

ON THE ROAd *Fast Track*

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Minnesota, Reserve Officers Association

Fall 2005

www.mnroa.org

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A Message from the President – Col Marilyn Chambers

The year of change continues. Our executive VP Lt Col Jankowski is being deployed for 10 months. He will be supporting SouthCom. Maj Rob Chaucierre Army VP remains on activation. Col (ret) Alan Ruvelson has been appointed Executive VP to complete the 2005-2006 term. Welcome, Col Ruvelson.

A new feature that is being added to On the ROAd is an information section on who the Board members are. As a mobile community, Dept of MN has been fortunate to gain the talents of a number of people who may not be known to the membership. Please take time to read these bios. We are very appreciative of their expertise and time. This of course, leads into the next comment—all are welcome at our Board meetings. There is always a place for each of you to serve, whether for a one-time activity or for on-going activities.

Another exciting addition to ROA's support of ROTC is the creation of scholarships through the MDA Freedom Fund. This is a tangible way the Department can have a part in the development of our future leaders.

An area that we still need developing in is legislative affairs. ROA functions as an information entity to lawmakers. We need people who can provide updates on issues of military interest to our state and national legislators and their staffs.

There has been some confusion over the classification of ROA in the minds of some Reservists. ROA is NOT a PAC, (political action committee). It is an organization founded in 1922, and chartered by Congress in 1950. ROA's mission is to "...support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate National Security." ROA does not become politically involved with campaigning or political fund-raising. Membership supports the operation of ROA for the following:

ROA Today

"Increasingly, leadership is being passed to younger drilling reservist, ensuring ROA's future as a dynamic force for improving benefits, equipment, and training for America's Citizen-Soldiers. ROA continues to be a prominent voice of preparedness." More information is on the website.

Marilyn Chambers, Lt Col, USAF, President, Department of Minnesota ROA

451st ARMY BAND CONCERT

The 451st Army Band, Ft. Snelling, MN, will present its annual public concert on Saturday, 12 November 2005. The performance will be at 1900 hours (7:00 p.m.) at Benson Great Hall on the campus of Bethel University in St. Paul (near the junction of 694 and Snelling Avenue North). The concert is open to the public at no charge, and tickets are not required.

VISION

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ROTC Recognition Night, Thursday, 10 November

ROTC Recognition Night is Thursday, 10 November 2005 at the Ft. Snelling Officers Club, St. Paul, Minnesota. ROA members, guests, ROTC students, and all military science instructors are invited.

Cadets and midshipmen will be in attendance from the ROTC programs in Minnesota. There are seven major program sites in Minnesota serving an even larger number of college and university campuses: AFROTC – AF, St. Thomas; AFROTC – AF, U of Minn, Mpls; AFROTC – AF, U of Minn, Duluth, +ROTC – Army, U of Minn, Mpls; ROTC – Army, Minnesota State Mankato; ROTC – Army, St. Johns + NROTC – Navy, U of Minn, Mpls

Social hour will begin at 1830hrs with a program beginning at 1900. Dress: Class A or service dress. Guest speakers are Col Terry Fobbs from Department of MI and 1 Lt Jackie Osterhaus, Army Junior VP, from St Cloud.

There is no charge for the event but an RSVP is requested to Col Chambers at aromed@att.net. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



JACQUELINE S. OSTERHAUS, 1ST Lieutenant, Medical Specialist (USAR)

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Physician Assistant, HHC, 367th Engineer Battalion, St Cloud, MN 56303-3335, since 28 September 2000

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Physician Assistant, Paynesville Area Health Care System, Paynesville, Minnesota

MILITARY SCHOOLS ATTENDED

AMEDD Officer Basic Course

AMEDD Captain's Career Course (Officer Advanced Course)

EDUCATIONAL DEGREES

Maryville College – BA Degree – Psychology

Augsburg College – Physician Assistant Certificate

MISSION

Support our National Security through dynamic programs that positively impact locally elected officials, all levels of ROA, and future, current, retired, and former Reserve officers of the Uniformed Services of the United States.

US DECORATIONS AND BADGES

Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with M Device), Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon

HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY OF OIF EXPERIENCE

Individually Mobilized from 8 July 2003 – 31 May 2004 in support of OIF. Served as a member of the CJTF-7 Surgeon's Post Deployment Health Assessment Team (5th Corp) in support of over 150,000 war fighters during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Initially deployed to Kuwait as a health care provider trained to perform electronic Post Deployment Health Assessments (PDHA) on redeploying troops, including Reserve, National Guard and Active Duty assets departing from RAA's throughout Kuwait. After 3 months was selected to move the electronic processing further north into Iraq, training other organic medial assets in the electronic PDHA processing throughout the CJTF-7 Theater of operation. Responsibilities included the medical processing of thousands of troops including, but not limited to the 101st Airborne Division, 4th Infantry Division and the 1st Armor Division from Baghdad. This mission was often accomplished under difficult travel and dangerous combat conditions. As a trained medical officer, much time was also given to combat health care and battlefield medicine to include trauma, triage and sick call. Special attention was given to Reserve units needing assistance with their Line of Duty investigations prior to their arrival back at the demobilization stations. The electronic automation of deployment related health issues was a daunting task given the austere and hostile environment in which the work was carried out in Iraq, but with perseverance and dedication the mission was a success for OIF I. The result was electronically captured data prior to soldiers leaving theater, thus lessening the burden on the troops and the staff back at the demobilization sites, and allowing for better tracking of deployment related health issues in the years to come.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

The Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund (MDAFF), the educational foundation of the ROA's Department of Minnesota, has announced that it will provide one scholarship worth up to \$1,500.00 for one Officer or Warrant Officer to attend one of the Professional Development opportunities being offered at the National ROA Mid-Winter Conference to be held in Washington, D.C. in February 2006.

Included in the offer are two educational programs:

- Reserve Components Joint Officer Professional Development Seminar (RCJOPDS). 5-8 February 2006. Open to Officers in grades 0-1 through 0-3 (Navy 0-4)
- Warrant Officer Professional Development Seminar (WOPDS). 5-8 February 2006. Open to all Warrant Officers.

Under the policy guidelines adopted by the MDAFF Board of Directors, one Officer or Warrant Officer will be awarded the scholarship to attend the appropriate training seminar. The person selected to attend will have his/her expenses reimbursed up to a maximum of \$1,500.00. Allowable expenses will include registration fees, transportation, lodging, and meals.

Applicants must be ROA members in good standing, and members of ROA's Department of Minnesota. They must also agree to attend all scheduled events of their seminar during the Mid-Winter Conference.

Scholarship applicants cannot be attending the 2006 ROA Mid-Winter Conference on military orders. The individual selected will be asked to submit a written summary of his/her experiences at the sessions within 30 days of the completion of the Conference.

Application information will be found on the Department of Minnesota web site < mnroa.org > under the Freedom Fund category. More information on the various seminar programs is available on ROA's web site, < roa.org >

Applications must be received by the MDAFF President via e-mail or written form not later than 1 January 2006. The MDAFF Board of Directors will make its selection at its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, 12 January 2006, and notify all applicants by 15 January 2006. Personal appearance of applicants at the Board meeting is not authorized.

All Officers and Warrant Officers in the appropriate grades are encouraged to consider this opportunity. Please check out our web site today, and apply before the deadline!

VISION

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WELCOME HOME WARRIOR-CITIZEN

On Sunday, August 7th, the St Cloud VA Medical Center and the St Cloud community were host to a special event for soldiers who have recently returned from Afghanistan and Iraq, their families and the community.

"Operation Welcome Home" took place on the VA grounds in St Cloud and offered new Veterans and their families a half-day of educational sessions in the morning, followed by an awards ceremony and an afternoon of fun family activities for the soldiers and their families.

The event was initially planned in conjunction with the 367th Engineer Battalion as part of their "Welcome Home Warrior Citizen" Program now authorized by the Office of the Chief of the Army Reserve. The VA Medical Center offered to host this event and from there the program grew by large proportions due to the incredible outpouring of community support and organization on behalf of the VA Medical Center Staff. Over \$15,000 dollars were raised to support the event from local businesses and organizations.

The educational sessions were very informative and aimed at educating the new veterans into the many services offered through the VA Medical Center and other Veteran Organizations. One block of classes focused on post-traumatic stress disorders and the mental health services available at the VAMC. VA benefits were discussed at length and soldiers were encouraged to start their enrollment process at the time of the event to ensure they would be entitled to benefits down the road.

The awards ceremony at noon included the presentation of the "Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen" gifts now awarded to all returning Reserve Soldiers who have served in the Global War on Terrorism. The kits include a flag in a wooden display case, a personalized name plate engraved with a message from the Chief of the Army Reserve, LTG James Helmley, as well as a service coin, lapel pins and Warrior-Citizen Flag.

The 367th Engineer Battalion has just recently returned from a year long tour in Afghanistan. They were followed closely during this deployment by the St Cloud Times, and during the award ceremony, the Times staff presented all members of the Battalion with a souvenir "year book" that showcases more than 300 photos from their tour in Afghanistan. The book, titled "Tour of Duty – the 367th in Afghanistan" is an incredible compliment and tribute to the Battalion, it is very well done and it is available to the public for the price of \$19.95.

Many thanks go out to the VA Medical Center, St Cloud, as well as the St Cloud Times and participating sponsors for their support of the 367th Engineer Battalion and all members of the US Army Reserve. The Warrior-Citizens are happy to be home and be Citizen-Warriors again.

1LT Jackie Osterhaus

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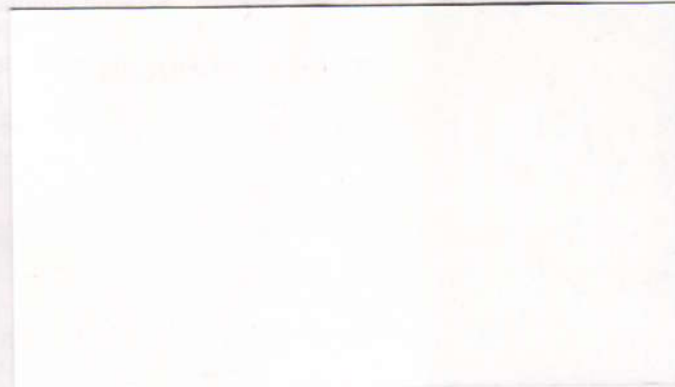
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