

MOROA TRANSMITTER



June

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

2018

President’s Message

By CAPT Fred Lydic, USN (Ret)

To quote the late actor **Jimmy Dean**, “I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.” ROA has weathered a number of storms over the years and roll and yaw is still testing the skills of those manning the ship. As is tradition with the ROA Missouri Department (MO ROA), the Sea Services branch has relieved the Army (with many thanks to **LTC Bob Dietrich**) and begins charting the course for our organization’s objectives in the year to come.



President Lydic

While we focus on what is needed for ROA to prosper in Missouri, our own MO ROA member and National President, **Lt Col Don Stockton** faces many of those same challenges on the national level. We are all serving in a time of great demands and sacrifices and, the challenges facing today’s reserve communities are larger than any of us can probably remember. I, for one, can certainly attest that my civilian career would never have survived in today’s up-tempo military call-to-duty demands.

The military life has a way of “adopting” concepts of the current time and remodeling them to fit the grind of a warrior’s lifestyle. As a young engineering officer on board *USS Midway*, I was introduced to the big wide world of Pogo. Not the newsprint cartoon character...but the hijacked “Navy version.” We snipes had Pogo, the aviators had “Snoopy and Woodstock”. In our hot and greasy world, Pogo would magically appear on the daily log notes often doing and saying things that never would have survived a newspaper editor’s review. Whenever times got a little wacky, Pogo would get serious, look at Albert (the Alligator) and say... **“We have met the enemy and it is us.”**

In many respects, Midway’s Pogo is still relevant. We are at a time when those who have carried the torch are wondering if it will keep burning. Those who have led the charge, look behind them and find the ranks thinning out. Father Time is catching up with the Shellbacks and there

doesn’t seem to be many Pollywogs ready to cross the line. We have a challenge at hand. How do we continue the charge generated nearly 100 years ago to ensure that the men and women in today’s armed forces have all that they need to fight the fight? How do we ensure that OUR voice remains steady and is heard by our leadership...both militarily and politically? How do we overcome the demands of today’s society for time and talent and steer some of that talent to MO ROA?

“We have met the enemy and it is US”...

- Success for ROA at the local, state and national levels is a factor of US.
- The continuation of the mission laid out by fellow Missourian, **GEN Blackjack Pershing** in 1921, is the responsibility of US.
- Providing a healthy ROA membership experience, for all our members, is a task entrusted to US.

For those of you who are members of The American Legion, VFW, MOAA, AUSN, AUSA, AFA and countless others, you know the drill; you see the same dwindling numbers and you hear the same drumbeat...“We need new ideas...We need the cadre of younger officers and enlisted to step forward and take the reins...”

In short, “we need to adjust the sails to reach the destination.”

...We need to rethink our concept of being a member.

...We need to retool our approach to recruiting and retention.

...We need to promote the benefits of being a member and the value of the ROA mission.

...We need to make sure that EVERY man and woman in Missouri who wore or now wears a military uniform knows and relates to ROA as THEIR VOICE.

I invite you, regardless of membership type, service branch, rank or position, to take one step forward and join the discussion. Those out on point need you now more than ever.

Finally and most importantly, thank you to everyone who made contributions to MOROA in memory of **Brig Gen Samuel P. Mitchell, Jr. USAF (Ret)**. Especially, the family of General Mitchell for their most generous contribution.

2018 DEPARTMENT of MISSOURI CONVENTION

By CAPT Dick Kallemeier, USN (Ret)

★ 27, 28 and 29 April ★

This year's convention took us back to the Lake of the Ozarks and The Lodge at Old Kinderhook in Camdenton, Missouri. On Friday evening we gathered for a hospitality buffet and then an Executive Committee Meeting. On Saturday morning **President Bob Dietrich** opened the convention with introductory remarks and introduced two of the Officer of the Year recipients, **CPT Mitchell McCann, MOARNG, USTRANSCOM** and **MK1 Nickolas Grant, USCGR, Sector Upper Mississippi River**. **Capt Christopher Hinote, USAFR, 442d FW, Maintenance Group** and **1Lt Tanner Rindels, USAFR, 442d FW/303 Fighter Squadron** were mobilized to Afghanistan and unable to attend.



Lt Col Stockton, Angie McCann, CPT McCann, Congressman Luetkemeyer, MK1 Grant, Arica Grant, LTC Dietrich

President Dietrich then introduced **Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO 3rd District)**. Mr. Luetkemeyer spoke to the recent legislative accomplishments supporting the military and the improved economy. He believes using Reserves/Guard at the border should be a backup activity freeing the border guard to do what they are trained to do. He also believes regular forces should be used for the support duty reducing the load on the Reserve. He then talked about the "sloppy process" of legislating in our democratic form of government and reminded everyone, "To work in the congress one must be patient, principled and persistent". He also feels the "Rule of Sixty" in the Senate makes them very inefficient.

Lt Col Don Stockton, USAF (Ret), National ROA President then addressed the convention and shared his agenda and insight on the improving financial status of the organization. He plans a Minute Man Building fund drive to perpetuate the maintenance of the building into the future. In support of this fund drive the Excom voted on Friday



Lt Col Don Stockton

evening to contribute \$5,000 to the MMB Fund. He also talked about another attempt by National to include membership for paygrades E1-E3.

Following the service section meetings there was a facetime conference call with our Legislative Director, **Susan Lukas** at the National Office. Susan is the current Director of Air Force Affairs and former Legislative Director. She updated the body on recent legislative accomplishments and future initiatives. ROA is working on changing the requirement to earn VA status for Reserves from more than 180 days of continuous active duty to an accumulation of more than 180 days active duty. We are also trying to have the services provide to the Reservists completing reserve duty a DD214 for all reserve service.



Members during the Facetime legislative conference

After the facetime conference, the group gathered for a buffet lunch and listened to guest speaker, National President **Don Stockton**. He briefed the audience on some of the membership benefit programs, membership recruiting and the up-coming national convention in Omaha, NE. And then the Excom gathered to hear **Col Steven Walker**, President Department of Oklahoma request MOROA to reconsider merging/integrating with Oklahoma. The Excom agreed to reconsider the merger and we await Oklahoma convention proposal.

The evening's festivities began at 1800. Following dinner, **Col Roger Suro, USAFR, Commander 442d FW** told the audience about the Wing's most recent mobilization to Afghanistan. Then **CAPT Kallemeier** described the accomplishments of the Officer of the Year recipients and presented awards.



President Dietrich expresses MOROA's appreciation to Col Suro

2017 Officer of the Year Awards

Captain Mitchell McCann, USARNG profoundly impacted USTRANSCOM's Federated Intelligence Program.

He quickly elevated the program to one of the National Guard Bureau's most successful and impressive endeavors. He oversaw the development of the airfield assessment product--in collaboration with



CPT Mitch and Angie McCann

United Kingdom Defence Intelligence for use by Special Air Service and Special Boat Service deployments to other continents. He was instrumental in standardizing the product across all production centers and ensuring the product addressed the needs of a multitude of customers. Under his tutelage, the imagery-based airfield assessment is now a combined United Kingdom and TRANSCOM Intelligence Directorate product, which enables clients from across the Department of Defense, as well as international partners, the ability to set the globe for deployment and distribution operations and plan and execute missions in austere, volatile environments.

CPT McCann also enabled TRANSCOM's Foreign Entity Vetting program by coordinating additional reserve support and work space to augment the USTRANSCOM team. His efforts in this program enhanced the ability to identify illicit foreign vendors with ties to foreign intelligence, terrorists, and entities engaged in criminal activity.

Machinery Technician First Class Nickolas Grant, USCGR as a key member of both Marine Safety Detachment Peoria and Marine Safety Detachment Quad Cities



Arica Grant and MK1 Grant with his supervisor BMCS Joe and Kathleen Pehar

made many outstanding contributions to Sector Upper Mississippi River's overall mission readiness and crew unity. His dedication to duty has been consistently demonstrated through many hours of work beyond liberty to ensure the unit's boats were capable of getting underway. He enabled fellow shipmates to log over 300 hours of underway time in a two-week period and, because of this, members were able to reach their mandatory number of underway hours necessary to maintain their boat crew and coxswain qualifications. He was also instru-

mental in obtaining a boat crew qualification on a new platform in an extremely short timeframe. He quickly obtained his qualification and facilitated the platform transition and qualification process for others, ensuring his shipmates obtained boat hours to retain their critical competencies.

Petty Officer Grant's service does not end with the Coast Guard, he also serves his community through his civilian profession as a Dewitt Police Officer. He is an active community volunteer, recently working countless hours to coordinate with multiple agencies and community members to set up a volunteer outreach to under-privileged children.

Captain Christopher Hinote, USAFR is the Officer-In-Charge of Maintenance Operations, with the 442d Maintenance Group, Whiteman AFB. He directly oversees a staff of 40 personnel providing quality assurance, scheduling, analysis, training, commander support, and production control for a group of 450 personnel supporting 27 fighter aircraft. He knows his people well and provides them unmatched support, encouragement, and direction.

He oversaw 8 A-10Cs deployed to Estonia for Operation Atlantic Resolve which performed 132 sorties; used \$142K in munitions; and demonstrated deterrence against Russian aggression and strengthened NATO alliance.

Capt Hinote volunteers at Heartland Church giving hundreds of hours to mentoring a group of 25 youth members. In addition, he volunteers at Olive Branch Christian Coffee House assisting with a weekly dinner that feeds approximately 50 local members of the community.

First Lieutenant Tanner Rindels, USAFR is an exceptional fighter pilot who demonstrates U.S. resolve at every opportunity. During JADED THUNDER/COWBOY exercises he flew 164 flight hours on 92 demanding sorties providing close air support training to U.S. and Coalition forces. Deployed to the Republic of Korea during increased tension and flew 5 sorties demonstrating ally support.

Volunteers for the hardest missions and taskings. Provided Close Air Support training to British SAS and flew a night four-ship mission along the Korean DMZ. Flew a maritime anti-ship mission in Korea and brought lessons to the squadron for the potential wartime tasking.

Outstanding ambassador in blue and a great example of a citizen soldier. Participated in four military airshows, a

nationally televised Sporting KC National Anthem pregame fly-by, and a three-day Combat Search and Rescue flight demonstration flown for over 500,000 spectators.



Col Suro accepts Capt Hinote and Lt Rindels' awards



Legislative Affairs

By CAPT Michael Nolan, USN (Ret)

Four ROA leaders from Missouri, **Lt Col Don Stockton, CAPT Dick Kallemeier, Col Rick Nelson and CAPT Mike Nolan**, attended the annual ROA Leaders Conference (March 18-20, 2018) in Washington, DC and participated in the "March on Capitol Hill Day" on March 20. This is one of the most important ROA events during the year as leaders have an opportunity to meet face to face with our elected congressional leaders and discuss the important issues which affect national security and our reserve forces. The reserve forces have been a key element in our nation's defense posture throughout the 240-year history of the nation.

In preparation for the discussions with the congressional members and/or their legislative directors, we sent a list of 7 issues which we felt were most important because they affect many aspects of having a strong defense team (i.e. sufficient and modern equipment, recruiting and retention of capable individuals in our reserve forces, etc.). A brief description of 4 of these issues, their associated problems which affect the military forces and our recommendations to members of Congress follows:

1. Congress has approved "Continuing Resolutions" (CRs) in the budget process for the last nine years. As a result, annual budgets are delayed which means many military members are required to cancel or possibly reschedule training which could impact their retirement eligibility, employers and family. MOROA leaders, during these meetings, urged our members of Congress to convert the Military Personnel Account to a biennial fund which would appropriate funds every 2 years so service members would not experience disruption to service.

2. In the last two decades the number of Navy ships has decreased from 335 to 280. The current long term naval strategy indicates a need to build the fleet to a level of 335-350 ships. The operational tempo created by today's foreign policy directives continues to accelerate, thereby mandating increased time at sea, maintenance costs, etc. MOROA leaders, during these meetings, urged our members of Congress to provide timely appropriations along with authorizations to increase the fleet size to 335-350 ships as recommended by our military leaders.

3. The future of the A-10 aircraft and its close air support mission continues to be reviewed in the Air Force and by congressional and industry leaders. MOROA leaders, during these meetings, requested that our members of Congress ensure that the A-10 aircraft continue to be fully funded until replacement aircraft are placed in inventory. Full funding to include personnel, training and parts needed to support the A-10 mission.

4. We ask Congress to confer veteran's status (for purposes of federal hiring preferences) on Reserve Component members after 180 "cumulative days" on active duty, as opposed to "consecutive days". Reserve/Guard members often perform frequent and short periods of duty amount-

ing to 179 days or less. Many reservists thus complete an entire career without serving 180 consecutive days of active duty. Dept. of MO ROA leaders, during these meetings, recommended to members of Congress that they confer veterans status (for purposes of federal hiring preferences) on reserve component members who complete at least 180 cumulative days of active duty.

ROA leaders from Missouri visited with the following members of Congress and/or legislative directors on Capitol Hill on March 20, 2018:

~**Senator Claire McCaskill** and **Stewart Hyderkham**

~**Senator Roy Blunt** and **Dan Burgess**

~**Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer** and **Lucas West**

~**Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler** and **Chrissi Lee**

~**Rachel Wagley**-office of **Congresswoman Ann Wagner**

~**Hilary Pinegar**-office of **Congressman Jason Smith**

We thank the members of Congress from Missouri and/or their legislative directors for their support of our men and women in uniform who protect the nation. ROA's mission (support of a strong national defense) remains the same as when our organization was founded in 1922. We are truly blessed as a nation to have an all-volunteer active duty force and citizen-soldiers (Reserve Component consisting of Reserve and National Guard) who are ready and willing to defend our freedoms. I encourage other ROA leaders and members to plan to join us next March as we will again visit our members of Congress from Missouri to talk about important issues which affect the readiness of our forces.



CAPT Nolan, Lt Col Stockton, Senator McCaskill, Col Nelson and CAPT Kallemeier



MOROA "Hill Visitors" with Senator Blunt

Air Force Affairs

By Col Rick Nelson, USAF (Ret)

I now have the honor of representing the MOROA as the new Air Force Vice President. I want to thank **Lt Col Andy Trout** for his dedicated service as our previous representative. He will continue to serve as the Dental Surgeon on the MOROA Executive Committee.

Our guest speaker at April's Annual MOROA Convention banquet, the new 442 FW CC, **Col Roger P. Suro**, has offered to help with recruiting new ROA members from his A-10 Wing. He has allotted time at their August senior leadership meeting for a delegation of MOROA members to address this group. **Susan Lukas**, ROA HQ, will present a teleconference update of ROA's current legislative efforts for the A-10, and for the active and retired Reservists of all ranks. Her vast experience "on the Hill" and grasp of the issues is exemplary. This team of current and former 442d members will relate how ROA has directly assisted Reservists over the years, particularly with increased benefits and pay, more up to date equipment, and new and improved facilities. This was not always the case. Our team will encourage the leaders to support and recommend ROA membership to their troops. Hopefully, we can convince them the value ROA represents to all Reservists. Lt Col Trout has generously volunteered to donate \$100 per new Life Member, Officers O-4 and below, WO1 and 2 and NCOs E-6 and below, from the 442d. Thank you, Andy.

As you may know, MOROA has written and approved a resolution, 01-18, emphasizing continued support of "Fully Maintaining the A-10 Thunderbolt". It will be forwarded to National for anticipated approval at the convention in September. Many of us believe that until another Close Air Support aircraft is designed and built, the DOD needs the A-10 for its outstanding CAS abilities. Money has been allocated for additional new wings, but the fight goes

on to get those built quickly and installed before any more aircraft are retired. If you have not yet read the new Reserve Voice, it contains a good article



Rewing the A-10 still an issue

about this issue. Let's keep up the pressure to help the Warthog stay viable for as long as it is needed.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Mitchell Life Membership fund to commemorate our friend and outstanding ROA supporter, Brig Gen Sam Mitchell.

Recent sad news – Lt Col Bob Stark has passed away. Bob was an excellent C-130 pilot, instructor, and flight examiner. He was a good man who always a smile on his face whenever he greeted you.

Hope you can attend the national convention in nearby Omaha. Let's have a good showing from Missouri.

Naval Services Affairs

Compiled by LDCR Joseph Bilodeau, USN (Ret)

USS *Manchester* (LCS-14), the latest Independence-class littoral combat ship, was commissioned in Portsmouth, N.H. on Saturday, 26 May 2018. With the commissioning of *Manchester* complete, the Navy now has a dozen littoral combat ships in the fleet that are designed to operate near the shore and in enclosed waters. *Manchester* is the seventh littoral combat ship built by Austal USA to enter the fleet.

The Independence-class is one of two littoral combat ship variants. The Independence-class variant, signified with even-numbered hulls,



Independence variant i.e. USS Manchester (LCS-14)

are noted for their aluminum-hull trimaran design. They are built by Austal at its Mobile shipyard. The Freedom-class littoral combat ship variants have odd hull numbers and are constructed by Lockheed Martin at Fincantieri Marinette Marine shipyard in Wisconsin. The under-construction USS *St. Louis* (LCS-19) is a Freedom-class variant.



Freedom variant i.e. USS St. Louis (LCS-19)

The LCS variants are slightly smaller than the U.S. Navy's *Oliver Hazard Perry-class* frigate but larger than *Cyclone-class patrol ships*. They have the capabilities of a small assault transport, including a flight deck and hangar for housing two SH-60 or MH-60 Seahawk helicopters, a stern ramp for operating small boats, and the cargo volume and payload to deliver a small assault force with fighting vehicles to a roll-on/roll-off port facility.

The concept behind the LCS is to "create a small, fast, maneuverable and relatively inexpensive member of the DD(X) family of ships." The ship is easy to reconfigure for different roles, including anti-submarine warfare, mine countermeasures, anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, homeland defense, maritime intercept, special operations, and logistic.

There have been operational issues and budget overruns. The original order of 52 ships has been reduced to 30 and the Navy must make a decision of which variant to use by 2019.

National Convention in Omaha 27-30 September

The National Convention will convene in Omaha, Nebraska on Thursday, 27 September at the Omaha Hilton. Registration is \$200 and includes the welcome reception, all meetings, coffee breaks, and the option to purchase tickets for the Memorial Breakfast and Banquet. In addition, the Memorial Breakfast is \$30 and the Banquet (with reception) is \$60.

The Omaha Hilton is located at 1001 Cass Street, Omaha, NE 68102, Phone: (402) 998-34002. ROA's room block offers a rate of \$104 (single) plus 18.16% applicable tax. Reservations must be made by August 30, 2018 to enjoy the group rate. The easiest way to make your reservation is through ROA's Hilton Reservation Portal www.roa.org/event/NC2018 You may also call 800-Hiltons (800-445-8667). When calling, be sure to reference group code "ROAS" to get the convention rate.



Omaha Hilton

A ROA Academy session is offered on Thursday morning, this is an excellent opportunity to learn about ROA finances, legislative policies and organizational structure. If you would like to be a convention delegate, please notify the secretary no later than 1 September. If you have never been to a ROA national convention or haven't attended one recently this is an ideal location to visit. The organization does an unbelievable amount of work supporting the needs of the Reserve, please do your part to help ROA.

New Dental/Vision Insurance for military families and retirees

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM), in partnership with the Defense Health Agency and the Department of Defense, announced the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) will be offered to TRICARE eligible retirees and their families during the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season. Active duty family members will be eligible to enroll in FEDVIP vision insurance.

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program ends on Dec. 31, 2018. Those enrolled in TRDP must choose a dental plan through FEDVIP to have coverage in 2019. Enrollment is not automatic. This announcement affects 1.63 million beneficiaries enrolled in TRDP and offers a choice to an additional 1.3 million eligible retired beneficiaries not currently enrolled in TRDP.

Most beneficiaries in a TRICARE health plan may enroll in a FEDVIP vision plan. This comprehensive vision coverage, including eyeglasses or contacts, is in addition to the routine eye examination benefit that many beneficiaries have under TRICARE Prime or Select.

The Federal Benefits Open Season enrollment period, Nov. 12, 2018 through Dec. 10, 2018, runs concurrently with the TRICARE Open Season. Coverage will be effective Jan. 1, 2019.

FEDVIP currently serves more than 3 million Federal employees, retirees and their families. It provides comprehensive dental and vision insurance at competitive group rates with 10 dental and four vision carriers for enrollees to choose from.

For more information, visit TRICARE.benefeds.com to sign up to receive messages, updates, and reminders on the FEDVIP throughout the rest of this year.

"HEROES OR CORPSES" CAPTAIN TRUMAN IN WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION

Until December 31, 2018

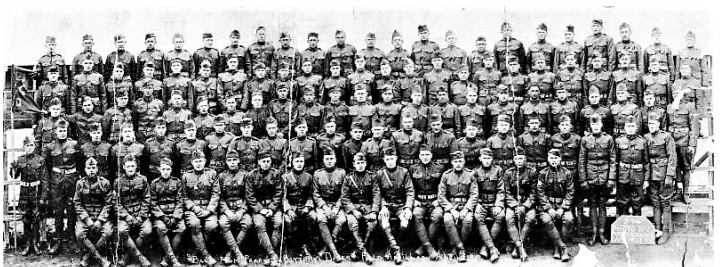
Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

500 W. U.S. Hwy. 24, Independence, MO 64050

"There we were watching New York's skyline diminish, and wondering if we'd be heroes or corpses," Harry S. Truman later recalled as he departed New York for the battlefields of France in the spring of 1918. Truman returned a hero, and his service helped set him on the path to the presidency.

"Heroes or Corpses": Captain Truman in World War I tells the captivating story of Truman's service in the Great War through never-before-exhibited photographs, personal letters and more than 40 artifacts from Truman's personal World War I collection. View the loving cup that members of Battery D purchased for Captain Truman with money they pooled together following the war. See Truman's tack box that was painted over with the new title "Captain Harry S. Truman" when he was promoted from lieutenant to captain. Read some of the more than 100 letters that Captain Truman sent to his fiancée Bess while stationed overseas.

World War I helped transform Harry Truman into the man who would one day become one of the most respected presidents in our nation's history, and this year only, visitors can view this fascinating story in depth at the Truman Library. This exhibition is included with museum admission and free to Truman Library Institute members.



Department Members In Memoriam

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BG Jan Paynton
 LTC Ernest Eddy
 LTC Dennis Price
 LTC Paul Mulcahy
 LTC Ed Rice
 COL James Kuhn
 Mrs. Mary Hobbs
 MAJ James J. Hughes
 COL William BeVier
 COL Rex Wood
 COL John Lick
 MG Robert Shirkey
 LTC Karl Wickstrom
 ILT Laverne Stockton
 COL Donald Linke
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 CAPT Carl Fiorito
 CAPT Dick McFarland
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 CAPT Bill Saul
 CAPT John Kane
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I wish to contribute \$ _____ in support of the Charitable Contingency Trust Fund.

Please accept a \$ _____ contribution in memory/recognition of _____

and send an acknowledgement to NAME _____

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Mail contribution to CCTF Treasurer, CW4 John Travers, 2804 S. Breckenridge Dr., Independence, MO 64055



Department of Missouri
 14775 Thornbird Manor Pkwy
 Chesterfield, Missouri 63017



"MOROA Transmitter"
 Recipient of ROA's
 Benjamin Franklin
 Journalism Award
 and Sword & Pen
 Award

Calendar of Events

2018

- *CIOR Conference, Quebec, Canada, 5-10 Aug*
- *National Convention, Hilton Omaha, NE 27-30 Sep*

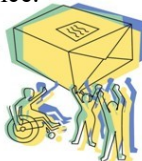
2019

- *National Leaders Meeting, Washington DC, 18-20 Mar*
- *MO Department Convention, Lodge at Kinderhook Country Club, Camdenton, MO 27-29 Apr*

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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MOROA Transmitter

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