

# VVA Investigative Report: An Investigation Into Foreign Entities Who Are Targeting Troops and Veterans Online | Vietnam Veterans of America

By Kristofer Goldsmith

September 30, 2019

Vietnam Veterans of America's (VVA) two- year investigation, beginning in August 2017, has documented persistent, pervasive, and coordinated online targeting of American servicemembers, veterans, and their families by foreign entities who seek to disrupt American democracy. American veterans and the social-media followers of several congressionally chartered veterans service organizations were specifically targeted by the Russian Internet Research Agency with at least 113 ads during and after the 2016 election. However, this represents but a tiny fraction of the Russian activity that targeted this community with divisive propaganda: The organic politically divisive content (organic meaning not having to do with ads, rather unpaid posts and comments) created by Russians have a far greater reach than the known paid ads; for even though many of the original sources have been removed from social-media platforms, their posts and comments continue to be propagated and disseminated by foreign administrators (aka admins, who maintain and manage online sites) to spread hateful and politically divisive messages.

[...]

Source: [VVA Investigative Report | Vietnam Veterans of America](#)