Perch Base, United States Submariners

Flash Traffic

Number: **#6-4-2020**
Date: **6/12/2020**
Subject: **Bogus Email Scam Warning**

Important message from Western District 1 Commander Vic VanHorn:

PLEASE READ THE BELOW EMAIL FROM NATIONAL CDR.   There is a bogus email going around to send money for veterans. Do not send money to any base or person mentioned in the email. Your cooperation is appreciated.

THIS IS A PHISHING SCAM!
DO NOT REPLY, DO NOT FORWARD - REPORT EMAIL AS SPAM TO YOUR EMAIL PROVIDER AND DELETE IT!

Message from the National Commander:

Shipmates,

Over the last couple of days, a large number of our Members have received Emails supposedly signed by myself, Ken Earls and several other USSVI members, asking for Gift Cards to be sent to Veterans. I immediately received replies from a couple of the recipients telling me I need to improve the security for my computer's email address Book. I am confident in saying it was not my address book that was hacked, because over twenty of the people that received this message are not in my address book and I have never communicated with them by Email at any time in the past.

One of the primary reasons bogus messages of this type are so successful is the failure by some of our members to adhere to an amazingly simple request which is, **"if you are sending out a message to a large number of recipients, do not include the email addresses in the "To or Cc" line of the message.**

For security and privacy reasons, any standard of judgement now being used with digital communications dictates that we use the Blind Carbon Copy (BCC) feature when sending an email message to a large number of people. When you place email addresses in the BCC field of a message, those addresses are

INVISIBLE to anyone that gains access to that message including the hackers and spammers.

Conversely, any email addresses that you place in the "To or Cc" field are VISIBLE to anyone that gains access to that message. The jerks that are using virus and spam promoting programs are now able to sift through poorly configured emails and become privy to a large number of recipients and assume that a good number of them are acquainted with each other. They then use this information to generate a message to these same recipients with a fairly good probability that some of them will just blindly respond to or comply with whatever is asked, because they recognize the signature.

Folks, using the BCC field is not brain surgery and acts as an anti-spam precaution. It greatly reduces the likelihood that the improperly listed recipients will receive a spam message or a virus from another recipient's infected computer.

The USSVI and Charitable Foundation Board Members do not and will not generate and send emails to individual members asking for donations. These type requests will only be sent as a National Bulletin or relayed down through the chain of command, both of which are easily verifiable.

I am asking one more time, DO NOT LIST MULTIPLE RECIPIENTS IN THE "To OR Cc" LINE. If you do, do not include me as a recipient.

Regards,
Wayne Standerfer
USSVI National Commander