

MORRIS TRANSMITTER



December

“Following the Spirit of Truman’s Leadership in ROA”

2018

President’s Message

By CAPT Fred Lydic, USN (Ret)

In my opening letter to you in the last edition of *The Transmitter*, I briefly mentioned the problems our organization faces regarding membership retention and recruitment. We are not alone in this scenario as most other organizations that rely on veteran support are seeing the same conditions. As our population base ages, so do the veteran group member lists. Those members who have been on the front lines supporting a strong national defense, adequate recruiting of forces and training of those recruits are dwindling...and the willingness of those currently and recently in uniform to get involved is missing. Borrowing from Rodgers and Hammerstein, “*It is a puzzlement.*”



President Lydic

As will be explained in greater detail inside, the 2018 ROA convention in Omaha ushered in several changes to the structure of ROA. These changes are specifically aimed at trying to solve the issues of retention and recruiting as well as refining the focus of ROA in general. See pages 2 & 3.

In 1921, drawing upon the experiences of WWI, Black-jack Pershing saw the need for a group of veterans who could lead the charge to ensure that the elected officials of our country understood the needs of a standing force structure. The Reserve Officers Association was born. It was a beginning. However, with the onset of WWII, we still found ourselves not quite prepared and once again, had to ramp up our capabilities and equipment. In 1951, we saw the creation of the ROA Congressional Charter and the voice of national defense and security began to have volume.

Over the years, ROA has been that voice on the national scene fighting for funding, better equipment, personnel training and retention of the active forces in our military. Over the years, that voice was joined by others and now the list of organizations working the halls of Congress is a veritable bowl of alphabet soup...ROA, MOAA, AUSA,

AUSN, AFA, VFW, AMVETS, DAV, AFSA, American Legion, etc.... not to mention the hordes of lobbyists for contractors, major corporations and the like. In reviewing the focus of ROA, it became apparent that our voice was no longer the loudest in the room, but it also became apparent that one group sadly not being represented was the reservist.

In September, the delegates to the 92nd Annual Convention of the Reserve Officers Association decided that the organization’s focus needed to be refined. Accordingly, after considerable debate, it was agreed that The Reserve Officers Association, in addition to being known as simply ROA, would also begin utilizing a D/B/A. That “doing business as” tagline would be *The Reserve Organization of America*. Why?...to ensure that there is a source, a voice that can be seen as a focal point for addressing the issues and concerns affecting today’s reservist.

Many of us grew up in an environment dedicated to training for that fateful day when there would be a massive call-up of manpower. Times have changed, and today’s reservist can expect routine call-ups as part of their “normal” reserve duty. In keeping with the new reservist focus, ROA also changed the by-laws to allow all ranks in uniform as eligible for membership in order to open the recruiting capability. Perhaps, with this refinement of the mission, we will be able to grow.

OUR ROA is now poised to address the challenge of being THE recognized voice for today’s reservists. Now we just must go out and make some noise...care to join us?

Happy Holidays to Everyone





Reserve Organization of America National Convention



Article and photos by CAPT Dick Kallemeier, USN (Ret)

ROA held the 92nd National Convention at the Hilton Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska September 27-30. **MG Peggy Wilmoth, COL Mike Clarke, CAPT Dick Kallemeier, Col Rick Nelson, CAPT Mike Nolan, Col Bob Shankel and Lt Col Don Stockton** represented the Department of Missouri. The convention opened on Thursday with various committee meetings and the National Council and Department Presidents Meetings. A The Pershing Rifles team performed at the welcoming reception and a the hospitality suite completed the evening.

The Pershing Rifles is a military-oriented fraternity for college students founded in 1894 as a drill unit at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It is the oldest continuously operating US college organization dedicated to military drill. It was named in honor of their mentor and patron, Lieutenant John J. Pershing, upon his departure from the university in 1895.



Friday morning began with a memorial breakfast led by ROA and ROAL chaplains. The guest speaker was **Mr. Michael G. Reagan**, Artist/President of the Michael G. Reagan Portrait Foundation. The General Assembly's keynote address was given by **Maj Gen Richard J. Evans III, USAF**, Director of Reserve Forces and Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, USSTRATCOM, Offutt AFB. Service section breakouts heard from **BG Doug Cherry, USA**, Deputy Commanding General, 76th Division (Operational Response); **RDML Matthew W. Sibley, USCG**, Acting Director, Reserve & Military Personnel, USCG; and **Maj Gen Eric S. Overturf, USAFR**, Mobilization Assistant to the Chief of the Air Force Reserve.

The Chaplain of the Year award was presented to **Capt Matthew Wilson, USAFR**. The CWO4 Michael Novosel Award for the ROA Warrant Officer of the Year was given to **CW3 Linda D. Thomas, USAR**. The Twice the Citizen Award went to two Southwest pilots, **LCDR Tammie Jo Shults, USNR**, and **Maj Darren Ellisor, USAFR**.



Maj Ellisor and LCDR Shults

This past April, **LCDR Shults** was in command and **Maj Ellisor** was the copilot of the Southwest Airlines aircraft that suffered an engine explosion causing major damage to the fuselage and the death of one passenger. They both demonstrated outstanding performance in what could have been a major disaster.



Dr. Jody Donehoo

On Saturday, we received a briefing from **Dr. Jody W. Donehoo, Ph.D.**, Chief, Reserve & TRICARE Special Programs (RTSP), Deputy Assistant Director, Healthcare Ops/TRICARE Health Plan, Defense Health Agency (DHA).

The ROA STARS Foundation recognized founding members of the Pershing Society. Newly created, the Pershing Society is the premier giving society of the STARS Foundation. It is focused on individual contributions from \$1,000 to \$10,000 over a time period of 1 to 3 years. Learn more at www.roastars.org Also, just created is a new program STARS In School www.starsinschool.org. This network is for Reserve and



Pershing Society members who contributed from one to ten thousand dollars in support of ROA

Guard families when called to active duty. It functions as a way to connect the family and school to give greater understanding of the problems and solutions to helping children when parents are activated. The STARS School Kit can create an easy way for parents to formally notify their children's school that a family member is about to be deployed and helps educators support Reserve families during a deployment. ROA Executive Director **Jeff Phillips** wrapped up the session with a State of the Association address.

Later that afternoon, the general assembly reconvened, and the national staff provided a legislation update, conducted



Missouri's RADM Stanton Thompson doing a WWI centennial commemoration presentation wearing the Navy Service Dress Blues of the era

grass-roots legislation training, and facilitated a membership workshop. That evening, 140 people attended a

formal banquet, during which ROA inducted **Mr. Tom Shull**, Director and CEO of the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, into the Minuteman Hall of Fame. The dinner's keynote address was delivered by **Congressman Donald J. Bacon** of Nebraska's 2nd District and the House Armed Services Committee.



Tom Shull receiving the Minuteman Hall of Fame award from Lt Col Stockton



Guest speaker Congressman and retired Brig Gen Donald Bacon, USAF expressing his great appreciation of the Reserve

On Sunday morning **President Stockton** opened the general assembly and the delegates approved a total of 20 resolutions (13 renewals and 7 new) including Missouri's "Fully Maintain the A-10 Thunderbolt II". He then called for Constitution and By-Laws amendments. Six were presented, most significantly to modify the name of the organization; open membership to all uniform services ranks and change the dues structure. All the amendments passed, the name of the organization is officially the Reserve Officers Association (d/b/a) doing business as *Reserve Association of America* and/or ROA. All uniform services ranks are eligible for membership, if discharged it must be honorable. The new dues rates are \$20 per year or \$450 for a life membership. There are three membership categories, regular term or life, spousal term or life, and associate (free, under the age of 35 for a maximum of 5 years).

ROA 2019 Reception and Banquet with entertainment by the USAF Heartland of America Band-Raptor



Some of the MOROA crew, back row CAPT Dick Kallemeier, Col Rick Nelson, Lt Col Don Stockton, Lt Col Wayne Wroblewski, middle row Leslie Kallemeier, Connie Stockton, front Ruth Kallemeier



Welcoming Reception with Pershing Rifle team





Legislative Affairs

By CAPT Michael Nolan, USN (Ret)

We thank the members of Congress from Missouri for their excellent support of our men and women in uniform during 2018. As a result of the fine work of several of our leaders, a Continuing Resolution (CR) was avoided in the budget process and the President signed into law the Defense Appropriations Bill during October 2018.

As we move ahead to 2019 there are already early warning signs that the planned defense spending for the next two fiscal years may possibly be rescinded by the Administration. The Pentagon has officially been told that the "top line" for the national security fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget will be \$700 billion (B) dollars, which represents the first apparent cut to next year's planned defense spending by the Administration.

This \$700 (B) dollar figure represents a roughly 2.2% cut below the FY 2019 level of \$716 (B) dollars and a 4.5% cut below the projected \$ 733 (B) for the FY 2020 budget. However, these new figures still exceed the \$576 (B) dollar budget caps for discretionary defense spending, set under the Budget Control Act for fiscal year 2020. In years past, changing those mandatory caps has required intense bipartisan negotiations. If the new number of \$700 (B) dollars holds, the Pentagon may need to scale back planned expenditures just after they have been given the green light during 2018 to begin to modernize our military forces.

As a result of this last-minute change, the Pentagon is now developing two parallel budget documents (one as-

suming a \$ 733 (B) dollar budget and the other a \$ 700 (B) dollar budget. Under this potential budget change, modernization will "take a hit". Investments in science, technology, procurement, etc. will be affected in terms of timing of expenditures, etc.

Despite defense increases to \$700 (B) dollars in Fiscal Year 2018 and \$ 716 (B) in Fiscal Year 2019, the Department's acceptance of stagnant budget growth is preventing the military from regaining the strength it needs to defend the nation. Rebuilding our military will take years and require a sustained commitment of funds from our elected leaders and a cost-effective use of resources by the Defense Department.

ROA members are urged to follow the budget process as it moves through Congress in the next several months and contact your member of Congress to let them know of the potential serious effects on our military readiness which will occur if we do not maintain the commitment to modernize our armed forces.

<u>Senate/House Members</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Senator Claire McCaskill	202 224-6454
Senator Roy Blunt	202 224-5721
Congressman Lacy Clay	202 225-2406
Congresswoman Ann Wagner	202 225-1621
Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer	202 225-2956
Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler	202 225-2876
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Congressman Sam Graves	202 225-7041
Congressman Billy Long	202 225-6536
Congressman Jason Smith	202 225-4404

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Lt Col Andrew Trout, USAFR**
- Webmaster-**Col Robert Shankel, USAF (Ret)**

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- 001 Kansas City, **CW4 John Travers USA (Ret),**
- 028 Springfield, **Lt Col Burt Ewing, USAF (Ret)**
- 030 St. Louis, **COL Bill Hammerschmidt, USA (Ret)**
- 041 St. Louis, **LCDR Joseph Bilodeau, USN (Ret)**
- 442 Whiteman AFB, **No Report**

Air Force Affairs

By Col Rick Nelson, USAF (Ret)

The 303 Fighter Squadron recently returned from another successful deployment to Afghanistan. The upgraded Warthogs continue to provide their essential role as the "Close" Air Support weapon system. At the ROA National Convention in Omaha, the Department of Missouri's resolution supporting continued A-10 funding was adopted unanimously by the delegates.

Col Steve Nestor, former 303d CC, returns as the new 442d Vice Commander. A1C Dr Miriam Barqueromolina was selected to become a new 442d officer. She is a Geology professor at MU and a 442d Dental Tech.

In mid-October, the 303d hosted the 2018 Hawgsmoke at Whiteman AFB. This biennial gunnery competition (a tradition that grew out of the old Gunsmoke event) had twelve A-10 teams from around the world, evaluating pilots for weapons delivery and shooting accuracy while utilizing the same tactical scenarios over Missouri's Cannon Range. The many crew chiefs, maintainers, and weapons loaders are also an essential part of each successful sortie. The overall 1st Place Team was the 74th FS, "Flying Tigers" from Moody AFB. A 303d pilot, Maj Tyler "Mully" Shipman, earned the Overall 2nd Place pilot award for bombing and strafing. The only A-10 to win at the old Gunsmoke, against all USAF fighters, was a 442d/303d jet flown by Col Roger Disrud. He achieved a perfect score on his last sortie to win!

An A-10 Thunderbolt II performs aerial maneuvers before the start of a Fallen Hawg remembrance ceremony Oct. 17, 2018, at Whiteman AFB. The remembrance ceremony was held in honor of fallen A-10 pilots and signals the start of 2018 Hawgsmoke competition, which is a biennial worldwide A-10 bombing, missile and tactical gunnery competition derived from the discontinued "Gunsmoke" Worldwide Gunnery Competition. (USAF photo by Staff Sgt. Joel Pfister)



The National Convention had many positives- very good hotel, good food at reasonable prices, and excellent briefings and information flow. One of the presenters was former 442 FW Commander, Maj Gen Eric Overturf.



Maj Gen Overturf center

He is now the Mobilization Assistant to the Chief of the Air Force Reserve. He spoke about his role assisting the Chief in all programs related to the Air Force Reserve in order to meet wartime requirements within budget realities. He participated in all the Air Force section meetings – listening, gathering feedback for the Chief, and providing information about Re-

servist's issues. We are fortunate to have him helping the new Chief, Lt Gen Richard Scobee, maintain a strong Air Force Reserve.

Kudos to Gen Maryanne Miller, the former Chief of the Air Force Reserve. She is the first Air Force Reservist to be promoted to four-star rank and is also the first Reservist to be chosen as Commander of a major Air Force Command-the Air Mobility Command. This Total Force organization, composed of assets from Active Duty, Reserve, and Air Guard, now has a highly respected officer from its ranks to lead it to the next level.

Naval Services Affairs

Compiled by LDCR Joseph Bilodeau, USN (Ret)

The Navy Operational Support Center-St. Louis (NOSC) leadership changed command on 21 September. CDR John M. Mann, USN was relieved by CDR Robert C. Lewis, USN. LDCR Michael Schmid, USN, NOSC Executive Officer, conducted the ceremony and CAPT Todd T. Perry, USN, Commander Navy Region Southeast Reserve Component Command was the guest speaker.



CAPT Perry, CDR Lewis and CDR Mann

CDR Mann arrived in St. Louis in 2013 and served as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of Navy Recruiting District-St. Louis until 2016 when he assumed command of the NOSC St. Louis.

CDR Lewis is a native of Aiken, South Carolina and a graduate of the University of South Carolina. He arrives from Washington, D.C. where he was the Executive Officer of the NOSC Washington, D.C.

Following the change of command a retirement ceremony was conducted for CDR Mann and we wish him "Fair Winds and Following Seas".



LCS Freedom-variant

The future USS St. Louis will be a Freedom-variant littoral combat ship, designated LCS-19. It will be the seventh ship to bear the

city's name. The U.S. Navy held the keel laying and authentication ceremony in Marinette, Wisconsin on May 17, 2017. The ships christening is December 15th and it is expected to be commissioned in 2021.

The initials of the ship's sponsor, Barbara Taylor, were welded onto a keel plate that will be permanently mounted to the ship. Mrs. Taylor is the wife of Andy Taylor, Executive Chairman of Enterprise Holdings. She is also a former St. Louis Art Museum board president. She per-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)



Keel Laying Ceremony

formed the ceremonial duty of authenticating the keel at the ceremony held in the Marinette shipyard.

The Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) are being built by two industry teams and consist of the Freedom variant, led by Lockheed Martin, and the Independence variant, led by Austral USA. Thirteen ships are under construction, purchased as part of the Navy's block-buy acquisition strategy.

LCS is a modular, reconfigurable ship with three types of mission packages (MP). Each MP will provide unique warfighting capability in one of three focused mission areas: Surface Warfare, Mine Countermeasures and Anti-Submarine Warfare. The USS St. Louis is designed for engagement in coastal waters and will possess mine clearing and anti-submarine warfighting capabilities. The ship will be 338 feet long, have a waterline beam length of 58 feet and will be able to make speeds in excess of 40 knots.

Six ships named St. Louis



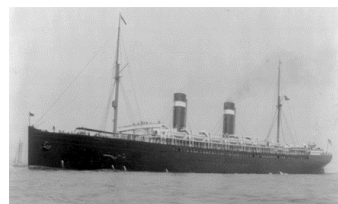
"Sloop of War" 1828-1865



Ironclad Gunboat 1862-1863



Protected Cruiser 1906-1922



Troop Transport and passenger liner 1898-1920



Amphibious Cargo Ship 1969-1992



Light Cruiser 1939-1946

Army Affairs

Compiled by COL Bill Hammerschmidt, USA (Ret) from the AUSA bulletin

The Army has announced that soldiers will begin wearing the "Army Greens" uniform as early as the summer of 2020, and the entire Army will be wearing the new service

uniform by 2028, making official the long-anticipated adoption of the iconic World War II uniform known as "pinks and greens."

In a statement posted on Veterans Day, the Army said Army Greens will become the everyday business wear uniform for all soldiers, returning the Army Blues Uniform to use as a formal dress uniform. The Army Combat Uniform will remain as the Army's duty/field uniform.

"The Army Greens will be fielded to soldiers reporting to their first units as early as the summer of 2020. The mandatory wear date for all soldiers will be 2028," according to the statement. The long transition period is designed to accommodate soldiers nearing retirement.

Army leaders have long advocated for adoption of the uniform worn by America's "Greatest Generation" in World War II, saying it will inspire "America's Next Generation" of soldiers and enhance esprit de corps. Leadership has also maintained that the impact of the uniform will play an important role in attracting quality people into the Army at a time when less than 4 percent of American youth are qualified or want to serve.

The new uniform will be "cost-neutral" for enlisted soldiers, to be purchased as part of their annual clothing allowance, and the formal Army Blues Uniform will be optional for enlisted soldiers as it was before the last uniform change 10 years ago. Women will have an option of wearing versions with pants or skirts and will have a choice of corresponding footwear.



Photo from AUSA Bulletin

MOROA Annual Convention 26-28 April 2019

By Col Bob Shankel, USAF (Ret)

Please join us at the Lodge at Old Kinderhook, Camdenton, MO. Renew venerable relationships and make new friends at the Friday evening reception. Learn what your association is doing locally and nationally. Bring your organizations' issues to provide input for department action at the business sessions. Enjoy the Lodges' spa, golf course, volleyball court and other amenities available.

Registration information will be in the next Transmitter but in the interim put the dates on your calendar and we will see you there!



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 LTC Ernest Eddy
 LTC Dennis Price
 LTC Paul Mulcahy
 LTC Ed Rice
 COL James Kuhn
 Mrs. Mary Hobbs
 MAJ James J. Hughes
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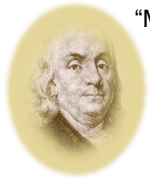
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Calendar of Events

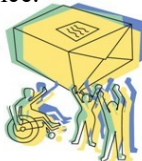
2019

- **National Leaders Meeting and legislative "March on the Hill" Washington DC , 17-19 Mar**
- **MO Department Convention, Lodge at Kinderhook Country Club, Camdenton, MO 26-28 Apr**
- **National Convention, Des Moines Marriott Downtown, Des Moines, IA 26-29 Sep**

ROA members living in Missouri who are not assigned to the Department are receiving the "Transmitter". Those interested in affiliating with the Department of Missouri are encouraged to contact the Editor/Secretary at dickkall@charter.net or (636) 733-3323 for assistance.

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