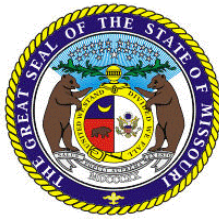


M O R A TRANSMITTER



August

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

2024

President’s Message

By LCDR Dina Pinkston, USN (Ret)

As my first Transmitter message as your Department of Missouri President, I would first like to thank you for your support of our organization, our active reservists, and our veterans. Secondly, I would like to introduce myself. I grew up mostly in Jefferson County, Missouri and just moved from Cottleville, Missouri to a city near Tampa, Florida with my family. I joined the Navy while in high school through the delayed entry program. I graduated from Interior Communications Class A School in 1994 and received orders to my dream destination of the USS Holland (AS-32) forward deployed to Agana, Guam where I served in the Engineering IC Shop. Guam was seriously the reason I chose the Navy over the other services. I love the ocean! My next command was the USS McKee (AS 41) in San Diego, California.



LCDR Pinkston

From there I decided to leave active service and joined the Navy Reserve through the CB Vet Program and converted to a Construction Electrician (CE) with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Fifteen in Belton/St. Louis. I attended the CE courses in Port Hueneme, California. In 2006, I was deployed to Iraq with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-Five. In 2009, I had used my Montgomery and Post 9-11 GI Bill benefits to complete a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and submitted a Direct Commission application to the Supply Corps, where I was accepted. I took full advantage of my GI Bill benefits and completed a master’s in business administration in 2012.

I’ve served with Fleet Logistics Center Bahrain, Yokosuka, and San Diego. In 2016, I deployed with Special Operations Command-Forward, Yemen and in

(Continued on page 4)



Colonel W.W. Bill Hammerschmidt, United States Army, Retired November 13, 1940 - July 16 2024

Dearest husband to Gina and loving father to Susan Hammerschmidt, Cynthia (Matt) Hammerschmidt-Heimerdinger, Kristine (Tony) Monti, the late Stephen Hammerschmidt, Kurt Hammerschmidt and Erika (Chris) Schroeder. Loving grandfather to Madison Monti, Anthony Monti, Ethan Monti and Luke Hammerschmidt. Great grandfather to Ellie Monti, Raegan Wyche, Maxwell Wyche and Devyn Wyche.



Bill embraced the motto, “work hard play hard.” This was evident in his military and civilian career. Bill began his career as an enlisted soldier, which gave him the knowledge of starting from the bottom and working hard to move up the ranks, which would lead him to achieving the rank of Colonel in the Army Reserves. Bill created an environment of camaraderie. Annual training usually included softball games against other Reserve Units or the Active-Duty component, Christmas parties with Officers serving meals to soldiers, and Oktoberfest meals including an Opa’s Oompah band in the mess hall. Bill was also active in many military professional organizations. In support of the Reserve Organization of America he was a Past National Army Vice President and Department of Missouri President. He was laid to rest at Resurrection Cemetery with full military honors on July 22, 2024. We miss you “Hammer”.



2024 DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI ANNUAL MEETING



By CAPT Dick Kallemeier, USN (Ret)

For the first time since the late 80's, MOROA returned to The Inn at Grand Glaize, Osage Beach, Missouri for the Annual Meeting. The Inn is undergoing a major face-lift, and it was the annual fraternity weekend at the lake, so it was very busy. President **COL Michael Clarke** opened the meeting early Saturday morning and after the meeting formalities introduced the Leader of the Year recipients, **Capt Jacob G. Smith, USAFR, TSgt Tyler J. Boothe, USAFR, IT1 Heather Simmons, USNR,** and **SSgt Alaska A. Marquez-Soteleo, USAFR.**

Col Bob Shankel Meeting Chairman, followed with the event agenda and introduced National ROA President **Layne Wroblewski, USAF (Ret).**



**National President
Lt Col Wroblewski**

Layne is a MOROA Past President and his presentation was entitled *ROA State of the Union*. He reported on some of the legislative accomplishments and how ROA is positioning for the next 100 years.

After the morning break **Matthew Schwartzman**, ROA's National Legislation and Military Policy Director virtually joined the meeting.

He spoke to the legislative agenda including getting funding for the Public Health Service Reserve Corps in FY 2025; supporting H.R. 5844 the Savings for Servicemember's Act that drill weekends are a necessity and a non-negotiable requirement; and supporting H.R. 2693 the Pay our Coast Guard Parity Act to name a few. Matt stayed on line for the leaders panel discussion.

Then the leaders panel formed and discussed *Reserve Component Challenges to Combat Readiness*. The panel members were **Col Michael Leonas, USAFR, CAPT Mauricio Perez, USNR, LTC Matt Eddings, CMSgt Russell Guajardo, USAFR** and moderator **Lt Col Donald Stockton, USAF (Ret)**. Perez and Eddings attended virtually. Phasing out the A-10 without a known replacement is creating retention and combat readiness problems for the Air Force. The ongoing funding problems with congressional continuing resolutions are causing training readiness and scheduling difficulties

for the Army. See the Legislative Affairs article on page 4 for additional information.



Panel members Col Leonas, CMSgt Guajardo, moderator Lt Col Stockton and virtually Matt Schwartzman, LTC Eddings and CAPT Perez.

The luncheon speaker was Col Michael Leonas, USAFR Commander of the 442d Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB. He talked about the accomplishments of the A-10 and their importance doing the close air support mission. It is ironic, while the Air Force is disestablishing the A-10 they keep activating the 442 aircraft to meet close air support needs around the world.



Col Leonas speaking to the MOROA members at the luncheon



Dr. Meadows

Following the reception and dinner Saturday evening, **Dr. William Meadows**, Professor of Anthropology and Native American Studies at Missouri State University addressed the group. Professor Meadows has written five books on Native American veterans and Native American Code Talkers. He spoke to the importance they played in WW2

and the effect of speaking in their native tongue confused the German Army. In 2008 his congressional testimony contributed to the passage of the Code Talkers Recognition Act which brought recognition to all Native Code Talkers. Then the awards were presented:

LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Capt Jacob Smith, USAFR, as an A-10C Pilot, demonstrated exceptional leadership and proficiency in executing upgrades for 4-ship Flight Lead and in tactical roles, conducting 61 sorties totaling 113 flight hours while focused on rigorous near-peer threat training. He managed complex logistical challenges while coordinating 11 C-17 flights which were transporting over 230,000 pounds of cargo to facilitate A-10 operations in two European locations.



Capt Smith and his spouse Alyssa

He responded as unexpected challenges arose, including a catastrophic engine failure. His efforts were recognized by the Secretary of the Air Force during DEFENDER EUROPE '23, highlighting his impact on unit capabilities and beyond.

TSgt Tyler Boothe, USAFR, as the 442d Maintenance Squadron Munitions Supervisor, managed over \$16.5 million of munitions-related assets, enabling training munitions expenditures crucial to the wing's combat operational capabilities.

He successfully executed a forward deployment exercise, affirming the unit's agile combat employment capabilities. TSgt Boothe spearheaded the aircraft air-to-air munitions supply effort for Exercise DEFENDER EUROPE, facilitating the acquisition, movement, preparation, and delivery of assets critical to enhancing NATO's deterrence and readiness. He earned a BA in Business Administration with Cum Laude honors.



TSgt Boothe and his family

IT1 Heather Simmons, USNR is recognized for her exceptional leadership within the TRANSCOM Reserve Navy Element. Her unwavering commitment and outstanding performance as the unit's Leading Petty Officer and career counselor along with her daily support of operational and administrative support have been instrumental in ensuring the unit's operational readiness and the well-being of its Sailors.



IT1 Simmons with LCDR Pinkston

Her leadership was pivotal during Turbo Challenge 24, which is the most recent TRANSCOM exercise. She played a critical role in coordinating and maintaining communications with Joint Forces. Her ability to effectively manage communications and resolve issues in a fast-paced and challenging environment underscores her exceptional leadership qualities and dedication to mission success.

SSgt Alaska Marquez-Sotelo, USAFR, assigned to the 442d Force Support Squadron, as an Aviation Resource Management Specialist, ensured aircrews were safe, healthy, and ready to fly by validating flight physicals, physiological training, and aeronautical orders for over 40 pilots.



SSgt Marquez-Sotelo with Col Leonas

She played a pivotal role in the success of DEFENDER EUROPE, a multi-national, joint exercise in conjunction with NATO allies with A-10 aircraft operations primarily originating from deployed locations in Spain and Greece. She assisted commanders and leadership by leveraging her Spanish-language skills to serve as a communications liaison – greatly improving interactions and team dynamics with other nations and our hosts.

She continues her pursuit of a BS in Nursing and spent numerous hours volunteering in the local community providing aid to homeless individuals.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS



COL Clarke accepts BoV Award from Lt Col Wroblewski

The department presented the prestigious *National Brigade of Volunteers Award* for outstanding service and the *Patriot Award* for a contribution to MOROA to **COL Michael Clarke, USA (Ret)**. Department *President's Awards* were presented to **LCDR Dina Pinkston, USN (Ret)**, **Maj Brian Rutherford, USAF (Ret)**, **Col Bob Shankel, USAF (Ret)**, and **CW4 John Travers, USA (Ret)**. The business meeting closed Sunday morning with the installation of the 2024-26 leaders (See page 5) and a short Excom meeting.

(Continued from page 1) **President's Message**

2017 with the Combined Security Assistance Command-Security Assistance Office-Afghanistan. Upon my return I was assigned to Defense Contract Management Agency-Manassas, and my last assignment was with the Joint Transportation Reserve Unit, United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB, Illinois. I retired in 2022 after 30 years of service. I wear the Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist and Fleet Marine Force insignias. I earned the German "Bundeswehr Proficiency Badge" while serving in Afghanistan. Personal awards include Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2), Joint Service Commendation Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), Good Conduct Medal, and the Reserve Meritorious Service Medal (3).

As a civilian, I am a Foreign Military Sales Program Manager for the Defense Contract Management Agency, Headquarters. I have one son, Mason, who is eight years old and soon to be wife to my partner, David.

And onto other business, in April we had a successful Annual Convention at The Grand Glaize Inn, Osage Beach, Missouri. A special thank you to **Col Bob Shankel** and the others who put a lot of effort into planning this event and **CAPT Dick Kallemeier** who managed the Leader of the Year Awards process. Our Leader of the Year award recipients are **Captain Jacob Smith, USAFR, Information Systems Technician First Class Heather Simmons, USNR, Technical Sergeant Tyler Boothe, USAFR and Staff Sergeant Alaska Marquez-Sotelo, USAFR.**

long been a concern for our only AF Reserve unit in Missouri. MOROA first proposed an ROA resolution in 2018 to fully maintain and delay reductions of this critically important close air support fleet of A-10s. Congress subsequently supported our recommendations but in recent years is no longer delaying retirement of this aircraft.

So now the issue is for the AF to provide follow on aircraft for our only state fighter wing. Funding for the wing's A-10s may be reduced as airframes assigned to the unit are retired potentially over the next 3 years. Funding affects manning, recruiting, retention, training, and many other aspects of combat readiness both in the short and long term and unit moral is affected in a negative way.

MOROA Legislative committee is presently working with the ROA National Legislative committee and national staff to develop a new more current national resolution to address the urgent need for AF to assign new replacement aircraft so that the unit can maintain current combat capability. The goal is to finalize a resolution before or during the upcoming national annual meeting in October. With this new resolution in hand, we will seek congressional action to save our 442FW.

In this day and age, it is not appropriate to reduce the overall combat readiness of any Air Force units in the face of our many enemies worldwide. There is just too much danger to US national security with current actual war and threats of war all around the world today.

The elected Missouri members of Congress include:

<u>Senate/House Members</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Senator Josh Hawley	202-224-6154
Senator Eric Schmitt	202-224-5721
Congresswoman Cori Bush	202-225-2406
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Congressman Sam Graves	202-225-7041
Congressman Eric Burlison	202-225-6536

Legislative Affairs

By Lt Col Donald Stockton, USAF (Ret)



A highlight of our recent MOROA department annual meeting was again a virtual presentation by ROA national Legislation and Military policy director, **Matthew Schwartzman**. He reviewed current principal ROA resolutions and updates about recent ROA's focus on congressional bills now being considered on the Hill. Following his presentation, he listened in on our Leaders Panel discussion featuring currently serving leaders of area reserve units. The leaders presented current issues and concerns that affect unit combat readiness. Examples include manning, recruiting, and retention as well as equipment and training concerns.

Following lunch, **Colonel Michael Leonas, 442FW, Commander** explained the current critical issue regarding our A-10 fighter wing at Whiteman AFB. The early retirement of the A-10 Warthog has

Update your ROA Record

The ROA website www.roa.org has been modified to allow members to enter their biography information and make changes to address, phone, email, rank, etc., use "Manage Profile" tab. Keeping your information current helps us with mailing the *Transmitter* and in the case of a quick alert by email. If you are not receiving the *ROA SmartBrief* use the site to subscribe. The *SmartBrief* email is published several days a week with the latest military and legislative news from Washington.

ROA Department of Missouri proposed resolution to identify replacement, follow on aircraft for the 442 Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB, Missouri.

WHEREAS, The Air Force with congressional approval, has begun the process of retiring as many as 250 aircraft from total AF fleet including as many as 56 A-10 Thunderbolt II (Warthog) fighter aircraft over three fiscal years ending September 2027.

WHEREAS, The 442 Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, MO is currently scheduled to divest 27 A-10s along with associated Operations Group and Maintenance Group billets and funding by 30 September 2027.

WHEREAS, The 442 Wing originated during WWII on September 1, 1943 at Sedalia Army Air Field Mo (now Whiteman AFB). Following the war in 1949, the wing was assigned to the Air Force Reserve where it has remained for the past 75 years receiving many outstanding unit awards over those years.

WHEREAS, Funding for the 442FW depends in large part on the total number of currently assigned aircraft which will reduce over time as unit A-10 aircraft are retired. Reduced funding will have a negative impact on unit manning, recruiting, and retention, all of which affects combat readiness.

WHEREAS, The potential to lose all 27 A-10 over the next three years coupled with the AF not presently identifying a follow on aircraft to replace the A-10 has a severe impact on morale for unit members causing many to depart for other assignments causing a negative impact on unit manning and retention.

WHEREAS, The wing is currently combat ready but will not continue to remain so if significant numbers of A-10s are retired and replacement aircraft are not identified as soon as possible.

WHEREAS, In this day and age it is not appropriate to reduce the overall combat readiness of any Air Force units in the face of our many enemies worldwide. There is just too much danger to US national security with current actual war and threats of war all around the world today.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ROA, chartered by Congress, recommend to Congress and the Air Force that replacement aircraft be identified as soon as possible so that training may begin on follow on aircraft well in advance of the ultimate total divestiture of the A-10 Thunderbolt II, (Warthog) fighter aircraft.

2024-26 DEPARTMENT LEADERS

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028 Springfield, **LTC Matt Eddings, USAR**

030 St. Louis, **Lt Col Matt Giese, USAFR**

041 St. Louis, **LCDR Joseph Bilodeau, USN (Ret)**

442 Whiteman AFB, **Lt Col Thomas Schmidt, USAFR**

National Council Report

By LTC Bob Dietrich, USA (Ret)

The National Council has held only virtual meetings since the last report, May 1, 2024, and July 18, 2024. The May meeting's major topic of discussion was the Memorial Building Fund, and its importance as a financial resource to support the building. This is highlighted by several unbudgeted building upkeep expenditures of over \$50,000 for HVAC repairs and bringing the stairs and building lights up to code.

The July meeting's major topic of discussion were updates on the Annual Meeting, formally known as the National Convention, by **Ms. Diane Markham**, and a briefing on 22 Days of Service Program by **COL Cameron Trent**, Vice Chair, DCDC. The most critical take away from Diane was that all Annual Meeting attendees should secure their hotel reservations at the Residence Inn Washington Downtown / Convention Center to receive the group rate is \$239 (plus tax) and includes breakfast. Reservations must be made by Monday, September 1, 2024, to enjoy the group rate and to prevent ROA from being billed for unused block rooms. Additionally, ROA will host a hospitality suite in the Residence Inn on Friday and Saturday evenings, and all meetings, receptions, and the banquet will be held at the ROA Minute Man Memorial Building.

Air Force Affairs

Compiled by Maj Brian Rutherford, USAF (Ret)

ATTENTION: "GRAY AREA" RETIREES!

Air Reserve Component Retirement Pay Applications Transition to myFSS *Information gathered from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service app and discussions with "Gray Area" Retirees and others who experienced delays receiving their retirement pay!*

Headquarters AF/A1 is in the process of transitioning all personnel systems currently located on the myPers website onto two new platforms, myFSS and MyVector. This Digital Transformation Initiative directly impacts how Airmen are served and is expressed as the "number one priority for the Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC).

As a result of this digital transformation, the submission of Air Reserve Component Retirement Pay Applications is transferring from the current myPers platform to a new platform called myFSS. The myFSS platform was created to ensure consistent communication between HQ ARPC and customers in the "gray area." Customers will use it to inquire on personnel records and requests.

Most importantly, the myFSS retirement applica-

tion has been developed to simplify routing of retirement source documents to HQ ARPC, who will in turn coordinate with DFAS to begin retirement payments. AF Reserve and Air National Guard "Gray Area" retirees will need to log into myFSS through any commercial browser or device and obtain a Username/Password by the following steps below:

1. Log into myFSS (link: <https://myfss.us.af.mil>)
2. Complete/Sign DD Form 2656 (save in pdf format)
3. Click on "my Retirements"
4. Click on "ARC Retirements"
5. Proceed to Knowledge Articles/Application as applicable.

Recent "Gray Area" Retirees have reported the entire process of initiating payment of retirement pay can take several months. It is strongly recommended you register on myFSS as soon as possible, and begin the process of verifying your data and other challenges at least six months to a year prior to the date when you should begin to receive retirement pay!

Exercise CAS 3.0

Information gathered from 442fw.afrc.af.mil

A team of Airmen took their A-10s to MacDill Air Force Base earlier this year to participate in Exercise CAS 3.0. This joint event was designed to test interoperability in contested environments. The objectives and order of events leaned on the units involved to respond effectively to the needs for collective defense of allies and face the threats of near peer competitors.

The 442d engaged in what they do best – setting up quickly in austere conditions, close air support, combat search and rescue and forward area refueling operations. Missions and objectives were heavily centered on deconflicting challenges in communication and integration between fighter aircraft and ground forces. These are keys to success in any theater of operations.

Exercise CAS 3.0 offered learning opportunities, "real world" training and increased capabilities necessary to respond to potential threats around the globe. The events provided integrated, total force training with U.S. active-duty units and partner nations' militaries to ensure everyone is "speaking the same language"..

NEW HAWGCAST EPISODES OUT!

Several new episodes of **Col Mike "Rio" Leonas'** *Hawgcast* podcast are live!

July 1 – Episode 12 – Bango and Stain

June 5 – Episode 11 – Hootie Who?

May 4 – Episode 10 – MSG Lambert – A Support Group of One

April 29 – Episode 9 – Kickin' CAS

March 1 – Episode 8 – Babble Time

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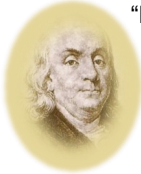
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Calendar of Events

2024 UPORF Congress 2-6 Oct

Candidates Corner, 2024 National Elections 3-6 Oct

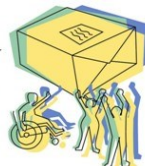
Annual Meeting, Minute Man Memorial Bldg. Washington D.C. 4-6 Oct. Register for lodging before 1 Sep at Residence Inn Washington Downtown / Convention Center

ROA members living in Missouri who are not assigned to the Department of Missouri are receiving the "Transmitter". Those interested in affiliating with the this Department are encouraged to contact the Editor at dickkall2@gmail.com or (636) 675-1793 for assistance.

**The "Transmitter" is printed by
Canterbury Enterprises, Inc.,
7228 Weil Avenue, Shrewsbury, Missouri 63119**

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MOROA Transmitter ***www.MissouriROA.org***

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**Published by the
Reserve Organization of America
Department of Missouri**

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