



RYAN J. MCCOMBIE '70

Biographical Sketch

Ryan J. McCombie is a retired United States Navy Captain (SEAL) with over 26 years of service.

Beginning his career with a SEAL tour in Vietnam, he has trained and served with commandos from all over the world. He was the first to serve two years with the elite French Commando Hubert. He also served as the Operations Officer of the highly regarded Red Cell Team.

Captain McCombie was selected to be the first United States Military Attaché to our nation's embassy in Brazzaville, Congo. Following that assignment, he commanded SEAL Team Two from 1985 to 1987. Mr. McCombie then served in high level positions at the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, DC and finally, as the senior Navy representative and faculty member at the Army War College, Carlisle.

Mr. McCombie has consulted with international American, French, Belgium and Canadian companies around the world. He is now an independent business consultant and serves on the Board of Advisors/Directors of several national firms.

Ryan is a member of the National Eagle Scout Association, a graduate of Penn State University '70 and the National War College '86. He is on the BoD of the Centre County United Way; the Board of Advisors for Outreach Development; and, chairs the military scholarship committee of the world campus at Penn State. He is a member of the Penn State Mount Nittany Society and a lifetime member of the PSU Alumni Association. Two of Ryan's children graduated from Penn State.

Position Statement

After serving our country as a Navy SEAL for 26 years, I retired from the military to return to State College. Five years later, the dreadful events of 9/11 occurred. In the days after, I was frustrated that I was no longer in a position to assist in healing this great nation.

Recently our alma mater experienced unprecedented turmoil. I am now in a position to assist in healing this great institution and hope to do so as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Penn State is one of the greatest teaching and research institutions in the world. This noble institution remains strong. Our alumni continue to prove their loyalty; our students continue to excel; and our children still dream of becoming Nittany Lions. Nevertheless, change is necessary to earn the trust of all constituencies. The true mission, vision, and values of our students and alumni must be articulated through the actions of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees must lead with integrity and by example.

As a Penn Stater, I can no longer stand on the sidelines. I have unique experiences in contingency planning and crisis management. I have spent decades in some of the most demanding leadership positions anywhere. I believe my experience makes me well qualified to serve on the Board of Trustees. Permit me to play an active role during this difficult time and assist our University to continue to epitomize "success with honor."