapters will (1) coordinate with each other to decide which chapter will conduct each interview and (2) will coordinate within their own chapter interviewers to assign interviews.

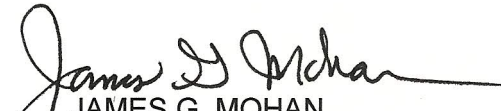
f. The trained volunteers contact the selected persons and conduct the interviews and complete the form at Enclosure 1.

g. NGAA options are to post the interview on its website and/or to transcribe the interview for use in print formats. In either case, a copy of all interviews is provided to the NGA History Office as well as to the interviewee. In addition, NGAA will obtain from the History Office copies of all NGAA oral interviews transcribed by that office.

4. Questions regarding this memorandum and/or suggested changes should be referred to the NGAA Chairperson of the Board.

5. This policy is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or modified.

FOR NGAA

  
JAMES G. MOHAN  
Chairperson of the Board

1 Enclosure: Volunteer Agreement

Copy Provided:  
Vanessa Segars (NGA Office of Corporate Communications)

