

MOROA TRANSMITTER



November

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

2020

President’s Message

By Col Richard E. Nelson III, USAF (Ret)

Since our March Transmitter, obviously much has changed in our lives and in how ROA is able to operate. MOROA and ROA HQ have adapted to the COVID-19 restrictions. For the first time, your Department held a teleconference Convention (delayed from April) on Saturday June 20th. I had the honor of accepting the Office of Department President from **CAPT Fred Lydic**. My personal thank you goes out to Fred for his efforts to increase membership and communications in MOROA. We are very grateful for his many years of service to ROA and that he will continue serving our Department as the Immediate Past President, Webmaster and Public Relations Officer. Other new officers installed in June were **Col Bob Shankel**-National Councilman, **CMSgt Russell Burton**-Air Force Vice President, and **SMSgt Hershel Cole**-Air Force Executive Committeeman. Thanks again to all for stepping up. However, we have five open positions on the Executive Committee. Please consider contributing a little of your extra time to assist MOROA in one of these roles. Two of these are Army and Air Force Junior Vice Presidents. To qualify, you need to be an active drilling Reservist or National Guardsman in the ranks of O1-O4, W1-W3, or E4-E6. The insight a drilling member provides is very valuable to ROA’s advocacy efforts for our Reserve Forces. The other open slots are Chaplain, Historian, and Staff Judge Advocate. For all of these, we desire you to advise our leadership of issues that arise, and to attend our quarterly Excom teleconferences as well as our Annual Spring Convention. If you are interested or can recommend someone, please contact me or **CAPT Dick Kallemeier**.

In my recent email message to you, I highlighted the honors our Department received at last month’s ROA “inaugural” hybrid National Convention. With the largest number of ROA members attending in recent years (50 in-person and over 200 virtually), they witnessed a well-run event with good speakers and the Department of Missouri receiving prestigious National Awards. Let me repeat that



Col Richard Nelson

CAPT Fred Lydic received one of three awards for best Chapter websites, and his redesign has set a new benchmark for ROA. CAPT Dick Kallemeier again received one of ten awards honoring the best Chapter newsletters, the *Transmitter* you are holding right now! He was also recognized for his over fifty-three (53) years of service to ROA with ROA’s special Loyalty and Support Award. These two men exemplify the caliber of leaders who give of their time to forward the goals of ROA’s advocacy for our Reserve Forces and adequate National Defense. If you were not able to see these awards virtually or did not receive my earlier message about them and the Convention, please send us your current email address so we can keep you up to date with MOROA happenings. I promise we will not sell or share it.



COL Judi Davenport presenting award to CAPT Kallemeier

Lastly, two more MOROA leadership positions are changing hands. **Lt Col Matt Giese**, an active Air Force Reservist with a separate civilian career, volunteered and has recently assumed the role of Chapter 30 President. On an interim basis, CAPT Kallemeier is the Chapter Treasurer. I am very glad Matt has joined our team. His perspective as a drilling Reservist and Reserve Commander will provide additional inputs to improve our advocacy for all our operational Reserve Forces. Thanks, of course, go out to CAPT Dick for offering to “keep the checkbook” for Chapter 30. Not to forget, we all owe our sincere appreciation to **COL Bill and LTC Gina Hammerschmidt**, the leadership team of Chapter 30 for their long service to ROA which has been vital to ROA and the great Department of Missouri. And they put on a very fine and well received Friday night reception at the National Convention, compliments of Chapter 30.

May your Holiday Season be safe, healthy, and enjoyable.





MOROA 2020 VIRTUAL CONVENTION



By CAPT Dick Kallemeier, USN (Ret)

On Saturday morning June 20th the Annual Department of Missouri Convention was conducted by telephone conference. **President Fred Lydic** made introductory remarks and explained the cancellation of the convention meeting originally scheduled for 24-26 April at the St. Louis Marriott West. He then called upon **CAPT Dick Kallemeier** to introduce the 2019 Leader of the Year Award recipients: **LT Dina Glasper, USNR, LT Derek Valezco, USNR, MA2 Nathan Brumley, USNR, Capt Sven Loeffler, USAFR, Capt Charles Phelps, USAFR, TSgt Dawn Russell, USAFR.** CAPT Kallemeier congratulated the recipients and summarized each of the nomination certifications. Due to unit shutdowns and mobilizations only LT Glasper and LT Valezco were in attendance. Each of the awards are described following this report. Formal presentations will be arranged with each command when units reopen.

CAPT Lydic then spoke to the accomplishments of MOROA including our new website. www.MissouriRoa.org is a stand-alone website that does not require a password to view events, news and legislative issues and actions. It can also be reached through www.roa.org. Decreasing membership remains a major problem, particularly in the Army community.

CAPT Mike Nolan reported on the department's activity to communicate with our congressional leaders following the cancellation of the "March on the Hill" in March. CAPT Nolan and the legislative team of CAPT Kallemeier, **Col Rick Nelson** and **Lt Col Don Stockton** did have teleconferences with the military legislative aides of **Senators Blunt and Hawley, Congressman Cleaver, Congresswoman Wagner, Congressman Luetkemeyer** and **Congresswoman Hartzler.** During these conferences, the department's issues and concerns letter was discussed in depth. There were no legislative actions to be forwarded to National. Following the routine business meeting the 2020-2022 slate of officers were installed by CAPT Nolan, the list is at the end of this article.

Leadership Awards Only one Leadership Award (LT Valezco) has been formally presented. Most Reserve units are conducting virtual meetings and training is being performed at home. These are summaries of the recipient's performance and accomplishments.

LT Dina L. Glasper, USNR is assigned to the Joint Transportation Reserve Unit at the U.S. Transportation Command. She was one of two representatives to the Joint Exercise Control Group supporting U.S. Africa Command's Tier 1 command post Exercises JUDICIOUS RESPONSE 2019 and EPIC GUARDIAN 2019.

She was selected as the JTRU 2019 Joint Junior Officer of the Year. She competed among a pool of 40 officers

from all Services and was selected to be the Aide-de-Camp to the Commander, JTRU. Her responsibility is to communicate and coordinate the General's movements and intentions with five O6 level Service component commanders.

She serves on the City of Maryland Heights, MO Planning and Zoning Commission, and successfully completed Joint Professional Military Education Phase I in 6 months. This is no small accomplishment given that few in the Navy Reserve Supply Corps seek and achieve Joint qualification at the O3 level. She is effectively her Reserve Navy unit's Ombudsman. She is always keen to the needs of her fellow Sailors who were mobilized overseas by leading care package efforts. Near the end of this reporting period Lisa Glasper was promoted to Lieutenant Commander.

LT Derek Velazco, USNR leadership has been demonstrated through superior job performance, devotion to mentoring and developing junior sailors which directly advanced the mission of NR ONI KENNEDY PSU-3. As the command Training Officer, he timely and accurately processed 79 sets of annual training orders

while coordinating logistical resources with the ONI, PSU-3, and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency.

During a manning shortage, LT Velazco selflessly and successfully served as both the Operations and Training officer. He led a team of nine analysts in the production of 63 intelligence reports while leading the exploitation of more than 12,450 images. Under his leadership, production of imagery analysis increased by 22% and intelligence reporting increased by 68% from the previous quarter. He directly enhanced the missions of five other combatant and intelligence commands by processing 15 sets of long-term orders with highly qualified unit members.

MA2 Nathan Brumley, USNR is a consummate professional. He is the coordinator of the Navy Operational Support Center Springfield, MO Funeral Honors Detail. He coordinates with over 30 funeral homes in Missouri and Arkansas in providing solemn honors for fallen Navy veterans.

Petty Officer Brumley is recognized by his peers as an expert in Military Funeral Honors. His leadership and advice are constantly being sought throughout a six-state region. He currently leads and trains a twenty-one-person team and has expertly rendered honors to over 325 veterans and their families. In fiscal year 2019 he oversaw the successful rendering of 125 funerals.



Mark Dargis, civilian supervisor, LT Velazco, LCDR Sharon Roerick unit CO

Capt Sven Loeffler, USAFR is a leader that is looked up to by subordinates and superiors alike. As a member of the 303d Fighter Squadron he led, instructed, and managed the safety program for 48 pilots and 27 A-10C aircraft. His persistent efforts and safety program were critical to zero accidents and injuries for the 442d Fighter Wing. He ensured the safety preparation of two squadron deployments, eight-unit level training exercises, six thousand flying hours, over three thousand sorties, and 486 upgrade events resulting in effective and safe training at an elite level.

He deployed to the Pacific Theater in support of Joint Exercise Tropic Koa Ace 2019. He integrated with fourteen separate units to provide robust training for 125 Joint Terminal Attack Controllers which prepared them for combat operation.

Capt Loeffler was the Chief of the non-rated officer hiring board to select future A-10C pilots for the fighter squadron. He screened over 160 potential applicants from a wide talent pool and conducted over 10 interviews to guarantee the squadron's future and development.

Capt Charles Phelps, USAFR expertise as an instructor pilot directly supported the 303d Fighter Squadron training plan, which generated over six thousand hours, over three thousand sorties, 486 upgrade events and fifty-three combat mission ready A-10C pilots. He is rated number one instructor in the 303rd Fighter Squadron.

He graduated in 2019 from the USAF Weapons School. He excelled during the rigorous 23-week graduate-level advanced course designed and structured to produce the world's finest, most lethal weapons and tactics instructors.. He was hand selected as an advisor to Joint Special Operations Command as a close air support expert and provided

exceptional instruction at three exercises preparing units for Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Capt Phelps created a 2019 squadron weapons expenditure plan, managed all 22 A-10C compatible weapons, an inventory worth more than \$5 million, launched a \$30K mission planning system update and instructed all 48 pilots, which resulted in a seamless transition with zero mission losses.

TSgt Dawn Russell, USAFR is assigned to the 442d Operations Group as the Lead Defense Travel System NCO. She created authorizations of 53 orders for pilots to attend Water Survival Training that is a requirement for pilots to maintain combat mission ready status. Members were paid \$165K in vouchers and 47 pilots fully qualified. She managed squadron Unit Personnel Manning Roster changes; validated 47 position titles and executed 37 pilot moves. Identified and corrected six pilot Air Force Specialty Code discrepancies.

In the absence of the Group Training Manager, TSgt Russell stepped up and filled the position on top of her regular daily duties. She improved the training program overall by awarding 22 skill level upgrades and enabling six promotions. She completed a 40-hr Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education I course; gained skills to lead joint environment; attained insight to national strategy and military capabilities.

She was the NCO of the quarter at Wing level, NCO of the quarter for the group level for two quarters, NCO of the year for the Operations Group and recognized by the 10th Air Force Commander as a Superior Performer for the Unit Effectiveness Inspection.

2020-2022 MOROA LEADERSHIP

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Lydic

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Convention-**Col Robert Shankel, USAF (Ret)**

Webmaster-**CAPT Frederick Lydic, USN (Ret)**

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001 Kansas City, **CW4 John Travers USA (Ret),**

028 Springfield, **MAJ Matt Edding, USAR**

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

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

442 Whiteman AFB, **Col Richard Nelson**

**ROA National Convention
St. Louis**

By CAPT Dick Kallemeier, USN (Ret)



The National ROA Convention convened in St. Louis on 17 September at the Sheraton Westport Plaza Chalet. Approximately 50 members attended in person and over 200 were virtually on-line. During the Awards Brunch on Friday morning, Missouri was recognized for helping sponsor the convention and CAPT Fred Lydic and CAPT Dick Kallemeier received the Sword and Screen and Sword and Pen Awards respectively. This is the first Sword and Screen Award for MOROA, and our new website was recognized for its excellence and marked as a guide for others to follow. CAPT Kallemeier also received a Loyalty and Support Award for his 50 plus years of ROA service.

The General Assembly was opened by a welcoming from Missouri Governor Mike Parson. He expressed his great appreciation for the military and his support of our members.



Missouri Governor Mike Parson

Then Maj Gen Samuel Mahaney, USAF (Ret) spoke. General Mahaney is a Reservist and just retired as Chief of Staff, Air Mobility Command (AMC), at USTRANSCOM. He spoke to the importance of ROA making things happen in legislation. During his final tour he accomplished a major overhaul of his organization to make it more effective supporting the commands within AMC. He shared his four tenants of leadership 1. Take care of your people and they will take care of your mission. 2. Create a culture of respect, treat people the way you want to be treated. 3. Expect excellence. 4. Encourage feedback.



Maj Gen Samuel Mahaney

The Naval Services section meeting had an interesting presentation. A panel of Naval services reservists lead by CAPT Jim Polickoski, USNR, from the USTRANSCOM Joint Training Reserve Unit (JTRU) who are currently mobilized because of the COVID crisis outlined their mission. Their purpose is establishing the protocols and safely moving large numbers of personnel to and from various world locations. Friday ended with Chapter 30 sponsoring a hospitality room, special thanks to COL Bill Hammerschmidt and LTC Gina Hammerschmidt for their support.

In the business meeting MG Jeff Phillips, Executive Director reported on the state of the organization. Because of the pandemic "Top of the Hill" is closed and that is a major source of income that is lost. Therefore, the financial status is poor, and our reserve funds are now being used to sustain the operation. Near the end of the meeting MOROA's Chapter 41 member

RADM Dan Kloepfel, USN (Ret) was introduced. Dan is the CEO of Corporate America Supports You (CASY) and his nonprofit group has entered into an agreement with ROA to assist our members seeking jobs. CASY brings military and veteran job seekers together with employers who are looking to hire.



RADM Dan Kloepfel

They have provided free job placement assistance to more than 100,000 military service members and veterans. CASY brings military and veteran job seekers together with employers who are looking to hire.



The convention ended with the election of officers, including the new President-Elect CAPT Robert H. Carmack, USCG (Ret). President Judi Davenport and President-Elect Carmack



Legislative Affairs

By CAPT Michael Nolan, USN (Ret)

The year 2020 marks the 60th consecutive year that Congress has fulfilled its constitutional duty to "provide for the Common Defense" by passing the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This legislation provides the funding for the U.S. military and ensures our troops have what they need to defend our nation. Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have passed their versions of the bill (FY 2021 NDAA) and a committee from each chamber will be appointed to work out the differences, probably after the election on Nov. 3, 2020. Once approved by this conference committee, the bill will then go to the President for his signature.

Two years ago, the National Defense Strategy (NDS) outlined our nation's preeminent challenge: strategic competition with authoritarian adversaries that stood against our shared American values of freedom, democracy and peace--namely China and Russia. These adversaries seek to shift the global order in their favor, at our expense. Both nations have increased their military and economic aggressions, developed advanced technologies, and expanded their influence around the world. Also, we must adapt to ongoing threats taking place in the Indo Pacific, rogue states such as Iran and North Korea and terrorist organizations which emerge in the Middle East, Africa and other areas. As a nation we must rise to these challenges.

A credible military deterrent, however, requires more

than just having sufficient planes, ships and tanks. It requires having the right forces properly placed with their associated equipment. Congress has focused on rebuilding in the NDAA's approved during the last two years. Now the FY 2021 NDAA focuses heavily on prioritizing available resources to address some past shortfalls and imminent threats.

Using the National Defense Strategy as reference, the FY 2021 NDAA advances these four priorities:

- Support our troops and their families and civilian workforce. This is a top priority as they are the backbone of national security.
- Charting a course for NDS strategy into the future. This bill shifts focus more to the Indo Pacific, our priority theater.
- Building a modern, innovative and lethal military force. The FY 2021 NDAA ensures the United States will field a force of optimal size, structure and strategy capable of supporting the conflicts envisioned by the NDS.
- Reshaping Pentagon management to maximize performance accountability. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and exacerbated supply chain deficiencies across the government and the FY 2021 NDAA takes numerous steps to secure the supply chain. Both from over reliance on foreign nations and infiltration by our adversaries.

Achieving the aims of the NDS is a long game and the congressional committees must take a longer-term view. The FY 2021 NDAA sets up for this long-term success by putting our nation on a confident and steady course to achieve a peaceful, free and prosperous world.

In the next edition of *Transmitter* (March, 2021) we will update our MOROA members on the specific legislation for which we will ask our members of Congress from Missouri for their support during 2021. Also we will provide the names and phone numbers of our elected members of Congress from Missouri.

USS St. Louis Commissioned

Compiled by CAPT Dick Kallemeier



On August 8th in Mayport, Florida the U.S. Navy commissioned the Freedom-variant littoral combat ship USS St. Louis (LCS-19). Due to public health safety concerns and re-

strictions of large public gatherings related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Navy commissioned St. Louis at a private event. Commanded by **CDR Kevin Hagan** the St. Louis is the seventh ship to bear the name and will bring speed and agility to the fleet with multiple mission capabilities.

“Whether conducting counter-narcotic operations in the Caribbean or working to enhance interoperability with partners and allies at sea, USS St. Louis will provide ma-

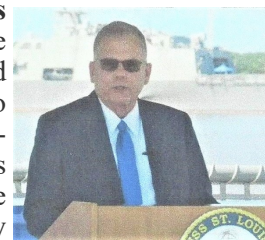
neuverability, stability and lethality in today’s era of Great Power Competition.” **ADM Craig Faller**, commander of U.S. Southern Command, said littoral combat ships, like the St. Louis, have played an important role supporting operations in his command’s geographic area of focus. The littoral combat ship has proven to be an effective and adaptable platform capable of multiple missions in our area of responsibility.”

Barbara Broadhurst Taylor, the ship’s sponsor, offered congratulations to everyone who played a role in delivering USS St. Louis to service. “To witness the skill and commitment of the officers and crew of USS St. Louis as they brought our magnificent ship to life has been one of the greatest honors of my life. All of us in the great city of



St. Louis are proud to be part of our ship’s historic legacy and extend our appreciation and lasting friendship to the crew and their families.”

St. Louisan **RDML (Ret) Charles Williams**, assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations, and environment, expressed gratitude to the ship’s sponsor for their commitment to the Navy. “I want to express the Navy’s deep appreciation to the Taylor family. Much of what they do is anonymous but believe me



when I say they are the preeminent philanthropic family of the St. Louis community and a donor to Navy causes.

New IDs for Military Dependents and Retirees

Military dependents and retirees now have through the end of June 2021 to access benefits using their Uniformed Services Identification (USID) cards that expired this year, thanks to an extension of temporary ID card rules issued in response to the pandemic. Typically, cards must be applied for, issued and updated in person up to 30 days before the expiration date. But in an effort to reduce crowds at ID card facilities during the pandemic, officials in April issued guidance allowing dependents and retirees to continue to use cards that expired this year to access both military bases and benefits through the end of September.

New guidelines bump that expiration extension into next year. Now, holders of those cards will be able to use them for benefits such as medical care through June 30, 2021, and for base access through March 2021. The change, which began in July, will affect more than 5 million current card holders, including retirees and their dependents. USID cards are issued to retired and Reserve members, dependent family members of uniformed services members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy to facilitate access to benefits, privileges, and DoD bases. The new card will incorporate an updated de-

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sign and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud and will be printed on a plastic card-stock. The

card will be similar in appearance to the Common Access Card in use by military members and DoD personnel and contractors but will not have the chip. Contact your nearest ID card issuance facility, or use the Site Locator and Appointment Scheduler on ID Card Office Online to find a nearby location: www.idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco



Embassy grounds. Leading the cadre of pilots through the door was a home-town friend (then **Capt. Ron Vickroy**) ...10,000 miles from home...his father and mine were partners on the local police department...it really is a small world.

It all began on April 29th. We were hugging the coast off of Vung Tau, close enough to see the beach through the bridge wing big eyes. When the Viet Cong tanks and rocket launchers moved in, we quickly moved out to sea.

When the evac began, the parade of ten Jolly Greens, Huey's, Chinooks, Air America and the famous RVN Scout Plane followed...one after another after another. Not every aircraft that left RVN made it. Some desperately flew blindly out to sea hoping to find us and never did. Not knowing who they were, their radio chatter would not be answered lest our position be revealed. I remember seeing at least 15 helos waiting to land and disembark their loads. Many, stripped of all "unnecessary gear", were packed with people like sardines in a can. Some famous, most not, they came aboard without any belongings, stood in line, ate, slept and waited. With the air wing gone, we had lots of room.

During the event, most of the ship's officers had some collateral function. Mine was to serve as a liaison to about fifteen US Embassy staffers. The Wardroom Lounge became their bunkroom. I spent that evening distributing pillows and making sure everyone had a chance to eat. After dinner, I spent more than two hours trying to answer questions. They knew where they were relocating to and who their sponsors were but not much else. "What's it like in Ft. Leavenworth, KS?"..."Tell me about Virginia Beach"..."Will I like Minneapolis?" How do you describe snow to someone who has spent their entire life in tropical heat? The next morning, I went to the lounge and found them all huddled in a mass. Much to my surprise, I learned that none of them had ever spent a night in air-conditioned comfort. They had shivered through the night...not wanting to disturb me or be a problem.

The photos of Chinooks being pushed over the side are real. I saw the splash. I guy I knew in V-1 exclaimed that he had wanted to do something like that ever since he joined the Navy. When **Nguyen Cao Ky** came aboard, the first task for the deck officer was to relieve him of his two pearl-handled pistols.

After almost two days, the Evac parade finally stopped. We off-loaded more than 3,000 refugees to other ships who would ferry them to the Philippines or Guam. We had a new mission and headed for Sattahip, Thailand where the Jolly Greens became sky cranes and on-loaded a bunch of F-105 aircraft that had been flown out of the RVN. When they finished, the Greens headed back to their base and we set sail for Guam. We spent 2 days sitting in the harbor in Guam.... off-loading all the planes and helos and then swung by the west coast of PI to regain the Air Wing. Five months at sea, it was early June before we got home to Yokosuka.

F.W. Lydic, Captain USN (Ret.)

Then LTJG and Ship's Boilers Officer

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH THE "TRANSMITTER"...

This is a new column for you to tell us about your military experience. Please contact the editor with your story for the next edition.

OPERATION FREQUENT WIND...nearly 45 years later...

Memories fade as time passes but memories of those refugee faces during the evacuation of Saigon will last forever. The anxiety of the unknown, relief of being safe, promise of things to come...all were in their eyes.



A look back at a historic event and a slice of time on board the aircraft carrier USS Midway(CVA-41).

MIDWAY got underway in mid-January 1975 part of a large

task force assembled for the inevitable. The fall of the South Vietnamese government was just a matter of time. We originally cut circles in the South China Sea waiting for the evacuation of Phnom Penh. However, our role did not materialize and in early April, we finally managed a short in-port period at Subic Bay, Philippines. The initial evacuations out of South Vietnam began via airlifts out of Tan Son Nhut in the latter part of March...the end was visible. We were in port just shy of two days when we got the order and got underway again. Our entire Air Wing flew off of the ship shortly after leaving port and departed for NAS Cubi Point. I believe for the first time, MIDWAY sailed into harm's way without its offensive capability... although we did have three five-inch guns and a full company of Marines!

I had finished my watch as the Underway Engineer Officer and was having dinner in the Dirty Shirt Locker when the USAF CH-53 Jolly Green drivers arrived from their base in Thailand. Their job was to fly in and out of the

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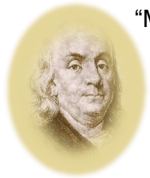
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Calendar of Events

2020

MOROA Excom Teleconference, 7 PM Thurs. 17 Dec

2021

National Leadership Meeting, Washington, DC 13-16 Mar

MOROA Convention, location TBD, 23-25 Apr

**National Convention, The Guest House at Graceland,
Memphis, TN 23-26 Sep**

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**The Transmitter is printed and posted by
Canterbury Enterprises, Inc.
7228 Weil Avenue, Shrewsbury, Missouri 63119
an affiliate of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater St. Louis**

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Reserve Organization of America
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President

Col Rick Nelson, USAF (Ret)
5072 W Lake Rd.,
Auburn, NY 13021
Phone: 315 729-3823
owascohawk@aol.com

MOROA Editor

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

Webmaster

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