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THE

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2019

OFFICER REVIEW®





OUR SECOND 100 YEARS BEGINS NOW!

Dear Companions of the Military Order,

Welcome to the second hundred years of the Military Order of the World Wars. During our first century, MOWW weathered the difficult times shortly after it was founded in 1919. The Order's Companion volunteers also faced challenges but still continued serving others during the Great Depression, and post World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Today, we are still a haven for officers who participated in the Cold War and the Global War on Terrorism and still want to serve, who still want to band together as an officer corps and selflessly serve the people and communities near their chapters.

As Companions we share two things. First, we share a responsibility for enhancing our Order by robust and widespread volunteerism in such areas as leadership, recruiting, outreach and recognition. In particular, we should especially treasure our new Companions because they bring energy, innovative ideas and a desire to make a difference now. So, as we start our second century, here are the vital things we must do as a team by 30 June 2019:

- Increase membership so we end up with more members in June 2019 than we had in June 2018. Potential members are all around us, e.g., neighbors, those in patriotic organizations. Each of us should strive mightily to recruit at least one qualified candidate.
- Implement a Chapter Activity Plan (CAP) and achieve its goals. If you aren't part of that chapter effort, volunteer.
- Support the CINC's Solicitation. These donations support outreach and recognition programs for those areas of the US that don't have a MOWW presence—a large geographic area.
- Finally, attend the 2019 MOWW Convention in Semi Valley, CA!

In closing, as we start our second 100 years, let's all do our part to let folks know who we are, ask them to join us and get them involved in their chapter!

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ON THE COVER

The 369th Infantry Regiment, formerly known as the 15th NY National Guard Regiment and commonly referred to as the “Harlem Hellfighters,” was an infantry regiment during World War I and World War II. With the 370th Infantry Regiment, it was known for being one of the first African-American regiments to serve with the AEF during WW I. Before it was formed, African-Americans wanting to fight in WW I had to enlist in the French or Canadian armies. The regiment was nicknamed the “Black Rattlers.” The nickname “Men of Bronze” was given to the regiment by the French and “Hellfighters” was given to them by the Germans. During WWI, the highly-decorated 369th spent 191 days in front-line trenches, more than any other American unit. They also suffered the most losses of any American regiment with 1,500 casualties. Signal Corps photo collection. Colorization by Diana Beruff.



GENERAL PERSHING'S ALLIED CHALLENGES

BG RAYMOND E. BELL, JR., PHD, USA (RET)
 BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (AT-LARGE), MOWW

General of the Armies John J. Pershing experienced a myriad of challenges throughout his military career. From trying to be on time for formations as a West Point cadet, to being senior cadet captain of the United States Military Academy Corps of Cadets, to whipping student cadets at the University of Nebraska into shape, to trying to embark horses of the 10th Cavalry at Chickamauga Park on the railroad to ship them to Cuba, to confronting Moros in the Philippine Islands and to chasing Pancho Villa in Mexico in 1916, he persevered and flourished, if not always completely. However, his most severe challenge came in 1917 when he was named the Commander, American Expeditionary Force (AEF), in France and took responsibility for the lives of more than three million American soldiers.

Subsumed in that overall challenge were three especially difficult challenges involving US Allies which, after the war, Pershing could not say he

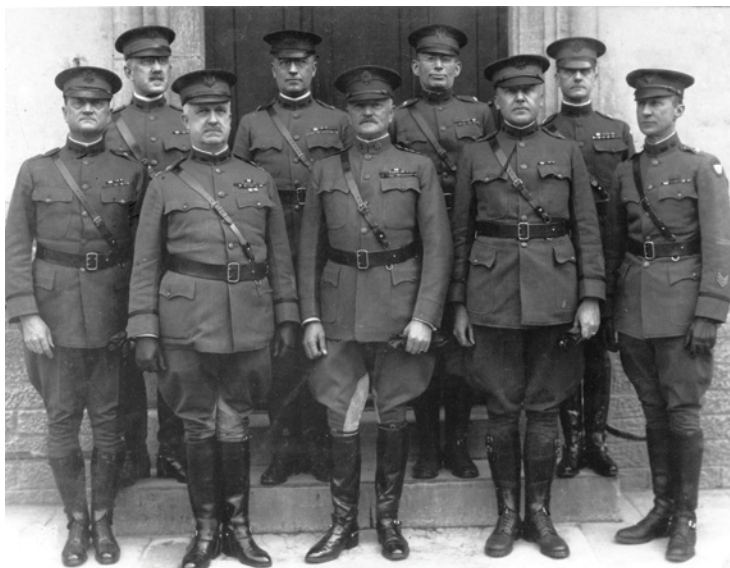
had fully overcome. One was obtaining sufficient shipping from the British to transport AEF troops to Europe. A second was to keep the American allies, France and Great Britain, from plundering AEF manpower to integrate it into their formations when US military personnel arrived overseas. The third was to deploy and fight as completely organized divisions in a singular American army within the overall Allied war effort. Within the context of those three challenges, we will examine how Pershing dealt with these specific inter-allied challenges.

Shaping the American Expeditionary Force

The shipping challenge began to present itself after Pershing had analyzed the situation in France and determined the composition and size of the American force he would be able to deploy. First he had to estimate how the AEF would look. He signaled that to accomplish his mission he would organize the soldiers into “the smallest unit which

in modern war will be a complete, well-balanced fighting force,” i.e., a standard army division. That accomplished, he projected twenty divisions plus support troops amounting to 1,372,339 men would be required. However, seeing the devastating losses in manpower the British and French were experiencing in 1917 and the years immediately before, he revised the number upwards to 30 divisions with support elements composed of more than three million soldiers. As the war progressed, he raised the number of projected divisions needed to make a significant contribution to the war effort to 100 divisions but in the end, only 80 could rationally be organized.

Within what combat-sized organization, then, could the mass of newly conscripted men with no military experience be molded? German, French and British divisions were manned at about 13,000 men each. However, Pershing decided that an American division would be about



When General John J. Pershing took command of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in June 1917, his entire combat force consisted of a small headquarters and a division of infantry troops, with no staff organization and certainly no intelligence assets. Seventeen months later, the AEF had grown into a force of twenty-nine combat divisions. Pershing's staff section included a full-fledged theater intelligence center that was engaged in a wider range of intelligence activities than anywhere else in the United States military.

twice the size of those of the other combatants. That would mean a self-sustaining unit of about 27,000 men and a thousand officers to meet Pershing's well-balanced formation requirement. The division's design, however, was prompted by French and British models which emphasized trench, or relatively static, not offensive combat operations. The American division, in a "trench" warfare mode with two infantry brigades and supporting artillery, engineer and supporting troops was tactically structured as a "square" division vs. the Allies' "triangular" divisions. This placed half the division in the front lines in trenches while the other half was kept in reserve behind the front.

To effectively equip, train, transport and fight using this organizational design, Pershing required an all-encompassing general staff. Taking French and British staffing experience into account, he established five general staff sections, each headed by an assistant chief of staff coordinated by an overall chief of staff. Administration would be accomplished by the G-1 Section, intelligence by the G-2 Section, operations by the G-3 Section, logistics by the G-4 Section and training by the G-5 Section. In addition, there were special staff sections such as the Judge Advocate General and Inspector General. All general staff sections reported to Pershing through the chief of staff while the special staff sections generally reported directly to Pershing.

Transporting American Troops to France

Once the division organization was determined and the staff system established, critical challenges began to surface, albeit slowly. He had to get American troops to France. While at first the flow of American troops to France was relatively slow and did not put too much strain on the shipping available, the year 1918 brought forth a major crisis which resulted from German counter offensives which had to be addressed. In March 1918 German success lent the impetus to efforts to greatly

increase the number of American troops shipped. Up to May 1918, about 100,000 soldiers had been shipped in the previous nine months. In May alone 245,945 men arrived in France. In June, as German successes increased, even that number of men arriving in country was exceeded.

The hitch, however, was the availability of shipping, which came at a cost to Pershing's desire to form an American army from the AEF. The United States' ship-building program was slow to gain impetus such that there would never be enough American-flagged ships to transport all of the troops required. Consequently, Pershing was forced to rely on Great Britain to provide the shortfall. Ultimately, British shipping carried just a little more than half of the total number of American soldiers to France.

Avoiding the Plunder of American Forces

Unfortunately, Great Britain desired something substantial in return for the shipping. They didn't want large, American fighting formations. Instead they wanted cannon fodder for their depleted infantry units. By 1918 both the French and British, being desperate for individual riflemen and machine gunners, wanted single American soldiers in their units to replace their combat losses.

Pershing was dead set against such an arrangement, but he had to compromise. As the German multiple offense crises accelerated, he allowed that if the British provided the ships, some 120,000 American



U.S. soldiers preparing for embarkation



soldiers would be permitted to train behind British lines—but not as complete divisions with their artillery and support troops. If absolutely necessary, these men would be placed in the trenches alongside their British compatriots. The British desperately wanted the men, be they trained or not.



The 369th Infantry Regiment, formerly known as the 15th New York National Guard Regiment and commonly referred to as the Harlem Hellfighters, was an infantry regiment of the New York Army National Guard during World War I and World War II. The Harlem Hellfighters spent more time in combat during WW I than any other American unit. Despite their courage, sacrifice and dedication to their country, they returned home to face racism and segregation from their fellow countrymen.

apparent: the Allies became concerned about the effectiveness of Pershing's and his staff's combat employment of American soldiers. This resulted from the adverse perceptions of the British and French military authorities that the American staffs were incapable of directing and fighting

large-scale combat operations.

In the late spring of 1918, Pershing was trying to organize his First United States Army. He did not want to be diverted from his goal and have his troops dispersed either as individuals or in packets in other Allies' divisions. Although in the summer of 1918 Pershing got his army, the 27th and 30th American Divisions were in the front lines with the British Army and remained there until the end of the war. A similar situation arose with the French. The American 37th and 91st Divisions fought with the French in the last few days before the Armistice. In addition, the four African-American infantry regiments of the 93rd Division were dispersed within French divisions. These US regiments excelled in combat after being integrated as units into a color-blind French Army.

Forging a Deployed American Army

As the shipping challenge emerged and the integration of American cannon fodder arose, a more insidious challenge began to become

To an extent, the aforementioned desire for American cannon fodder in British and French divisions resulted from doubts that an inexperienced American army would be able to have a positive impact on defeating the Germans. It soon became evident that American soldiers in American divisions would be successful in combat. The initial show-down was the battle for the French town of Cantigny on 28 May 1918 when the 1st Division's 28th Infantry Regiment captured the town and held it against repeated and determined German counterattacks. Days later the 2nd and 3rd Divisions excelled in offensive combat at Belleau Wood and in the defense at Chateau-Thierry, respectively.



A US Marine is taught to shoot from the trenches by elite French Chasseurs. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.

The American performances, while not of enormous proportions, had great positive morale effect on the Allies, many of whom thought that American soldiers could not stand against veteran German troops.

In spite of the American division

success in May, Pershing had a difficult time keeping to his plan for forming an American army. Allied pressure became intense in July at the height of what turned out to be the last major German offensive. The turning point, as recognized by many critics of the Americans, came when the French XX Corps, heavily weighted with the 1st and 2nd American Divisions, attacked the so-called Marne Salient at Soissons from 15 to 17 July. This important American success was instrumental in forcing a general withdrawal by the stalled German army group consisting of their Seventh and Ninth Armies. Although unknown at the time, the German Army had “shot its bolt” and everywhere went on the defensive and its high command readied itself to sue for an armistice.

Still Pershing found himself in a bind. Instead of stuffing individual soldiers into Allied formations, he was parceling out American divisions to various French and British armies. In the summer of 1918 the Americans were arriving in France in large numbers thanks to increased American ship production and the release of British shipping to America’s use. However, the French—attempting to stall the organization of the First United States Army—were rebuffed by Pershing who demanded that American divisions be assembled in an American army to fight and reduce the St. Michel salient in eastern France.

A Price to Pay

The price Pershing had to pay for this commitment meant that once the salient had been flattened, the First Army would have to rapidly redeploy to the Meuse-Argonne battle sector. There the American army would join in a general offensive designed to throw the Germans out of France and Belgium. It was a price Pershing was ready to pay.

As his staff was preparing the difficult task of moving the huge number of troops, weapons, ammunition, equipment

and supplies in place for the Meuse-Argonne offensive, which required a ninety degree movement in a northerly direction, Marshal Foch, the combined Allied Armies commander, came to Pershing. He demanded a change in plans. The First United States Army was to be broken up and its divisions employed in the great offensive intermixed with French divisions. Pershing rejected this plan out of hand. Foch was forced to relent.

On 26 September the Americans went on the general offensive in the Argonne-Meuse River sector. In a three-phase operation, the First Army attacked the heavily fortified German defensive lines connecting the Argonne Forest on the west with the Meuse River on the east. The fighting was bitter and success slow, as all the while Pershing still had to confront challenges from the Allies. French Prime Minister Clemenceau, for example, wanted Pershing to be relieved because he felt Pershing was being too stubborn about executing his mission and would not bend to Clemenceau’s entreaties about the Americans not advancing quickly enough against the stiff and desperate German opposition. Pershing ignored Clemenceau’s protests as well.

Challenges Met

Pershing met numerous challenges in commanding the AEF. It seemed as though he had a new one every day. The shipping situation, the integration of individual American soldiers into Allied formations, and proof of American battle prowess at the high levels of command were arguably the most critical.

Undoubtedly, they played major roles in the participation of the AEF during the war. Without adequate shipping the Americans would never have gotten into combat. The American people would not have stood for individual American soldiers fighting singularly in French or British trenches. Finally, the failure to deploy American soldiers as an American army would also not have been acceptable. Undoubtedly, Pershing’s ability to address his challenges while winning him much respect, if not congeniality, was instrumental in achieving the Allied victory. ★



American soldiers march in a World War I victory parade in New York, 18 February 1919. Photo Credit: NARA



AIR FORCE MEETS NAVY

IPCINC COL DAVID B. GIBSON, USAF (RET)
PUGET SOUND CHAPTER, WA

How does a lowly Air Force captain flying an F-111 “Aardvark” that takes off and lands on two miles of concrete wind up landing on a postage stamp of a runway called an aircraft carrier? Nobody in their right mind would accept a “career broadening” assignment with the Navy unless ... it looked exotic, exciting and extremely outrageous.

Then again, when you, your Weapons System Officer (WSO) and your Mach 2 jet fighter are sitting nuclear alert in England, and an official message arrives from the Air Staff asking if you want an exchange assignment with the US Navy flying the A-6E Intruder at Whidbey Island, WA, with “possible” six month cruise aboard an aircraft carrier, what can you say but, “Heck yes!”

The US Navy flies their fighter and attack jets in mysterious ways. For example, they shoot airplanes off the pointy end of a ship—0 to 150 MPH in the length of two basketball courts. They also like to land aircraft using a tailhook that catches a steel wire and causes the A-6 to stop with a terrific jerk in about the same distance used on takeoff. The Navy has funny words for everything too, like “head,” “geedunk,” “knee-knocker,” “port,” “starboard,” “decks,” “compartments,” “passageways” and “ladders.”

Of course, a Navy cruise is not like the “Love Boat” you saw on TV back in the day. Instead, it includes 5,000 Navy sailors and two Air Force flyers (who were trying to find their way around a very confusing maze of passageways). Just to make things interesting, there were intervals of boredom punctuated with periods of stark terror. Don’t forget the port-calls to Subic Bay, Philippines, and other exotic locations—all too short.



VA 145 patch. Attack Squadron 145 (VA-145) was an aviation unit of the US Navy, nicknamed the “Rustlers” from 1951-1954, and the “Swordsmen” thereafter. The squadron was established as Reserve squadron VA-702 on 1 Dec 49, and called to active duty on 20 July 1950. It was redesignated VA-145 on 4 Feb 53, and disestablished on 1 Oct 93.

The right-seater in an A-6 squadron is called a “BN,” which stands for bombardier navigator—who performs duties similar Air Force WSOs. Capt Randy Thomas, the other Air Force guy in the VA-145 Squadron, was a great WSO/BN who learned the nautical way of life quickly. I was not supposed to fly with him. It was deemed too dangerous to have two Air Force types man a Navy jet. However, one dark night during carrier qualifications and after a crew shuffle, we found ourselves flying together. We safely completed a couple of “controlled crashes” onto the deck of the USS Ranger and never said a word to anyone.

The “possible” six-month cruise turned into seven actual months, which flew by in a flash (it only seemed as though it was 12 months). To make sure the Air Force guys got the full Navy treatment, the Ranger managed to T-bone a super-tanker in the narrow Straits of Malacca on the way to the Indian Ocean. Needless to say, there was no Indian Ocean for the Ranger on that cruise—just a whole new bow fitted in Yokosuka, Japan.



USS Ranger (CV-61) departing San Diego, CA, in February 1987. Commissioned in 1957, she served in the Vietnam War, for which she earned 13 battle stars. Ranger was decommissioned in 1993 and scrapped in 2017. Credit: PH3 Wimmer, US Navy photo NH 97689-KN

I was proud that I survived a Navy cruise with 131 “traps” (carrier landings). However, after two and a half years, it was back to the Air Force, but with a great appreciation for the US Navy, their aviators, their jets, their camaraderie—and a very exciting way of life. Just one thing, though ... next time, give me 10,000 feet of runway! ★



JUST ANOTHER NIGHT AT THE OFFICE

LTC JOE E. HARRIS, JR., USA (RET)
CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER, AZ

I tried not to lick my sun-and windburn-cracked lips. My red face had a burning, tingling sensation. At least the sun was down, and darkness had set in. But the wind, it just would not let up. Suddenly, I heard someone shout, “Misfire!”

Running to the mortar pits, thoughts of the day raced through my mind. It had been a long day and there were more support missions ahead. Approaching the mortars, the base gun’s squad leader had already moved the crew away from the gun pit. Misfires can unexpectedly detonate, instantly killing everyone within its bursting radius. A misfire was serious.

Immediate action procedures are practiced regularly during “dry fire” exercises, but this shell was live.



A soldier adjusts the sight line on a M29, 81mm Mortar High-Angle Infantry Heavy Field Mortar. Photo Credit: NARA

After the mortar tube cooled, number two squad leader called the gunner back to the pit. It was now time to disconnect the barrel butt from its baseplate—a very simple slow twisting motion. However, with a white phosphorous projectile resting somewhere in the tube, the procedure was a dangerous one. Slowly lifting the barrel parallel to the ground, the pressure from the weight of the

round was removed from the firing pin. A flashlight revealed that it was resting at the barrel’s butt. It had struck the pin but failed to fire. It was presumed defective—a dud shell. Presumed...

Following protocol, we elevated the barrel so that the bottom or butt end was higher than the top or bore. The next step was tricky and nerve-racking. The projectile began to slide forward. As the gunner gently lifted the barrel’s butt, the squad leader secured the yoke of the bipod with his hands. I placed my hands over the barrel’s bore to stop the round from dropping to the ground. I heard steel on steel.

The shell was moving forward ... a good sign in a bad situation. When the round’s nose touched my fingers, I remember how eerie it was. The wind had stopped blowing.

Slowly, I brought the dud out of the barrel with one hand gripping the nose fuse and the other hand on the projectile’s body above its fins, cradling it in my arms. We could see that the firing pin had struck the primer cap, but it must have been defective causing the misfire. The ordinance was carried away and placed in the dud pit a safe distance away. SOP.

The danger of this unexplored mortar round was over. It was time to relax, but then, once again came the shout, “Fire Mission!” The command, which came from the fire direction center to initiate another mission for high-angle indirect fire, instantly put the crews on notice. There was no rest this night as the “office” was again open for business. ★



“THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE”

BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET)
CHIEF OF STAFF, MOWW & COO, MOWW, INC.

Thank You For Your Service

Medium, with feeling

“Thank you for your service,
Our veterans ev’rywhere.
You gave up home, and your way of life
For the country, because you cared.

Thank you for your service,
On land, at sea, in the sky,
Whatever duty called you to do
To keep Old Glory flying high.

You are America’s best,
You passed ev’ry difficult challenge
and test
With unselfish dedication
To our great nation.

For your real devotion
For ev’rything that you do:
Thank you for your service;
We are grateful for you.

Refrain:

Thank you for your service, veterans;
America is grateful for you.”

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CAPT Carl E. Bolte, Jr., USNR (Ret)



Sometimes one meets a remarkable person and knows it from the first moment. That’s the case with Companion CAPT Carl E. Bolte, Jr., USNR (Ret). A Companion in MOWW’s Kansas City Chapter, this Missouri native studied piano at four and was a contest-winning flutist and church organist in high school.

Carl fronted a popular swing band as a student at the University of Missouri where he earned two degrees. As a Surface Warfare Officer, he served aboard the USS Estes in the Korean and Vietnam theaters. With 31 years of service, Captain Bolte was the commanding officer of the Kansas City Naval Reserve.

A man for all seasons, he is a former bank director, chairman of Goodwill Industries and Salvation Army board member. In addition, he’s a songwriter, playwright, theatrical director and record producer. He was a faculty member of the University of Missouri at the Kansas City Conservatory of Music, he authored the textbook, “Successful Songwriting,” and he is the owner of Holly Productions. Oh yes, he has also donated 185 pints of blood.

If that’s not enough, Carl wrote five plays, 11 musicals and scores of hymns, pop, jazz, collegiate and theatrical songs. He composed the Kansas City Royals’ fight song (“A Royal Welcome”) and composed/produced Marilyn Maye’s original album, “Marilyn...the most.”

P.S. He has no spare time. ★

Thank You For Your Service

With gratitude
and pride

Words/Music by
Carl E. Bolte, Jr.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are as follows:

1. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, Our vet - er - ans ev' - ry - where. You
 2. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, land, at sea, in the sky. What-

gave up home, and your way of life For the count-ry, be-cause you cared.
 ev - er du - ty called you to do To keep

Old Glo-ry fly - ing high. You are A - mer - i - ca's best, You passed

ev' - ry dif - fi cult challenge and test With un - sel - fish ded - i ca - tion

To our great na - tion. For your real de - vo - tion For

ev' - ry thing that you do THANK YOU FOR YOUR SER - VICE;

We are grateful for you. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SER - VICE, vet - e - rans: A -

mer - i - ca is grate - ful for you.

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VENEZUELA'S DIRE STRAITS

COL JAMES T. ROBERTS, USA (RET)
BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (AT-LARGE), MOWW

Venezuela is in dire straits. It has gone from a prosperous, democratic state to a failed state under the dictatorship of Hugo Chavez (1999-2013) and his anointed successor, Nicholas Maduro (2014-present). Corrupt practices are the norm.

During Chavez's rule, the government moved to the Cuban model. As a result, the financial sector left the country, foreign enterprises were nationalized and international partnerships in oil production were brought under state control. The oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA), became the cash cow for all types of socialist programs and give-away schemes to foster the acceptance of the Bolivarian Revolution. Chavez, through partisan power, established control of elections to elect Chavez loyalists to the National Assembly, to appoint loyalists to the Supreme Court and to assume direct control of all appointments to police, National Guard and Armed Forces positions.

In 2013, Maduro "won" the presidential election by a 1.5% margin in an election process marked by irregularities. Since then, he consolidated his power by using security forces and loyalist militia groups to violently suppress freedom of speech and assembly, imprison opposition leaders and to impose Cuban-style population control via block monitors and intelligence surveillance.

Complicating this situation, Madura shunted aside the constitutionally-mandated National Assembly and created his own Constituent Assembly to represent the "people." In 2018, Maduro rigged the election process to allow him to serve a second six-year term as President. He was sworn in early January 2019 amid condemnation from the Organization of American States, the European Union and the Lima Group (14 Western hemispheric nations). Over 60 nations do not recognize his election.



Venezuela's 29 million citizens are faced with accepting Maduro as the continuing "dictator" or supporting the democratically-elected opponent, 35-year old Juan Guaido, the President of the National Assembly. Guaido, with National Assembly approval, assumed the position of interim president of Venezuela in January 2019 after Maduro's swearing-in.

To date, Maduro has maintained control of the security forces through political favors and appointments for officer corps loyalists. He has also redesigned the military command structure so that the roughly 1,000 officers are in virtual silos that can be monitored by loyalist minders and Cuban counterintelligence officers. Mid-level and junior officers are placed in non-military jobs to keep them busy solving daily crises.

The recent-aborted revolt by 27 soldiers who seized an armory and occupied a command post in Caracas and the senior to mid-grade officers who joined the opposition in exile or jail indicates there are cracks in the army's solidarity with the regime. However, police and National Guard units continue being loyal as their personnel are receiving food and sustainment items for their families.

Economically, Venezuela oil production is in crisis. Oil export receipts account for 98% of the national budget. In 2015, oil production was 2.37 million barrels. In 2017 it was only 1.9 million barrels and in December 2018 it was further reduced to 1.14 million barrels. RBC Capital Markets analysts predict a drop of another 300-500,000 barrels for 2019.

Faced with a 2018 International Monetary Fund estimate of monetary inflation of 1,370,000%, government oppression and starvation, more than three million Venezuelans have left their country. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

has identified significant Venezuelan populations in Columbia, Peru, Ecuador, Argentina, Chile, Panama, Brazil and the Caribbean countries. Their presence is stressing those countries budgets and services.

Since nationalization, foreign partners have left, thousands of trained workers have left, aging infrastructure has not been repaired or replaced, service companies and producers have not been paid, and professional managers have been jailed, fired or replaced by loyalist military officers. CITGO, the US affiliate of PdVSA, is in talks with the US Treasury to determine if Chapter 11 proceedings are necessary to avoid take-over by international creditors. The current head of PdVSA is an army general. PdVSA is saddled with \$25 billion in debt.

The government's health care system is broken. Eighty-eight percent of hospitals lack basic medicines and 79% lack basic surgical supplies. Fifty percent of surgical suites are not in use. Antibiotics, intravenous solutions and hospital food are items in critically short supply. In 2018, the Pan-American Health Organization estimated that 22,000 doctors (33% of doctors working in 2014) and over 3,000 nurses had left the country. Since 2011, infant mortality has increased by 79%. Previously eradicated or controlled infectious diseases such as diphtheria, measles and malaria have returned.

Human suffering is everywhere. Poverty has increased from 48.4% in 2014 to 87% in 2017. Basic consumer goods are non-existent. The nationalized food chain, run by the military, provides bare shelves. Food is distributed to those who have government-supplied ration cards issued to them for their loyalty to Maduro. According to a study by Caritas Venezuela, 15% of the children have moderate to severe malnutrition and 30%



Top: In 2018, Nicholas Maduro rigged the election process to allow him to serve a second six-year term as President. He is viewed as a dictator.

Below: European nations recognize Juan Guaido as Venezuela's leader, putting new pressure on Maduro to allow free elections.

show stunted growth.

Cuba, by far, is the puppet master in this drama. Over the last 19 years, it has provided large numbers of doctors, nurses, intelligence and counter-intelligence personnel and military advisors to the Chavez-Maduro regime. Cuba has been the architect of population control and the development of the present domestic intelligence-counterintelligence system. It is estimated that there are approximately 1,000 Cuban intelligence personnel supporting the regime.

Russia is the main arms supplier to Venezuela. It is also angling for military bases in Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba as part of its campaign to have a presence

in Latin America. Likewise, China is looking to expand its "Silk Road" port and road projects and increase its military equipment sales. Both have loaned Maduro many billions of dollars in trade for oil. Thus, they will continue to support Maduro.

It is up to the Venezuelans to make the decision as to the nature of their future. It may happen in the streets in the coming weeks. If not, other Latin American countries may make that decision for them. The US should stay in the background and provide the humanitarian support needed for those proud people. ★

DISCLAIMER: Opinions or points of view expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the Military Order of the World Wars.



PREPARE FOR THE 2019 MOWW CONVENTION!

BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET)
CHIEF OF STAFF, MOWW & COO, MOWW, INC.

At this point in the year, the chain of command should be rallying its chapters to attend the 2019 MOWW Convention in greater numbers and in helping them prepare their annual program and individual award submissions to achieve Strategic Goal 5 (also in greater numbers). Suspenses are the same as in prior years.

- **NATIONAL OFFICER REPORTS (DUE 1 JUN 19):** National officers must email their Word.doc reports (1-3 pages) to chiefstaff@moww.org by 1 Jun 19. National Officers include, *but are not limited to*, the CINC, CS, SVCINC, VCINCs, Region Commanders, the Chair of the MOWW Board of Trustees, the Treasurer General, the JAG, the Surgeon General, the Chaplain General, the Historian General, all Elected and Appointed General Staff Officers, and all chairs of standing and *ad hoc* national committees. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- **CHAPTER PROGRAM AWARD SUBMISSIONS (DUE 1 JUN 19):** Chapter commanders must email their Word.doc MOWW program award submission to the respective chairs of the national committees (see the MOWW National Directory for their contact information) by 1 Jun 19. Submission requirements are IAW the MOWW Policy Manual, as supplemented by the applicable national committee's guidance. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- **NATIONAL CITATION SUBMISSIONS (DUE 1 JUN 19):** Region, department and chapter commanders must submit the **online** MOWW Form 17, "National Citation, by 1 Jun 19. No other forms of submission will be accepted. The chain of command should coordinate internally to avoid duplicate submissions from different commanders. Submitting commanders will receive an approved National Citation, etc., for local presentation to the recipient. In addition, recipients will be listed in the MOWW Convention Book. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- **COMMITTEE PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENT LISTS (DUE 15 JUN 19):** Committees chairs must email the Word.doc list of the committee award selections to membership@moww.org by 15 June 2019. The selectees can either be in the body of the email or in a Word.doc attachment. Remember, award results are not releasable in whole or in part until the MOWW Awards Luncheon at the annual MOWW Convention, when the award recipients are announced. Late submissions will not be accepted.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THESE
IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES! ★



MOWW STRATEGIC PLAN

STRATEGIC GOAL (SG) 5. "PROMOTE COMPANION, CHAPTER AND COMMUNITY RECOGNITION."

- A. STRATEGY: DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE OF COMPANIONS AND MOWW CHAPTERS TO COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION BY RECOGNITION OF PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE IN PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO MOWW'S VISION AND THE TENETS OF MOWW'S PREAMBLE. .
- B. DESIRED OUTCOMES:
1. **AWARD 100 NATIONAL CITATIONS AT THE ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION.**
 2. ANNUALLY PRESENT THE FULL ALLOCATION OF SILVER PATRICK HENRY MEDALLIONS BY CHAPTERS, DEPARTMENT AND REGION COMMANDERS, AND NATIONAL OFFICERS.
 3. **INCREASE CHAPTER PARTICIPATION IN, AND SUBMISSIONS TO, THE MILITARY ORDER'S CHAPTER AWARD PROGRAM.**
 4. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BRONZE PATRICK HENRY MEDALLIONS PRESENTED BY CHAPTERS TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES



2019 MOWW Convention | REGISTRATION

Grand Vista Hotel; 999 Enchanted Way; Simi Valley, CA | Reservations: 805-583-4000 | \$103.04/day | **Group Code: 2229**

ATTENDEE RANK: _____ SERVICE: _____ FULL NAME: _____

Chapter Name: _____ Region: _____

Home Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Companion: Yes / No

Current Offices Held (highest first): _____

★ Need ADA-Compliant Room: YES / NO ★ Dietary Requirements: _____

ATTENDEE RANK: _____ SERVICE: _____ FULL NAME: _____

Chapter Name _____ Region _____

Home Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Companion: Yes / No

All Current Office(s) Held: _____

★ Need ADA-Compliant Room: YES / NO

COMPANION REGISTRATION: NLT 1 _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____

★ COMPANIONS: PRICE INCLUDES

- a. CINC Welcome Luncheon (6 Aug) _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
- b. MOWW Convention Registration Form _____
- Lasagna (V) _____

NON-COMPANION REGISTRATION:

★ NON-COMPANION REGISTRATION: NLT 1 _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____

a. CINC Welcome Luncheon (6 Aug) _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____

b. Awards Luncheon (6 Aug) _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____

- Entrées (with vegetable) _____
- Entrée-Code-Amount _____
- Lasagna (V) _____

c. CINC Banquet (11 Aug) _____ x \$95 = \$ _____

- Entrées (with vegetable) _____
- Entrée Code-Amount _____
- Special (V) _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

Tour 1: MOWW Golf Tourney | Tierra Rejada (6 Aug) # _____ x \$60 = \$ _____

Tour 2: Griffith Observatory & Hollywood Sign (6 Aug) # _____ x \$55 = \$ _____

Tour 3: Autry Museum of the American West | lunch included (6 Aug) # _____ x \$65 = \$ _____

Tour 4: The Getty Villa | lunch included (7 Aug) # _____ x \$55 = \$ _____

Tour 5: VFW Museum of Military History (7 Aug) # _____ x \$5 = \$ _____

Tour 6: Mission San Fernando Museum | lunch included (8 Aug) # _____ x \$60 = \$ _____

Tour 7: Reagan Presidential Library | no charge if attend CINC Banquet (8 Aug) # _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

Make registration checks payable to: "MOWW NC 19" (personal checks only). Mail check & registration form to Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret); 18404 San Jose St.; Northridge, CA 91326. Questions? Call 818-723-4014.

RALLY POINT: 2019 MOWW CONVENTION!
 Please go to www.moww.org and click on "Convention" in the upper navigation bar to see the 2019 MOWW "Centennial" Convention Agenda, the Convention Tour list and the Convention Registration Form.
 The Region XIV 2019 MOWW Convention Team lead by Lt Col Dave Worley (Commander, Region XIV) and comprised of several California chapters is working very hard to make our centennial convention celebrating 100 years of service to youth, veterans and communities across our nation an affair to remember.
 Please join with fellow Companions and register to attend so we can all be a part of the Order's proud history by our presence at this once-in-a-lifetime event.
 P.S. Don't forget to make your air travel arrangements soon to save money!





PHOENICIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS

BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET)
CHIEF OF STAFF, MOWW & COO, MOWW, INC.

2018 MOWW Phoenician Essay Question

Essay Question: The 15th Amendment to the Constitution states:

“Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

“Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Essayists must address both questions below:

- Describe your position on whether voter fraud is a problem in the US providing evidence to support your point of view.
- Discuss pros and/or cons of the necessity for Voter ID, including whether it specifically affects the disenfranchisement of anyone.”

Essayist Recognition

MOWW’s Phoenician Awards provide national recognition to three Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) students who are judged as the “The Military Order of the World Wars Outstanding Student of the Year.” Candidates are chosen from among students who were selected by their multi-day Youth Leadership Conference. The national recipients are determined by the outcome of the essay contest, including a review of comments by the Conference Director.

All award recipients receive their awards during local MOWW ceremonies attended by family, fellow students, friends and local media. In addition, MOWW features them in *The Officer Review*® magazine, and in its annual MOWW Convention Book.

Essayist Awards

MOWW presents the Phoenician Award Winner, and First Runner-Up and Second Runner-Up award recipients, with scholarships of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500, respectively, for the best essay on a specific national issue. Upon selection of the award recipients, they receive several awards:

- The winner receives a \$2,000 scholarship, a Phoenician Award Certificate, and a MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry Award.
- The First Runner-Up receives a \$1,000 scholarship, a Phoenician Award Certificate, and a MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry Award.
- The Second Runner-Up receives a \$500 scholarship, a Phoenician Award Certificate, and a MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry Award.



THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VOTER ID LAWS ON VOTER FRAUD

LOGAN WADE WILSON | WINNER, 2018 MOWW PHOENICIAN AWARD
SAN DIEGO YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE | SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

While the act of voter fraud is a threat to the American election system, the extent to which it has impacted elections has shown to be minimal. Voter ID laws have been put in place by 34 states as of 2018 to combat fraud (“Voter Identification Requirements”). Nonetheless, the state-regulated legislation requiring voters to present photo identification proves difficult to citizens who are unable to obtain a state-verified identification card.

There have been 992 individual cases of voter fraud ending in criminal convictions since 1979 (“Voter Fraud Map Page”). Most of these are in relation to state and local elections, shying away from national elections. When voter fraud does occur, it is almost always done by an individual and not by an organized group. A United States Department of Justice unit examined fraudulent reports from 2002-2004 and found that “0.00000013 percent of ballots cast were fraudulent” (“Debunking the Voter Fraud Myth”), an infinitesimal number in comparison to the number of citizens restricted by tight voter ID laws.

The legislation requiring photo identification seems to be the appropriate response to the issue of voter fraud, since an ID is required for most important transactions like cashing a check or applying for welfare or Medicaid. Despite the need for an ID, 11% of 987 people interviewed for the report, “Citizens Without Proof,” said they did not have access to a state- or federally-certified ID. In response to this, states requiring Voter IDs have put forth efforts to aid non-licensed citizens through their local state DMV. Yet in many cases, minority, senior, and disabled groups are much less likely to possess the credible proof of citizenship. Rethel Frank, an 84-year-old African-American woman, was denied a Wisconsin Voter ID because her Birth Certificate was filled out incorrectly, despite her attempts to correct it (“Why Millions of Americans Have No Government ID”). In North Dakota, voters are required to provide their current residential address on their ID, thereby prohibiting nearly 2,300 Native

Americans who are only able to provide a PO Box, since the US Postal Service doesn’t deliver to their residential community (“The Supreme Court Just Ensured That Thousands of Native Americans Won’t Be Able to Vote in November”). The state’s inability to provide citizens with a previous voting history with IDs reveals a defective system.

Since the inception of this country, it was always an American ideal for the power to stay within the people through voting. The 15th Amendment was passed to ensure that every citizen has the absolute right to practice autonomous expression. If the state governments fail to provide citizens clear access to election polls, such administrations prove a greater risk to elections than fraud has been shown to be. ★



BIOGRAPHY

Logan Wade Wilson currently attends Mar Vista High School in the graduating class of 2020. Throughout his academic career he has remained on the Principal’s Honor

Roll and finished his sophomore year with a 4.17 GPA. He is currently involved in his school’s Associated Student Body (ASB), NJROTC program, and Varsity Track and Cross Country teams, and is the captain for Track and the NJROTC’s 40-man team. Additionally, has volunteered with the following organizations: St. Paul’s Senior Services, Wreaths Across America, American Cancer Society, and South Bay Urgent Care. Moreover, he has had the privilege of traveling to Australia, Switzerland, Italy, Germany and Washington, DC. He was the recipient of awards such as: SDYLC Outstanding Leadership Award, Patrick Henry Award for Patriotic Achievement, and Cadet SN Senior Chief Petty Officer Pedro Gonzalez Memorial Award for Outstanding Leadership and Superb Physical Fitness. Logan aspires to attend either the Air Force Academy or the Naval Academy upon graduation, majoring in Aerospace Engineering or Pre-med.



ACT TO CHANGE; TRUST THE CHANGE

SARAH CATHERINE SPIVEY | FIRST RUNNER-UP, 2018 MOWW PHOENICIAN AWARD
TEXAS A&M YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE | TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY; COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Political efficacy is the belief that one's political activity matters and instills change in society. This concept is integral in engaging the electorate to use their voices through voting. People must trust that the voting process will result in an accurate representation of the majority. Fear of voter fraudulence undermines efficacy. Voter identification laws attempt to prevent such fraudulence, specifically in-person voter fraudulence wherein one casts an illegitimate vote by posing as another. However, such fraudulence is not persistent in the US and the consequences of such laws, exploiting minority populations, outweigh the positives— further guaranteeing election legitimacy.

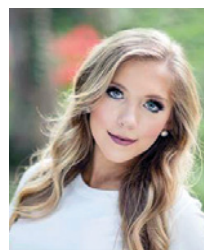
In-person voter fraudulence is not a significant issue in the US. Identification laws are enacted to prevent such fraudulence; however, this problem is very uncommon nationwide. According to "Election Fraud in America" on News21, only 1.6% of the 633 alleged in-person cases were actually impersonation. Only ten parties were found guilty, revealing that such laws provoke problems rather than provide prevention. These laws attempt to solve a non-existent problem, thus impeding eligible voters who do not have proper identification.

A positive effect of voter identification laws is the inherent check on the validity of election results. The US government relies on popular sovereignty, the consent of the people, to govern effectively. This value is exploited when the electorate largely feels undermined by injustices such as voter fraud. Citizens argue voter identification laws are necessary to "maintain integrity of the election process" (Childress). When people feel representatives are wrongly elected, trust in elections is lost, leading to a decline in participation. Further, the Heritage Foundation explains the "potential for abuse exists" in the absence of such laws, possibly confounding results of close elections. Despite statistics and data proving otherwise, many believe in-person voter fraudulence is a significant problem in the US.

However, consequences of voter identification laws, especially the exploitation of minorities, heavily outweigh the proponents. Some states ruled against identification laws due to minority oppression.

For example, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that voter identification laws upheld in Texas "effectively discriminated against African-American and Latino Texans," as argued by the NAACP (Crelin). People of color feel these laws pose an impediment, preventing eligible voters from exercising their rights. Further, a large discrepancy exists in the percentage of people who hold valid identification on the basis of race. The ACLU reports that of voter-eligible adults, "25 percent of African Americans" lack government-issued photo identification whereas only "8 percent of white Americans" experience the same predicament ("Oppose"). Thus, voter identification laws disproportionately prevent racial groups from voting and are consequently detrimental to justice in the US.

The negative effects of exploitation of minorities outweighs the positive effects of enhanced voter integrity, a concept further heightened by evidence supporting the conclusion that it is not a present problem in the US. Personal efficacy must continue to persuade voter participation. Future leaders of the US must act with integrity, fairness, and transparency to encourage the people's trust of the government instead of enacting repressive voter identification laws. ★



BIOGRAPHY

Sarah Catherine Spivey is a senior at Guyer High School who plans to study Chemistry and Business. She aspires to be a neurosurgeon and healthcare policy lobbyist, exercising her passions of helping others and lifelong learning. Her interests were sparked from her experience founding First Aid Strong, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to package and distribute first aid supplies to prevent disease and promote healing in community members. She is a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, Coca-Cola Scholar Semifinalist, All-American Cheerleader, and Texas Girls State Citizen. She has served her community as one of twelve National Charity League National Advisory Councilwomen representing 250,000, a Lieutenant Governor for the Texas-Oklahoma District of Key Club International, a Varsity Cheerleading Co-Captain, and the President of the DOCS Club.



VOTER IDENTIFICATION: PROS AND CONS

KENYA IMANI SMITH | SECOND RUNNER-UP, 2018 MOWW PHOENICIAN AWARD
TALLAHASSEE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE | FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY; TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

The United States is governed by a cornucopia of laws and customs made available to us in the United States Constitution. With its amendments, the Constitution is an ever-changing piece of legislation that seeks to improve upon itself and help make this nation stronger. One such Amendment touches on the voting rights of American citizens, the 15th Amendment. Voter identification is important and it helps to support this amendment. This paper will address the problem of voter fraud in America, as well as the pros and cons of the necessity for voter IDs.

As we delve into this topic, we should first examine if voter fraud is even a problem in the US. Research shows the answer to this is a resounding no. According to The Brennan Center for Justice, "examination after examination of voter fraud claims reveal fraud is very rare, voter impersonation is nearly non-existent, and much of the problems associated with alleged fraud relates to unintentional mistakes by voters or election administrators." Clearly, voter fraud is not terrorizing American towns and citizens. Therefore, there really is nothing policy-wise to stop.

There are many pros to voter identification, e.g., voter identification ensures that all who vote are legal voters. Voter identification also helps the government or supervisors of elections keep track of those who are able to participate. It can also help keep track of how many people in an area can vote or identify party membership. Although some of the information provided seems to be more for political strategists, it actually does provide local government with much-needed voter statistics. It is worth noting that citizens who are eligible to vote also have a right not to register or vote.

One con to voter identification is that it may hinder some elderly voters from fully participating in the voting process. Some elderly voters may not be able to access many of the documents necessary to be fully granted voter identification, not because of any fault or disobedience of their own. Many elderly people do not drive or have a reason to get current

photo identification. It can also be hard to register to vote in situations like this because these forms of identification are required. They cannot simply use paperwork that says they have been living in the state/county for over 50 years.

Fortunately, voter fraud is not a huge problem in the United States and America has been able to keep all of her people safe while recognizing their rights. Voter identification helps to ensure that the 15th Amendment is enforced in a standardized manner across America. I am thankful for and appreciative of these things, because soon I will be able to vote, and I know my rights are safe and my vote will be accounted for and heard by my American legislators. ★



BIOGRAPHY

Kenya Imani Smith is 17 years old and, she adds, is not yet eligible to vote. She was born in Columbia, SC, to a native Floridian mother who has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and a Georgian father who served in the

United States Army for 20 years. She is a senior at Newsome High School and the Battalion Commander of her school's Army JROTC program, the captain of the Girls' Varsity Basketball team, and the president of her school's math honor society, Mu Alpha Theta. She enjoys volunteering in her community. She participates in her local church as a member of the youth choir and she is the youngest member of the church announcements ministry. Her favorite subject is biology, and she hopes to study Biochemistry as she continues to college and pursues a medical degree.



SELF-RELIANCE, PROGRESS & HAPPINESS

BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET)
CHIEF OF STAFF & COO, MOWW, INC.®

In writing extensively on self-reliance, Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be.” That is no less true for organizations, e.g., what MOWW regions and chapters achieve in the areas of recruiting, involvement and retention is what they decide to achieve.

Recruiting is an operational activity assigned nationally to the chain of command and locally to its chapters. Successful recruiting comes from chain of command guidance, training, and mentoring, and chapter planning and execution—with, as CINC LTC Hollywood requests, consistent and timely follow-up and follow-through by both. It also comes from local chapter recruiters persuasively describing how the chapter serves their local community via outreach for two reasons. First, to inspire candidates to join. Second, to retain them by ensuring they are involved in their chapter by electing or selecting them to fill roles responding to chapter needs that also fulfill them as individuals.

The Order’s top three “recruiter chapters” for the period 1 July–31 December 2018 follow.

- Puget Sound Chapter: 11 new members. This chapter has a long- and well-developed, locally-focused recruiting capability based on what chapter member IPCINC Col Gibson describes as the chapter’s “tactical” strategies. Recruiting is seen as a core capability.
- Northern Virginia Chapter: 9 new members. Dormant for years, this chapter is resurrecting itself based on self-reliance (the Puget Sound model) with recruiting being candidate-focused and numerically tracked. It uses “Social Circles” (friends, acquaintances, affinities, experiences, principles, family, devotion) as contact enablers.

- Chicago Chapter: 7 new members. This chapter focuses on the Chicago area, but increasingly uses pockets of Companions in the state. These emerging “Forward Operating Locations” allow the chapter to extend its recruiting reach and expand its community outreach.

While each of these chapters is different, each has developed and periodically updates its recruiting and involvement strategies that are focused on local circumstances and chapter needs. Each is self-reliant but each is guided by MOWW’s Strategic Plan. Each makes recruiting central to its local planning, execution and tracking activities. Each proves chapters can be successful if they have a team orientation, have realistic but aspirational planning, are goal-oriented, are persistent and are well-served by leadership and followership. Each shows continuing improvement makes a difference.

Notably, these chapters don’t expect MOWW to tell them how to recruit or how to achieve MOWW’s Strategic Goals locally, although they appreciate receiving best practices, etc, from committees and other chapters. In short, they are self-starters. They develop local strategies and recruiting techniques, they hold meetings that are fun and generate goal-oriented enthusiasm and follow-through, and they are comprised of chapter Companions who socialize with each other even outside of chapter meetings, which improves everything—morale, recruiting, involvement, outreach.

Frankly, no miracles are happening here—just thoughtful planning, carefully-tended execution, and selfless volunteerism by self-starters. It takes the real time and effort of real teams (not just a few people), and a willingness to long-abandon dead strategies, etc., and experiment with unflagging persistence to achieve success. ★



THE CAN AND CAN'T OF PACEMAKERS

CPT (DR) ROBERT E. MALLIN, USA (FMR)
SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW

When your heart has a rhythm problem, too slow, too fast, or out of sync, help is on the way from modern technology. Normal beat and good pumping are what a pacemaker is supposed to do. These devices are custom-fitted to one's needs. The simplest one is the single-chamber pacemaker. It has one lead that connects the pulse generator to one chamber of your heart. For most people, it is connected to the right lower chamber or ventricle, or depending on the type of pacing needed, to your right atrium (upper heart chamber).

More complex is the dual-chamber pacemaker with two leads connecting to both ventricular chambers and programmed to regulate the contractions of them both. That will help the two chambers work together, in the proper rhythm, so blood flows properly from one to the other.

Even more advanced is the biventricular pacemaker, also known as a cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT) device. These have three leads and are connected to the right atrium and both ventricles. It helps treat people with arrhythmias caused by advanced heart failure where the left and right ventricles do not pump at the same time, or they do not pump in synchronization with the atria. It can relieve symptoms by resynchronizing the ventricles' pumping action and coordinating with the atrium.

These are battery-powered, surgically implanted devices. Believe it or not, they can be monitored remotely allowing problems to be resolved without an office visit! Pacemakers can keep your heart rate at 50-70 beats per minute as needed. This long-distance problem-solving is yet another side benefit of the space program.

Over 600,000 new pacemakers are implanted each year, with most of these devices implanted in patients over the age of 60. Pacemakers do not cure heart diseases, they will not prevent heart attacks and they do not strengthen the heart. They just regulate the heart rate and rhythm.

The procedure to implant a pacemaker does not require open heart surgery and most people go home within 24 hours. Before the surgery, medication may be given to make you sleepy and comfortable. Generally, the procedure is performed under local anesthesia, and leads are placed via the blood vessels, and the device is placed under the skin. Side effects and/or complications are possible though incident rates are low. It is changed when the batteries run low.

What is an implantable defibrillator and how does it help? If the electrical impulses of the heart system become disorganized, the heart may beat too rapidly and require an implantable defibrillator. Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICDs) send a strong "reset" signal to your heart when the bottom chambers of your heart (ventricles) are beating very fast or erratically.

Some patients receive a combination pacemaker and defibrillator to help the heart pump more forcefully and protect against potentially fatal arrhythmias. Most patients who have an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) tend to survive more than seven years, and those ICD patients with hereditary heart disease can live for decades.

Please don't try this at home
... and be well. ★



GRACE-POWERED PREPAREDNESS

LTC CHERYL D. BRADY, USA (RET)
CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

Need

As the condition of a man's heart determines his direction in life, so too does the condition of our Order determine its life or death. Companions are in a relay race for the very life of the Order. Membership loss has been a reality every year since 1987. It is a trend that only by the grace and mercy of God will be reversed. Three spiritual components are necessary for reversing this trend: revelation, motivation, and preservation.

Revelation

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to our children and to us." God alone knows the future of all things. He takes pleasure in revealing His will to those who ask from a heart of humility. Often, we do not know because we have not asked. God in His omniscience can reveal a strategy to multiply growth where it is needed. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have an understanding. He reveals deep and secret things. Part of our spiritual training and preparedness is using prayer to seek revelations from the Lord.

Motivation

Once the revelations have come, we must be motivated to see them through to completion. This is not something we can accomplish without God's help. This may entail bringing someone else alongside us to train, to equip and to carry on in case we are unable to endure. Moses knew he would not take God's people into the Promised Land so he trained Joshua. "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up."

Preservation

We can be confident that the God who began the good work in our Order will complete it. God alone preserves His people for the work. Only He can bring about His promises and plans. We we all have a responsibility to work with God in doing our part to train ourselves and others. Then, when the time to hand off the baton comes, there will be a runner into whose hand it can be released. ★



Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

Encounter with History

BY BG VICTOR S. PEREZ, USA (RET)

As we prepared to render a tribute to all Companions buried at the Puerto Rico National Cemetery on 22 December 2018 as part of the national Wreaths Across America, we had the honor to lay a wreath at the tomb of Lieutenant Charles R. Hartzell, USN, who was a MOWW Companion in 1919 (Section F, Tomb 564, Puerto Rico National Cemetery). In this way, interestingly, we “met” history, honoring one of our Order’s “Founding Fathers” as we approach the MOWW Centenary (100th Birthday).

The chapter placed 42 wreaths honoring buried Companions and several family members at the National Cemetery in partnership with the cemetery staff.

Top (L-R): LTC Jose Rios, LTC William Pennock (Marshall), COL Daniel Osorio (PCC), Former Senator Lucy Arce, BG Victor Perez (Cdr), COL Fernando Sulsona, CW4 Cristino Lozada, LTC Ramon Negron (PCC), MG Felix Santoni (Emeritus-CASA).

Second photo: Tomb (Section F, Tomb 564, Puerto Rico National Cemetery) LT Charles H. Hartzell, registered as a MOWW Companion since 1919.

Third photo: Companions and several family members at the National Cemetery in partnership with the Cemetery staff.

Bottom left: BG Victor Perez (Commander, MOWW Ch 121), placing wreath at tomb of LT Charles H. Hartzell, registered as a MOWW Companion since 1919.

Bottom right: Wreath at the tomb of our Past Chapter Commander and Emeritus-Adjutant COL Juan Figueroa whom heperished last year, one week after Hurricane Maria.





New Jersey Chapter, NJ

New Jersey Chapter Elects 2019 Slate of Officers

BY PCINC LTC RUTH HAMILTON, USA (RET)

The New Jersey Chapter held a meeting on 22 September 2018 at the National Guard Training Center Sea Girt Militia Museum in Sea Girt, NJ, to reinvigorate the chapter by electing or appointing new chapter officers and assigning duties and responsibilities to Companions within the chapter. Region III Commander LTC Michael Wilgen, USA (Ret), officiated during the election proceedings.

The newly-elected Chapter Commander is BG Jeffrey Pierson, USA (Ret). Of note, he previously commanded the Sea Girt Training Center where the chapter met for this special meeting. He has 42 years of service in numerous capacities with the Army and the Army National Guard. During his service, he ran a youth program at Fort Dix, NJ, and was the Vice Chair for a camporee sponsored by the New Jersey Army National Guard and the New Jersey State Police. He is currently a Freeholder for Cape May County, NJ.

All available officers were duly installed, and several Companions were formally inducted into the Order by VCINC CDR Robert Hartman III, USN (Ret). GSO LTC William Rapp, USA (Ret), and BG Pierson shared awards the chapter received at the 2018 MOWW National Convention. LTC Rapp is the New Jersey Department Commander.

Photo left: BG Jeffrey Pierson, USA (Ret), and LTC William Rapp, USA (Ret), display awards for JROTC and Scouting programs the Chapter received at the 2018 MOWW National Convention. Top right, (L-R): LTC Herman Marmon, USA (Ret), was inducted into the chapter, sponsored by BG Pierson and given the oath by VCINC CDR Robert Hartman III, USN (Ret). Bottom right: newly-elected Chapter Commander, BG Pierson, as he is sworn in.

Fort Knox Chapter, KY

Eagle Scout Recognition

BY BG DAVID ESTES, USA (RET)

Region II Commander, BG David Estes, USA (Ret), traveled to Cordele, GA, to recognize BSA Eagle Scouts Reid Brinson and Michael Frost, both of Boy Scout Troop 270. The Commander presented the scouts with Certificates of Recognition and a congratulatory letter. The ceremony concluded 39 Eagle Scout presentations by the Fort Knox Chapter in 2018.

(L-R) Eagle Scout Reid Brinson, BG David Estes, USA (Ret), and Eagle Scout Michael Frost,



Col Billie L. Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter, AZ

AFJROTC Cadet Named “Most Outstanding JROTC Cadet”

BY LTC PATRICK STOLZE, USA (RET)

The chapter’s “Most Outstanding JROTC Cadet” for the 2017-2018 school year was Cadet/Lt Col Madalyn Fredman from the Higley High School AFJROTC Program.

Madalyn was an obvious winner among her five competitors—our best competition yet. She has been the Commander of her AFJROTC unit this year—made even more special because she is a junior! She is also captain of her swim-dive team and on the Principal’s List and Honor Roll with a 3.8 GPA. Her Senior Instructor, Col David Vaughn, USAF (Ret), said, “She is a top-shelf cadet!” Madalyn was also a leader in the local Civil Air Patrol Squadron and she was selected to attend the Arizona Girl’s State.

Madalyn received the MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry Award at her program’s end-of-year award ceremony on 24 April 2018. As accomplished as she is, Madalyn was humbled and very gracious as she accepted this prestigious award.

Madalyn sums up her experience in AFJROTC this way, “...not only has AFJROTC been academically and vocationally beneficial to me, but I have also acquired experience in delegation, self-control, self-discipline and time management, and I have pushed myself to heights unimaginable without the guidance of the Air Force JROTC program.”

(L-R): Cadet/Lt Col Madalyn Fredman was presented a MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry Award by Chapter Commander LTC Pat Stolze, USA (Ret), at the Higley High School USAF JROTC awards program in Gilbert, AZ.





Clearwater Chapter, FL

Preserving History at England's Upottery Airfield

BY LTC DAVID MASON, USA (RET)

Mr. Robin Gilbert received a MOWW Silver Patrick Henry Award at the Upottery Airfield, Somerset County, England, on 23 July 2018. The citation to Mr. Gilbert read:

"In recognition of your support to the Southwest Airfields Heritage Trust's successful restoration of the Upottery Airfield, service to the Royal British Legion and outstanding efforts to maintain the memory of all who made V-E Day possible."

(L-R): SPH recipient, Mr. Robin Gilbert with Clearwater Chapter Commander, LTC Steve Hodges, USA (Ret).



LTG Walker Chapter, MS

Change of Command

BY COL JIM H. SHERMAN III, USA ARNG (RET)

Lt Col Marc D. Wilson, USAF (Ret), swears in LTC William A. Patrick, USA (Ret), as the chapter's commander on 30 August 2018.



Wichita Chapter, KS

JROTC Recognition

BY LTC LARRY G. WHITE, USA (RET)

Chapter Commander LTC Larry G. White, USA (Ret), presented a MOWW JROTC medal to Cadet/A1C John Goodner at the Derby High School's Air Force JROTC awards ceremony in 2018.



Worcester Chapter, MA

LTC Christo, USA (Ret), presented MOWW GPH

BY LTC DAVID A ANDERSON, USA (RET)

The Gold Patrick Henry Award was presented to LTC Dennis V Christo, USA (Ret), by VCINC CDR Robert Hartman III, USN (Ret), on 2 June 2018.

The citation reads as follows:

“Lieutenant Colonel Dennis V. Christo, United States Army (Retired), a dedicated member of the Order since 1992, distinguished himself in leadership roles of ever-increasing responsibility. He has served as the Commander, Worcester Chapter, and more recently as Commander, Region I. When he took command of the Worcester Chapter, it was facing closure. His energetic leadership restored the chapter to a prominent position in the Order and the local community. Then, after serving as Region I Staff Officer, in 2014 he became the Commander, Region I. As such, he skillfully led the region’s seven chapters in achieving the Order’s Strategic Goals. A leader in community affairs, Colonel Christo’s distinctive accomplishments exemplifies the Order’s enduring motto, “It is nobler to serve than to be served,” and reflects extraordinary credit upon himself and the Military Order of the World Wars.”

(L-R): VCINC CDR Robert Hartman III, USN (Ret), presented a MOWW GPH to LTC Dennis Christo, USA (Ret), as then-CINC Col David Gibson, USAF (Ret), congratulated LTC Christo.





Download the App—Make Life Easier!



Go to the VA App Store! There you will find access to dozens of apps, including those created specifically for veterans and their health care professionals. VA Mobile releases new apps for veterans regularly.

Check here often for updated information about available apps: <https://mobile.va.gov/appstore>

New Tool Aids Veterans Health Journey



The VA recently announced that it has partnered with CaringBridge, a global nonprofit social network, to aid in veterans' connection and communication with their support communities. CaringBridge provides free, secure, personal websites — as a dedicated platform — to assist family and friends in communicating with loved ones during any type of health journey.

“Partnerships with organizations such as CaringBridge that can offer impactful support and connection form an integral part of our public health approach to ensure we reach all veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Collaborations like these can help particularly in preventing veteran suicide, which remains VA’s top clinical priorities.”

Through this partnership, CaringBridge highlights a tailored destination page that focuses directly on the needs of service members, veterans and their families. Each customized website supports healing and connection in various ways, keeping families and friends informed and linked using interactive journals and providing access to resources on the site.

In addition to coordinating supportive tasks, CaringBridge has collaborated with VA medical centers and staff to offer training to help facilitate online outreach and support for veterans and their families. The organization’s customer care staff also have been trained on VA resources and how to make referrals to the Veterans Crisis Line.

For more information on how veterans and their loved ones can use CaringBridge, visit www.caringbridge.org/military-service/

Va Wait Times for New Appointments Equal To, or Better Than, Those in Private Sector



JAMA study compared four VA specialty care services with private care

A study published in January 2019 in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) shows VA significantly reduced wait times for veteran patients in primary care and three specialty care services between 2014 and 2017.

The study, titled “Comparison of Wait Times for New Patients Between the Private Sector and United States Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers,” compared wait times between VA and private-sector clinicians in 15 major metropolitan areas for appointments in primary care, dermatology, cardiology and orthopedics.

For all specialties except orthopedics, VA wait times were similar to private-sector wait times in 2014, and were shorter in 2017. According to the JAMA study, average wait time in 2014 for a VA appointment in one of these specialties was 22.5 days, compared with 18.7 days for private-sector physicians. In 2017, the average VA wait time was 17.7 days, while the private-sector average was 29.8 days. That translates to a shorter average wait time of 12 days in VA, compared with the private sector.

Primary care, dermatology and cardiology wait times were all shorter than in the private sector in 2017. While orthopedic wait times were longer for VA in both 2014 and 2017, they did decrease during the study period.

According to the study, the number of patients seen yearly in VA increased slightly between 2014 and 2017, to around 5.1 million. VA patient satisfaction has also risen, according to patient surveys cited in the study.

For more information about VA access to health care, visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/>





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**Denotes RM/HRM

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