

MOROA TRANSMITTER



March

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

2019

President’s Message

By CAPT Fred Lydic, USN (Ret)

Our last newsletter covered the changes made by ROA at the 2018 National Convention to address the challenges facing our men and women in uniform. While for many years we maintained a posture of promoting defense and national security, the issues and concerns of our respective reserve military communities has prompted the leadership of ROA to look outside the box, refocus and tackle the job of representing the reservist. As we move forward, those changes will become more evident and, hopefully, lead to a more viable ROA at the national, state and local levels.



President Lydic

As the President of Missouri ROA, I am now focusing on how to best incorporate the recent changes as well as a number of other “management” challenges. Every month the membership numbers go up or down but essentially, MOROA has roughly 1,500 members. The membership breaks down as follows:

- 57% are Army veterans
- 15% hail from the Sea Services sector (USMC, USN, USCG, NOAA and USPHS)
- 28% are Air Force veterans
- 8% are enlisted personnel

Almost 86% of our membership is comprised of Life members with the remaining 14% divided between term, associate and non-military memberships. To the extent that we can analyze the data, these numbers do not seem to be much different than the other departments. One MOROA statistic, however, is of significant concern...67% of the current membership is over the age of 60. 46% is over the age of 70. Like many other military-related organizations, our average member age is creeping upward and unless we can tap into the current stream of veterans, we will be asking ourselves who will be left to turn out the lights? Late last year, the Oklahoma Department was nearly shut down because of lack of participation. Four members were trying to keep the department viable.

In the coming months we will begin a marketing program to spread the word about the “new” ROA. That program will include outreach attempts to connect with MO and Federal government leadership, Commanders at MO Military installations, Reserve Centers, ROTC programs, Op-Ed submissions to local newspapers and many others. We will also be releasing our biennial *Report To Congress*.

Remember when **Nikita Khrushchev** pounded the United Nations podium with his shoe? (10-12-60)...Well, unless we start yelling and pounding, no one will know that we are here!

A new MOROA membership brochure has been created and a MO ROA web site is being constructed. I am www.literate but will admit...I am not into social media. However,...the veterans that we need to attract and recruit ARE...and somehow, we have to figure out how to connect with them in formats that they have become accustomed to using on a day-to-day basis. We publish or perish, sink or swim.

Can you remember the last time that you went to a local ROA Chapter function? Honestly speaking...probably not. That is our fault. In an attempt to turn the tide, we are planning to initiate a function at each chapter in 2019 to introduce the new ROA as well as attempt to recruit some of those returning veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan for the last 17 years. We need YOU to be a part of that event when it is held in your area.

The Executive Committee cannot do this by themselves. The cadre that runs the state organization is the same group of folks that are trying to hold the local chapters together. We need help. It can be “old” established blood or it can be “new” recruits/members.

Special Request

As part of our plan to increase membership and build a website we need everyone to send us their email address. Even if you think we have it we need to verify our records. Please send to **Dick Kallemeier** with your name rank/rate dickkall@charter.net Thank you for your assistance.

Convention Registration Inside
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2019 DEPARTMENT of MISSOURI CONVENTION 26, 27 and 28 April

Convention Events & Dress

This spring we are returning to the Lodge at Old Kinderhook in Camdenton, Missouri. Our hospitality suite overlooking the lake and golf course opens Friday evening at 1700. The suite is a short walk or courtesy golf cart ride from the main lodge. Food and drinks will be served. Dress is casual. The Executive Committee will meet at 2000 in a nearby meeting room. The suite will open at 0700 Saturday for a continental breakfast offering. The convention meetings will begin in the main lodge at 0800. Service dress uniform or business casual attire. Lunch will be in the main lodge at noon. Break out meetings will be held in areas at the main lodge. Evening festivities begins at 1800 with a cash bar followed by dinner with guest speaker, awards, entertainment and dancing. Winter mess dress, black tie or business suit. The hospitality suite opens Sunday at 0730. Closing session and elections begin Sunday morning at 0830 with the aim to adjourn by 1000. A short executive committee meeting will follow. Sunday is casual dress.



Kinderhook golf course and pool



MOROA Leaders with 2017 Officer of the Year recipients their spouses and Congressman Luetkemeyer

Hotel Information

The Lodge at Old Kinderhook is a resort, spa and golf course located at 678 Old Kinderhook Drive, Camdenton, MO 65020. King or Double Queen rooms are available for \$108.00 per night plus tax. If you need more space, condos are available for rent on property adjacent to the Lodge. The on site restaurant is open for all meals. More information is available at www.oldkinderhook.com **Make room reservations with the Lodge at 573-317-3500 or toll free 888-346-4949.** Golfers, take advantage of discounted green fees while at the meeting.

MOROA Convention Registration 26-28 April 2019

Due by April 15

Name _____ Rank/Service _____ Spouse/Guest _____
Children or other guests _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ email _____ Chapter _____

Convention registration and meals are FREE for O1-O3, W1 & W2 and E4-E6. Fill in the information above and mail or email to rshankel@moroa.us

All others

Registration # _____ \$30 Lunch # _____ \$20 Dinner # _____ \$45 Total \$ _____

Make payment to *Missouri ROA* and mail to:

Col Bob Shankel, 7449 Cherokee Dr., Prairie Village, KS 66208



Legislative Affairs

By CAPT Michael Nolan, USN (Ret)

The upcoming Fiscal Year 2020 Defense Budget will be one of the most important documents which will determine the destiny of our nation's military rebuild as recommended by the current administration in Washington, DC. Due to recent budget increases the military has experienced gains in readiness, but the rebuilding is far from a completed task. Every service has expressed the need to increase in size and capabilities to counter great power competition which is highlighted in the National Defense Strategy. The 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) will be a clear signal of how Congress intends to shape the resources that will define the military effort and direction.

The Bipartisan Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2018 offered a substantial boost to the resources dedicated to defending the nation. However, rebuilding the military is not a simple equation in which taxpayer dollars are automatically transformed into a ready force. There is a considerable lag time between the input of resources and the output of increased readiness, force composition, new weapon procurement, etc. It took many years for the readiness cracks to start showing and it will take some years for the cracks to disappear.

Both the defense authorization and defense appropriations bills were signed by the President during the last fiscal year, ending September 30, 2018. The passage of both of these pieces of legislation means Congress followed the plan it outlined for itself for a fiscal year. Since 2010, every other fiscal year had started under a continuing resolution (temporary mechanism designed to give Congress more time to negotiate its annual budget), while keeping the budgetary status quo for federal agencies. This process has a considerable negative impact on the Department of Defense (DOD), especially as it relates to efficient contracting for goods/services and development of new programs. For the reserve forces the continuing resolution plays havoc with drill schedules, attendance at professional courses, possible delays in promotion opportunities, etc.

Under the Budget Control Act defense and non-defense spending are each capped in separate categories. Defense and non-defense spending were designed to share an equal portion of the budget cuts imposed by the BCA (a concept called parity). This is arbitrary and may no longer be relevant. Since 2011 the original BCA cuts have had a disproportionate negative impact on the national defense budget. National Defense is a core constitutional function and the levels set by the BCA were too low to fully and properly fund the military.

Lawmakers need to continue making progress in prioritizing defense needs over domestic programs. The role of Congress in budgeting responsibly should be to focus on key constitutional responsibilities such as national defense, within existing spending controls. The release of the National Defense Strategy in 2018 marked the be-

ginning of a change of focus from terrorism and counter terrorism operations to great power competition. To make the shift the DOD must be able to properly invest in the defense of the country. The budget must be sustained and predictable to empower the DOD to make the necessary investments to maintain the competitive distance between the U.S., Russia and China. This is the reason why the Navy has targeted to increase their fleet size to about 350 ships and the Air Force has discussed plans to increase its squadrons by 24%.

The military rebuild is at a fragile moment at which the DOD and Congress need to assure the proper levels of resourcing. I urge ROA members in Missouri to communicate with your elected representatives on this important subject of appropriate funding for a strong defense force for our nation.

Senate/House Members

	<u>Telephone</u>
Senator Roy Blunt	202 224-5721
Senator Josh Hawley	202 224-6154
Congressman Lacy Clay	202 225-2406
Congresswoman Ann Wagner	202 225-1621
Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer	202 225-2956
Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler	202 225-2876
Congressman Emanuel Cleaver	202 225-4535
Congressman Sam Graves	202 225-7041
Congressman Billy Long	202 225-6536
Congressman Jason Smith	202 225-4404

National Council Conference

By CAPT Dick Kallemeier, USN (Ret)

MOROA delegates, **Lt Col Don Stockton** - National President, **CAPT Mike Nolan**- Past National President, **Col Rick Nelson**- Department Vice President Air Force and **CAPT Dick Kallemeier**-National Councilman attended the National Council & Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. on 16-19 March. The function of the National Council is to represent the departments, advise the National Executive Committee and be one of the communication links between the departments and the national office.



Some of the events and projects include the Veterans History Project with the Library of Congress. A formalized interview and information collection of veterans since WWI through the present. Information to participate is available on the ROA website. A plea for volunteers to serve on national committees and department and chapter report compliance for the annual department rebate payments. An invitation to the CIOR/CIOMR conference this August in Tallinn, Estonia and planning for the September National Convention in Des Moines. The Pershing Fund was discussed, and several members were recognized for their contributions. Started last year the fund provides and opportunity for members to contribute to ROA on an annual basis. Two editions of the paper magazine will return this year with a new name The ROA Voice. Just approved

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by the Excom, ROAL is dissolved and the members will be integrated into the departments or remain in a department at large entitled Family Support Department.

The Monday morning guest speakers were **Hon James N. Stewart**, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness and **Maj Gen Arnold L. Punaro, USMC (Ret)**, Chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board. These gentlemen were very candid about the state of the Reserve and the finance issues surrounding pay, health insurance, retirement and individual/unit readiness.



James Stewart, Lt Col Stockton, Maj Gen Punaro-Stockton is holding Punaro's book "On War and Politics"

Wrapping up the trip we "Marched on the Hill" Tuesday morning and visited the offices of Senators Blunt and Hawley and Representatives Luetkemeyer, Hartzler, Wagner and Long. Each of the offices were given our 2019-20 Report to Congress and our Issues and Concern Letter. All were receptive to our concerns and agreed to study the ROA proposals. There are a total of seven priority issues, we have reprinted three to give you an idea of what we are asking congressional members to support.

MILITARY PERSONNEL ACCOUNT- BIENNIAL FUNDING-Until this fiscal year the military personnel account was funded on an annual basis, resulting in several problems for the service and service member. The problems are complicated when Continuing Appropriations are passed instead of Budget Appropriations. Accordingly, the military services are often required to cancel or reschedule unit training, annual training, etc. This could impact a member's retirement, family and employer and causing an increase in resignations.

RECOMMENDATION-ROA urges Congress to continue the Military Personnel Account (MILPERS) as a biennial fund so service members will not experience disruption in service.

MODERNIZATION FOR RIVER TRANSPORTATION-VESSELS SUPPORTING COMMERCE-INLAND RIVERS-The total Marine Transportation System (MTS) in our nation accounts for over \$4.6 trillion dollars in economic activity, sustains more than 13 million jobs and contributes \$212 billion dollars in annual port, sector, federal, state and local taxes. The U.S. Coast Guard Upper Mississippi River (SUMR) based in St. Louis along with its reserve and auxiliary components plays a critical role in maintaining the region's economic health, by insuring the cost-efficient movement of commerce on the nation's inland river system. The movement of goods on our inland waterways is contingent on the timely place-

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Army Affairs

Compiled by LTC Leslie Hobbs, USA (Ret)

Two Area Reservists killed in Kuwait

The Army identified two Reserve Soldiers killed while conducting military operations in Kuwait on March 5th. **SGT Holli Bolinski**, 37, of Pinckneyville, Illinois and **SPC Jackson Johnson**, 20, of Hillsboro, Missouri were killed in North Kuwait when their unidentified vehicle collided with a civilian commercial truck, according to a release from the Army's 184th sustainment command.



SGT Bolinski

SPC Johnson

A third soldier was injured in the crash and is now pending medical evacuation from Kuwait, officials said. According to the release the three soldiers were medically evacuated via helicopter from the site of the crash to the U.S. Military Hospital-Kuwait at Camp Arifjan, where they were stationed during the deployment. Bolinski was pronounced dead upon arrival, according to the release, while Johnson died later of injuries from the crash.

All three soldiers were assigned to the 657th Transportation Detachment out of Mount Vernon, Illinois. They were deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield, an ongoing partnership training and deterrence mission taking place in various locations in Southwest Asia. Pentagon officials said the tragic incident remains under investigation. *(Edited from Military.com)*

SGT Charles R. Long Reserve Center Renovation

Soldiers that have been training at the Sergeant Charles R. Long, U.S. Army Reserve Center, 11101 Independence Avenue, Independence, Missouri for over 30 years are now temporarily located at 17308 East 24 Highway, Independence, Missouri.

The Charles Long Center and parking lot are being renovated for the estimated next two years. Current soldiers and retirees needing Identification Cards can get that accomplished at the DEER'S-RAPIDS Center located at the new address. They do not take reservations, but their hours of operation are:

Monday – Thursday
8:00 to 12:00 1300-1500
Lunch 12:00 to 13:00
Friday 8:00 to 12:00

If you want more information, you can call 719-366-3945 or 719-366-4018. Even with the 719 area code, they are local phone numbers.

Naval Services Affairs

Compiled by LCDR Joe Bilodeau, USN (Ret)

Navy Work Uniform (NWU)

The Navy banned the combustible Navy Working Uniform from ships over six years ago. Type I clothing was banned after investigators found it will “burn robustly until completely consumed” once exposed to flame. Navy officials finally hope they have a practical, comfortable and flame-retardant shipboard uniform.

Another round of wear-testing is scheduled for July. If successful, the new two piece uniform would become optional issued clothing when you report aboard ship. That means no out-of-pocket expenses.

“The effort started as a safety issue and it still is,” Fleet Master Chief Rick O’Rawe told Navy Times. “But right now, the shipboard uniform for everyone is coveralls. But not all sailors want, or even need, coveralls. So finding an alternative based in common sense is what we need to get to.”

Focus groups in 2016 revealed that 84 percent of surveyed sailors wanted to put on something other than the standard coveralls. An initial round of wear-testing last year unleashed a flood of disgruntled feedback, telling designers that sailors also want to go from home to work and back in rugged comfort, too. More than 70 percent of sailors liked the traditional color schemes of all-blue uniforms for pay grades E-6 and below, with khaki clothing for chiefs and above.

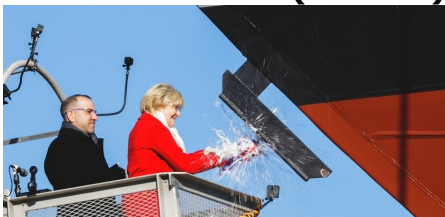
The “throwback dungaree” light blue shirt and dark blue trousers flopped and digital fabric patterns were often unpopular, too. According to O’Rawe, many sailors want the sea service to “just move into something that looks like the Navy and not like you are in the woods.” Sifting



through the surveys, Big Navy found that shipboard sailors simply desire a uniform with the form, fit and function of the Type III, in colors that make sense to seagoing men and women. “The pattern they’re using to cut the NWU Type III is the pattern they’re using to cut these uniforms,” said O’Rawe. “It’s just made out of a different material that’s fire-retardant and is a solid color, either solid blue or khaki.” (Edited from Navy Times)

Christening the USS St. Louis (LCS 19)

On December 15th the St. Louis Science Center hosted the showing of the USS St. Louis (LCS 19) christening and launch. The event was held at the Fin-cantieri Marinette



Barbara Taylor doing the champagne christening

Marine Shipyard in Marinette, Wisconsin. Enterprise Leasing’s Andrew and Barbara Taylor, two of the most prolific donors in the St. Louis region, attended the ceremony so Barbara in her role as sponsor could christen the new ship. Also attending were Senator Roy Blunt and St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson. RDML Lee Metcalf, USN (Ret) led the program which was digitally streamed to a crowd of Navy JROTC students, STEM students and regional Navy supporters. Members of the Navy Recruiting District were on hand to answer career questions and give some Navy souvenirs.



LCS 19 in its building blocks

After the christening the ship uniquely slipped sideways from its bilge blocks into the water. The new LCS is meant to be a focused-mission platform for near-shore environments, in addition to open-ocean missions, and is designed to counter threats such as mines, submarines and fast surface craft.



Launching the USS St. Louis (LCS 19)

It is the seventh vessel to be named St. Louis and is now part of the “Missouri Fleet”. We believe Missouri is the only state to simultaneously have five ships with state related names. They are the carrier Truman, submarines Missouri and Jefferson City and LCS’ Kansas City and St. Louis.

Air Force Affairs

By Col Rick Nelson, USAF (Ret)

Greetings, have you all made your reservations for the April Department of Missouri's annual convention in the Ozarks? It's a great opportunity to catch up with former comrades and to learn more about current issues with the Reserve Forces. The unique needs of our Reserve component members, that your Missouri Department leaders try to improve, in sync with ROA HQ, are vital to all Reservists, whether you are currently serving or long since retired. During March's ROA leadership conference in Washington, DC, your Missouri delegates met with the staffs of the Missouri Senators and 4 Representatives. A past success story from these "March on the Hill" visits is that the A-10's future looks secure and properly funded for many years. But there are always more areas requiring the spotlight to ensure our appropriators are fully versed in the DOD/Reserve Forces needs to provide for an adequate defense posture. Check out the current legislative priorities and resolutions on the ROA website. These all started at the Chapter level and eventually made their way to approval at the ROA National Convention. I.E., we are working to improve health care inequities and to continue biennial funding for the Military Personnel Account. With this overlap to the total annual budget, funding for training and readiness is available regardless of the uncertainties caused by the current annually delayed funding from continuing budget resolutions. If you need something fixed or improved, let your Missouri officers know.

On to happenings with the 442 FW: Recently, several 303d A-10s and Wing personnel deployed to Kaneohe Bay, Marine Corps Air Station, Hawaii for joint services training with the local US Marines. This opportunity to fly and train with the Marines, and their CV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, provided valuable readiness advancements. I suspect that, after hours, unofficial mission debriefs were conducted in this island paradise.

Personnel changes: If you have not heard, our friend and



A-10s training with the Marine Osprey CV-22Bs out of Kaneohe, Hawaii

colleague, retired **Col Jim Fishback** died in January. This former 442 Medical Squadron Commander, an outstanding doctor and flight surgeon, was a very good man. He will be missed by all who knew him and whose lives he posi-

tively influenced. **442 FW/CC, Col Roger Suro**, is now a Brigadier General. **BG Brian Borgen**, former 442 FW/CC, has been selected to be the next 10th Air Force Commander. Congratulations to both for their achievements and hard work for the 442d.

If you want to know what's going on with your retired friends or the current 442d personnel, check them out on

Brig. Gen. Roger Suro, 442d Fighter Wing Commander, stands at attention while his family pins on his new rank during his promotion ceremony at Whiteman AFB on 2 Mar. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Missy Sterling)



Facebook – 442nd reunion and 442d Fighter Wing. The retirees usually get together for lunch on the second Tuesday of every month and for an annual party sometime in the summer.

I look forward to seeing you in April in the Ozarks. Hopefully, this long winter will be over by then.

(Continued from page 4)

ment/maintenance of navigation aids and the U.S. Coast Guard River Tenders (WLR's) that serve them. The average age of the WLR fleet is 53 years, well past its service life.

RECOMMENDATION-The Missouri Congressional Delegation is strongly urged to keep a watchful eye on the budgeting, equipment replacement and maintenance for the fleet of WLR's whose job it is to keep the inland waterways safe and secure for the transit of commercial goods, thus contributing to a very vital economy. We also recommend consideration of infrastructure investments to ensure the waterways can handle the significant increase expected in waterborne commerce in the SUMR district in the next ten years.

CONFER VETERAN'S STATUS-FOR PURPOSES OF FEDERAL HIRING PREFERENCES-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 vs. "consecutive days" on active duty. Reserve/Guard members meet operational requirements by performing frequent and short periods of duty. DOD limits many mobilizations to 179 days because duty over 180 days triggers a Permanent Change of Duty Status (PCS) move. The services obviously want to avoid the cost of a PCS, but this makes many reservists complete a career without serving the 180 consecutive days needed for veteran's status .

RECOMMENDATION-Confer "veteran's status" for purposes of federal hiring preferences on Reserve Component members who complete at least 180 cumulative days of active duty.

Department Members In Memoriam

ARMY

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
 MAJ Debbie Martin
 MG Bill Branson

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 CAPT Carl Fiorito
 CAPT Dick McFarland
 CAPT Don Witte
 CAPT Bill Saul
 CAPT John Kane
 CAPT Harold Hagan
 CAPT Ray Traub
 CAPT Dick Richards
 CAPT Bruce Smith
 CDR William Seymour
 LCDR Robert Manley
 LCDR Mary Adams
 CDR Ted Harris
 LCDR Vern Larson
 CDR Donald Riggs

CAPT Clyde Miener
 CAPT Bill Christy
 CAPT Robt. O'Connell
 CAPT Joseph Becker
 LT Ray McDonald
 Col Leontone Meyer
 CAPT Gene Webber
 CAPT Ralph Bopp
 CAPT Fred Small
 LCDR Ted Dettman
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Mrs. Catherine Lacy
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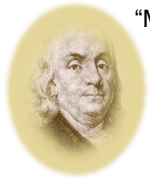
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ADDRESS _____ CITY/ST/ZIP _____

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



Department of Missouri
14775 Thornbird Manor Pkwy
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Calendar of Events

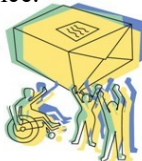
2019

- **MO Department Convention, Lodge at Kinderhook Country Club, Camdenton, MO 26-28 Apr**
- **CIOR/CIOMR Congress, Tallinn, Estonia, 5-9 Aug**
- **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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MOROA Transmitter

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President

CAPT Frederick Lydic, USN (Ret)
2006 Crimson Meadows Dr. .
O'Fallon, MO 63366
Phone: 314-610-1118
email: lydicassoc@outlook.com

National Councilman and MOROA Editor

CAPT Richard L. Kallemeier, USN (Ret)
14775 Thornbird Manor Pkwy
Chesterfield, MO 63017-2496
Phone: 636-733-3323
email: dickkall@charter.net