

ON THE ROAD

Fast Track

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA, RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2007

www.mnroa.org

Volume IV, No. 2

IN THIS ISSUE...

- *President's Message*
- *News and Notes*
 - 232nd Navy Ball, 2 November
 - St. Paul Chapter Holiday Party
 - Bataan Survivor to Speak
- *ROA Member Returns from MARCENT; Awarded MSM*
- *Navy Admiral to Lead Joint Chiefs*
- *ROTC Recognition Night, 8 November*
- *"A Perspective from the Front Lines"*
- *Legislative Update*
- *Retirement Pay Exemption Analysis*
- *451st Army Band*

Department of Minnesota Officers, 2007-2008

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Robert P. Chaucierre, LTC USAR
(elected to a 2-year term)



President's Message

Will D. Philipson, CAPT USN (Ret)



National Security: The Guard and Reserve

The Situation:
Having a seamless relationship between military and civilian

careers. Military manpower needs encourage members to move among opportunities thus enhancing skills and professional responsibilities needed for national defense. Skills learned and utilized in one camp must also be used in another which attracts those who thrive on a continuum of service basis. This application of skills and interests improves the effectiveness of manpower utilization from our ranks. Skills and the requirements of our technology, business and industrial contributions permits us to stock pile them in the reserve and guard, strengthening our ability to respond to national security needs. The advantages of the continuum of service will provide the following:

- make maximum use of limited resources (work specialties, training and education)
- services will be able to respond more quickly to imminent need
- services will have effective access to critical skills
- specialized skills coming out of civilian work force market will be more accessible to the new lateral entry points to the services

- service members will more easily change their level of military participation and, as a result, will be likely to remain in the reserve or guard serving the country's need for national defense

Of course, implementation of a continuum of service will present challenges to the system. We must address these challenges through funding and encouragement by the use of the following:

- educational opportunity in colleges, universities, service conferences and workshops, etc.
- incentives to bring lateral entry of personnel with special skills to serve in key capacities
- new membership affiliation of veterans, military retirees and younger volunteers to develop skills to perform needed tasks
- development of new and more equitable compensation rules (including retirement benefits) for personnel exposed to risks regardless of duty status

I suggest it is time to work on replacement of 60 year old laws and policies for managing the defense work force. We must work for flexible, targeted comprehensive policies to effectively facilitate interest in the reserve and guard participation. I solicit participation in the

President's Message
continued on page 3

VISION

The Department of Minnesota ROA strives to be the premier member organization on all issues affecting Minnesota's Reserve military officers.

News and Notes...

Dennis T. Davis, 1stLt USAFR



Happy Fall!!!

This issue of 'News and Notes' will be primarily just that...news and notes. This is our way of communicating with you and as

you can see, it is a great way for you to communicate with us. We want very much to have an interactive forum where ALL members are informed of what is happening around the state. Here is the catch though; we can't do that without your help. If you have something you feel is important or an event you would like ROA to know about, please let me know. I can be reached at dennyd74@comcast.net. Drop me a line with any suggestions you have for how we can make the newsletter better or what you really like that you have seen recently. We just want to hear from you! Now, on with the news...

Have you ever thought about ways you can easily help increase ROA membership? Consider purchasing a spouse membership! It's a fast, easy and cost-effective way to help ROA. E-mail me at dennyd74@comcast.net for more info.

The Department is looking for your help. In an effort to maximize our funds we are considering delivering the newsletter in an electronic version (e-mail). This sounds easy but would require a lot of work to maintain a current database of e-mail addresses. If this is something in which you would be interested please send me an e-mail at dennyd74@comcast.net so we can get an idea of how many would like this option provided.

The 451st Army Band, the Band of the 88th RRSC, will present its annual concert on Saturday, November 10, 2007. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m., and will be presented at the magnificent Benson Great Hall on the campus of Bethel

University. No tickets are required, and there is no reserved seating. Ample parking is available in nearby parking lots.

Please join us for an evening of exciting music by one of the Army Reserve's premier Bands.

The accompanying photo (on the back cover of the newsletter) was taken at the U.S. Embassy in Rome, Italy in 2004, when the Band represented the Army Reserve at ceremonies commemorating the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Rome by the 88th Infantry Division and other units.

232nd Navy Ball 2 NOVEMBER 2007

The Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps University of Minnesota and the Twin Cities Naval Community invite all Friends, Alumni, and members of the Naval Service to attend a night of wonderful food, cheerful spirits, live music and camaraderie in a service second to none.

Location:

McNamara Alumni Center,
University of Minnesota
200 Oak Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Time:

Cocktail Hour begins at 1800 hours with Ceremony commencing at 1900

Attire:

Dinner Dress Blue for O-4 and above
Full Dress Blue for O-3 and below
Civilian equivalent

Price:

\$750 for a Corporate Table
\$60 E-7 and above
\$45 E-6 and below

For more information and to RSVP, visit the NROTC University of Minnesota webpage:

http://www.nrotc.umn.edu/navy_ball_07
or call 612-625-6677.

Saint Paul Chapter ROA Holiday Party

You are cordially invited to the Saint Paul Chapter ROA Winter Social on Wednesday, 5 December 2007, at the Fort Snelling Officers' Club.

Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Cost is \$25 per selection.

Menu choices

Grilled Salmon served with Rice Pilaf and a Lobster Cream Sauce

Sliced London Broil Au Jus with Roasted New Potatoes, and Chef's Vegetables

All dinners will include appetizers, salad, fresh bread, coffee, tea or milk, and tax and tip

A great selection of wines and desserts are available at the club for an additional purchase.

Please make checks payable to Saint Paul ROA and mail them to MAJ Carla Danberry, 6730 Goldenrod Circle South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016-4477 to arrive no later than Monday, 26 November 2007. Please indicate your menu choice on your check.

The Fort Snelling Officers' Club is at Hwy. 5 and Post Road, phone (612) 767-1960.

For questions, please contact:
MAJ Carla Danberry
Secretary, Saint Paul Chapter 21 ROA
(515) 988-4239 or
Carla.Danberry@us.army.mil

News and Notes . . . continued on page 3

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.

Former ROA Board Member Leads Urgent Needs Efforts in 2006

Former MN Chapter and Board member, LtCol Thaddeus Jankowski, just returned from 18 months of active duty with Headquarters, Marine Forces Central Command (MARCENT), where he had a key role in advocating for many urgent material needs, including the MRAP vehicles.

From October 2005 through March 2007 LtCol Jankowski served as a war planner and Requirements and Programs Head, War Plans Directorate (G5), MARCENT. In this capacity he advocated for a variety of urgently needed equipment, helping with such issues as “mine rollers” (attached to the front of vehicles to blow mines with pressure plates), to mine-protected vehicles, to a variety of surveillance systems.

Most significantly, he was recognized as having a key role in the Mine-resistant

Ambush Protected initiative, or MRAP vehicles. As a result, the Army and the Marine Corps will be leaping ahead very significantly in wheeled vehicle technologies in a very short period of time. Most importantly, Soldiers’ and Marines’ survival rate for IED’s will improve substantially through 2007 and beyond.

“First, let’s get one thing straight: ‘deployment’ in Tampa, FL, for 18 months, near the CENTCOM Headquarters, is not exactly a physically challenging mobilization,” LtCol Jankowski said. “But it was a pleasure to join my fellow Marines at Headquarters, MARCENT, and to help make changes at the operational level of war that are decreasing casualties and leveraging newer technologies that improve our warfighters’ ability to take the fight to the enemy even more effectively.”

President’s Message

continued from page 1

process of building these policies and making your ideas heard within our great organization.

You are urged to be active in your association. You are encouraged to help define and deliver the criteria needed to make guard and reserve commitments attractive to the civilian community. Work with us! Plan with us! Help keep our country free!

News and Notes...

continued from page 2

Bataan Death March Survivor to Speak

Kenneth Porwoll will speak on Saturday, 10 November 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at the Fort Snelling Officers’ Club.

Who is Kenneth Porwoll? He was in the U.S. Army during WWII and was forced on the Bataan Death March in the Philippines. A riveting speaker, he keeps audiences enthralled as he relives his awful experiences. He keeps listeners, such as a roomful of scout leaders and young boy scouts, riveted to their seats for the time of his talk.

The Midwest Chapter of the Navy Nurse Corps Association, who is sponsoring him to speak, plans to arrive at 5:30 p.m. to treat Kenneth and his wife, Mary Ellen, to dinner in the dining room first. The speech will follow at about 6:30 p.m.

ANYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND! One does not have to be a member of the military. Students welcome. Please communicate plans to attend by RSVP directly to CAPT Kay Bauer, at vernandkaybauer@msn.com as soon as possible.



ROA life member LtCol Thaddeus Jankowski, USMCR, thanks his fellow Marines after being presented the Meritorious Service Medal by BGen Anthony Jackson, USMC.

VISION

The Department of Minnesota ROA strives to be the premier member organization on all issues affecting Minnesota’s Reserve military officers.

Navy ADM Mullen to Lead Joint Chiefs of Staff

R. Peter DeLong, Capt USNR (Ret)

When the term of Marine Corps General Peter Pace as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs ended on September 30th the man slated to replace him is Admiral Mike Mullen, who is cutting short his four-year term as Chief of Naval Operations that began in 2005. The replacement of General Pace after serving only a single two-year term has been widely interpreted as a rebuke for Pace's close association with Donald Rumsfeld, the former Secretary of Defense.

In addition to being CNO, Admiral Mullen is also the Navy's "Old Salt"—the longest-serving Surface Warfare Officer.

With the nomination of Admiral Mullen, the Joint Chiefs are getting a leader who has proven his commitment to jointness. During his tenure as CNO, over 12,000 sailors have been sent to Iraq to help

relieve the load on the Army. Even submariners have served in Iraq, typically in staff positions. In announcing the nomination, Secretary Robert Gates related that when Admiral Mullen was asked what his greatest concern was, he replied, "The Army."

Secretary Gates passed over nine combatant commanders in order to select Mullen, something that has not happened for many years.

September also happens to be the 60th anniversary of the National Security Act of 1947, which established the Joint Chiefs after the end of World War II. As the Senate debated Admiral Mullen's nomination, and as prosecution of the war in Iraq continues, it will be interesting to contemplate what role the Joint Chiefs will play in bringing the wars in Iraq and

Afghanistan to a successful conclusion.

During the Rumsfeld era, the Joint Chiefs reported to Rumsfeld, who reported to the President, even though the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 calls for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs to be the "principal military adviser to the president."

With the establishment of the new position of "war czar," filled by Lt. General Lute, will the Joint Chiefs be less relevant? Will it work having a three-star general coordinating the efforts of four-stars? Or, will the "czar" become an invisible staff position? Will the role of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs be refurbished?

However things evolve, look for Admiral Mullen to take a pragmatic approach to problem-solving and to not be afraid to speak his mind.

ROTC Recognition Night, 8 November 2007

The annual *ROTC Recognition Night* is Thursday, 8 Nov 2007 at the Ft. Snelling Officers Club at Post Road and Highway 5. Social time begins at 1830 hours with the program at 1900. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Dress for the evening is uniform

of your choice or business dress. There is no charge but an RSVP to Col Marilyn Chambers at aromed@att.net is requested. The Dept of MN will again be giving \$500.00 merit awards to three cadets. Each ROTC detachment will report on their

accomplishments over the past year. We hope to have last year's award recipients attend and give an update on their professional plans. All ROA members and guests are encouraged to attend. This is an excellent opportunity to network with our upcoming leaders and share your wisdom. All cadets are encouraged to attend.

1 Lt Andrew Williams, Maj Dave Zenner, Col Alan Ruvelson, Capt Allyn Eaves, LtCol Gary Chambers, and Col Marilyn Chambers presented ROA medals and certificates to ROTC and JROTC detachments in the metropolitan area. This year's awards were complicated by a change in vendors for medals, resulting in some schools getting them after the close of the academic year. Awards will be presented again beginning in April 2008. Presenters are always needed. This is a great opportunity to be a part of the detachments celebration. For more information on how you can be a part of these events, please contact Col Marilyn Chambers at aromed@att.net.



CAPT Allyn Eaves, USNR (Ret.) presents an ROA medal and certificate to an ROTC member at the Tri-Service Spring Awards Ceremony at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities on Saturday, April 28, 2007.

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.



Serving you while you serve your country!

The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) represents members of the seven United States Uniformed Services.

ROA Minnesota's Freedom Fund

Supporting Our Own Minnesota Reserve Officers

Joint Officer Scholarships

- Professional Development
- Leadership Development Training

★ **2006 & 2007 Scholarships Program**

- Applications Received & Recipient Selected
- Expenses Reimbursed to Recipient
- See Inside

Supporting the Future in Minnesota ROTC Programs

Annual Merit Awards Program

- Applications from Minnesota ROTC members
- Competitive Awards Selections Based on Merit

★ **2006 & 2007 Merit Awards Program**

- Cash Award to Each of Seven Recipients
- See Inside

May We Count on Your Contribution?

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- History of the Freedom Fund
- 2006 & 2007 Joint Officer Professional Development Seminar Scholarship Recipient
- 2007 Joint Officer Leadership Development Training Seminar Scholarship Recipient
- 2005 & 2006 ROTC Merit Award Recipients
- Freedom Fund Contribution Form





Reserve Officers Association of the United States

Department of Minnesota
P.O. Box 11769
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55111-0769
<http://www.mnroa.org>



Fall 2007

Members of Minnesota ROA,

Greetings!

The purpose of this letter is to brief you on the progress our Freedom Fund has made in the past 12 months to support Minnesota reserve officers in our Association and to ask you for your help.

First, a brief history of the Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund is enclosed. Since the start in April 2002, we have managed our fund with the goal of making valuable distributions directly to reserve officers in Minnesota.

Second, Second, our recent actions helped Minnesota reserve officers in their professional careers. In recent months we have made several disbursements from the fund: In November 2006 we awarded four \$500 Merit Awards to ROTC students and in February 2007 we gave another \$1500 scholarship to a Minnesota member.

The history of our Merit Awards and Scholarships is featured on pages FF-4, FF-5, and FF-6 of this publication. Our ROTC Merit Awards contribute to building our future officers. Without the scholarship help from the Freedom Fund, the Minnesota-based ROA member officers would not have attended the career-enhancing training. We want to continue that valuable support to Minnesota reserve officers.

Finally, may we have your help in contributing to this effort?

To date the Freedom Fund has grown by contributions through a variety of fundraising means primarily contributed at the events held by the Department of Minnesota along with mail-in contributions by some of our members.

We want to **extend the invitation to contribute to our Minnesota ROA members statewide** to support this Fund and its worthwhile goals.

We ask that you help us now with our Minnesota Campaign 2007 to raise funds toward a goal of \$30,000.

A contribution form is enclosed. The Freedom Fund was approved as 501 (c) (3) federal tax exempt fund effective June 2002. So your contribution is to a tax free fund.

We would very much appreciate your financial gift in supporting our Minnesota reserve officers.

Questions? please call, email or write to me.

Thank you,

Larry G. DeVries

CAPT CEC USNR (Ret)

President, The Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund

Phone: (952) 949-9604

E-mail: larrydev@earthlink.net



THE MAJOR DAN ANDERSON FREEDOM FUND

Why a Fund?

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. The funding of ROA Departments and Chapters by ROA national has historically been based on membership numbers. The ROA national organization reimburses a limited amount to the Department organization based on member headcount. Those limited amounts have typically been used for operating budgets.

After much internal discussion by the Department Board of Directors, the late Major Dan Anderson, USAFR, a member of the 934th Airlift Wing and Department President, 2000-2001, led an effort to provide greater professional development opportunities to Reserve Officers in Minnesota. This would result in better trained officers and a stronger ROA organization in Minnesota at the Chapter and State levels.

The Freedom Fund was started by the Department of Minnesota as an endowment fund in the year 2000 during Major Anderson's term as President.

Major Anderson passed away in November 2001 after a battle with cancer. After his passing the Department has renamed the Freedom Fund in his honor.

The Freedom Fund Charter and By-Laws have formally existed since April 2002.



For the July 2006 ROA National Convention the fund made available a full conference registration and expenses (value up to \$1500) for one junior military officer from Minnesota. The Reserve officer selected took advantage of this Freedom Fund Scholarship offer to participate in the Reserve Component Joint Officer Leadership Development Training Seminar conducted at the national meeting.



MAJOR DAN ANDERSON FREEDOM FUND

2006 Reserve Component Joint Officer
Leadership Development Training Seminar
Scholarship Recipient

Captain Jennifer Aasland

**USAFR, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis**

Born at Webb AFB in Texas, raised in Alaska, Arkansas, and Minnesota, Captain Jennifer Aasland started her life of travel early. When she was just out of high school, she followed in her father's footsteps and joined the Air Force. In the MN Air National Guard, Jennifer was an Aeromedical Evacuation Technician for almost 10 years, flying on C-130s out of Minneapolis. She is the 5th generation military in her family and very proud to continue serving 14 years later. During her tenure as an enlisted flyer, she participated in humanitarian missions to Panama and Ecuador. She also contributed to NATO operations out of Germany, Kosovo and Macedonia. Her career has also taken her to almost every state in the US, including working at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii.

A graduate of Winona University in Health Care Management, the natural transition from enlisted to officer was as a Medical Service Corps Officer. She received her commission from the Air Staging Squadron in the Air Force Reserve, Minneapolis. After a 5-year stint in a Medical Dental Squadron in Portland, Oregon, she is back in Minnesota at the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron as the Officer in Charge of Medical Readiness.

Jennifer is currently enrolled in Squadron Officer School and is just finishing her MBA in Health Care Management (Sept. 2006). She was recently appointed Director of Membership with the Reserve Officer Association, Department of Minnesota. She is married to Christian Aasland.



"Overall, this conference was probably one of the best ones I've been to in my officer career."

For the February 2007 Mid-Winter Conference of the ROA in Washington, DC the Fund made available a full conference registration and expenses (value up to \$1500) for one junior military officer from Minnesota. The Reserve officer selected took advantage of this Freedom Fund Scholarship offer to participate in the Reserve Component Joint Officer Professional Development Seminar conducted at the national meeting.

MAJOR DAN ANDERSON FREEDOM FUND

2007 Reserve Component Joint Officer
Professional Development Seminar
Scholarship Recipient



1st Lt Dennis Davis

USAFR, 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis

Lt Davis began his career in the US Navy as an E-1 in 1991. After completing basic training in Orlando, FL he began training as a Gunners Mate in Chicago, IL before moving on to Vertical Launch missile school in San Diego, CA. Upon graduation from both courses as a distinguished graduate, he moved on to the fleet serving 14 months on the USS Shiloh (CG-67). He was honorably discharged in 1994 and returned to MN to finish his education at Bethel University.

After an 8 year break from the military, Lt Davis re-enlisted in April of 2003 in the US Air Force Reserves as an E-4 in the 934th Security Forces Squadron, 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis, MN. He completed his Security Forces training at Lackland AFB, TX and again was recognized as a distinguished graduate. In July of 2004 he was selected via the Deserving Airman program to receive his commission. Since receiving his commission, he has served in several capacities, including Readiness Officer, with the 934th Services Squadron.

Currently Lt Davis resides in Anoka, MN with his wife of eight years and their three daughters. In the civilian world he works as a Regional Recruiting Manager for G & K Services in their Upper Midwest Region.

“Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to attend.”

**Prior Year: 2006 JOPDS Scholarship Recipient:
2nd Lt Vickie Erdmann, USAFR 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis**

SERVING YOU WHILE YOU SERVE YOUR COUNTRY

For the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) programs in our State our Fund gave seven \$500.00 Merit Awards in 2005 & 2006. The awards are presented at our November ROTC Recognition Night. The recipients of the awards were selected based on merit and are all outstanding ROTC students at our Minnesota Universities.



MAJOR DAN ANDERSON FREEDOM FUND

2006 Merit Awards Recipients

Cadet Brian Lovig

**Minnesota State University, Mankato, Army ROTC
(Army National Guard)**

Midshipman Jason Q. McClintic

**University of Minnesota Navy ROTC Detachment
(attends St. Thomas University, St. Paul)**

Cadet Nathan Gavic

**University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus,
Minneapolis, Air Force ROTC Detachment 415**

Cadet Anthony C. Bowman

**University of St. Thomas, St. Paul,
Air Force ROTC Detachment 410**

The Department's annual ROTC Recognition Night is dedicated to the recognition of ROTC units and their members within the state of Minnesota.

A key part of the program each year is the announcement and presentation of the Merit Awards from the Department of Minnesota with the funding provided by the Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund.

The selection of the recipients follows the submission of application packages from many outstanding candidates from the various ROTC units.

There were three merit awards presented in 2005 for \$500.00 each, and four Merit Awards presented in 2006 for \$500.00 each.

**Applications for
2007 ROTC Merit Awards
are being accepted
at our website:
www.mnroa.org**

2005 Merit Awards Recipients

Midshipman 2/C Sara M. Baudhuin

**USMC, from the Navy ROTC unit,
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis**

Cadet Phillip Kroll

**USA, from the Army ROTC unit,
Minnesota State University, Mankato**

Cadet Rachael M. Winiecki

**USAF, from the AF ROTC Det 415/CC,
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis**

MINNESOTA ROA SUPPORTING MINNESOTANS



MINNESOTA ROA
SUPPORTING MINNESOTANS

MAJOR DAN ANDERSON FREEDOM FUND

**DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**



I wish to make a donation to support the Freedom Fund as follows:

- \$10
 \$25
 \$100
 \$250
 \$500
 Other Amount _____

The Freedom Fund is a tax deductible 501(c)(3) organization.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please help our fund by providing an envelope and stamp for your contribution.

Mail donations to:

MAJOR DAN ANDERSON FREEDOM FUND

Department of Minnesota, ROA, PO Box 11769, St. Paul, MN 55111-0769.

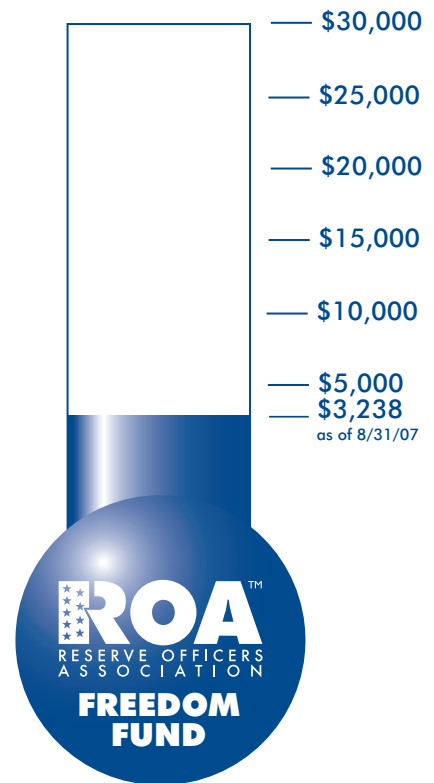
Preserving Our Tradition... Building Our Future

Contribute Now to Minnesota Campaign 2007

Please help now with a generous contribution toward our goal of raising \$30,000 in this campaign to support the objectives of the Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund.

Help Us Reach Our Goal...

**Donate Now
to the Freedom Fund.**



FREEDOM FUND
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 11769
ST. PAUL, MN 55111-0769

A Perspective from the Front Lines of the War on Terror

A Perspective by Charles Erickson, Maj USAR (Article written in late 2006)

Here's an update on the situation in Iraq:

DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ

Political divisiveness is presenting a challenge to the Government of Iraq (of course, that would never happen in the United States). Nevertheless, they have created a functioning democratic system and are cleaning up the many problems left over from Saddam Hussein's era.

The Iraqi Parliament recently implemented legislation to establish free markets for gasoline and other fuels, replacing a government-run program that has caused chronic shortages. They also passed a law to encourage foreign investment, a key step in revitalizing the economy. On the agenda are laws giving greater power and accountability to local governments, clarifying ownership and use of the country's oil reserves, and strengthening the rights of property owners.

CHANGING NATURE OF THE WAR

Combat operations by American and Coalition troops have taken a heavy toll on terrorist groups. The death of Al Qaeda leader Zarqawi last June, followed by the capture of other high-ranking terrorist leaders, have seriously damaged the Al Qaeda organization in Iraq.

Coalition forces and the Iraqi government are now addressing the problem of sectarian violence, primarily between Sunni and Shia Muslims. Shia and Sunni militias are responsible for much of this violence.

Iraq remains strategically important to both America and Al Qaeda. The terrorists are trying to establish a radical Islamist state in Iraq, from which they can launch further attacks on America and her allies. Even if they are unable to conquer all of Iraq, a civil war would allow them to establish a base in part of the country. Sectarian violence helps them achieve that goal.

For us, Iraq is the key to creating freedom and democracy throughout the Middle East. With our help, the Iraqis have already established a free and democratic nation in

the heart of the Arab world. Continued success will inspire others in the region, severely undermining support for the terrorists and shattering their plans for creating a radical Islamist state. The continued fighting here is a sign of Iraq's strategic importance for both us and our enemies.

BAGHDAD SECURITY PLAN

In the summer of 2006, the Iraqi government and the Multi-National Corps–Iraq launched Operation Together Forward, intended to establish security in the city of Baghdad. The plan was based on a proven counter-insurgency strategy called “Clear, Hold, and Build.” The tactics involved clearing an area of terrorists, armed militias, and illegal weapons; holding the area while security and the rule of law are established; and rebuilding public infrastructure. (*Disclosure: I was a Plans Officer on the Governance Team of the Multi-National Corps–Iraq in 2006.*)

There were two problems that hampered our success in Operation Together Forward. First, because of the limited number of troops available to cover the city of Baghdad, the “Hold” phase was only two or three weeks in many cases. The objective in this phase is to establish security, show the local people that law and order can work in their area, and begin to get them involved in their own security. The people of Iraq have been terrorized by 35 years of Baath Party rule, and a few weeks of security were not sufficient to convince them to step forward and confront the violence in their neighborhoods.

In some of the neighborhoods, peace has been restored since the latest surge of troop reinforcements began. Parents are sending their children back to school, demonstrating their confidence in the improved security situation. Surveys indicate that people are feeling more secure, particularly when they see American soldiers along with Iraqi police in their neighborhood.

The second problem with our Baghdad

security plan was that armed sectarian militia groups had influence on some of the political factions in the Iraqi government. This was especially true of the Mahdi Army, led by radical Shia cleric Moqtada al Sadr. Sadr's party holds 30 seats in the Iraqi Council of Representatives, and was a key player in the political coalition of Prime Minister Nuri al Maliki. As a result, certain areas of Baghdad, particularly the Shia slum known as Sadr City, were placed off-limits for Coalition military activity.

The solutions to both of these problems are now in effect. The most straightforward is the troop surge, announced by President Bush in January. An additional 21,500 troops are either in or en route to Baghdad. This should give us sufficient numbers to extend the “Hold” phase of our operations. If we can hold these areas long enough (probably several months), Iraqi citizens will begin to trust their own government to provide long-term security. Armed militias and terrorists will no longer be tolerated.

The political problem was somewhat more complicated to resolve, but it is no longer a major factor. Last fall, Moqtada al Sadr threatened to withdraw from the government if Prime Minister Maliki met with President Bush in Jordan. Maliki went to the meeting anyway, and Sadr's party walked out of the Council of Representatives. Since then, Maliki's Shia coalition has sought out support from other parties in the Council, including the secular party of Ayad Allawi (who holds 28 seats versus Sadr's 30). Maliki has secured enough political support for the new security operations that Sadr is no longer relevant. The latest reports indicate that Sadr himself has fled to Iran.

U.S. and other Coalition troops are now free to operate anywhere they need to go. U.S. troops recently entered Sadr City and encountered no resistance. The troop surge, combined with political developments within the Iraqi government, will set the stage for victory in Iraq, as increased security and economic recovery take hold.

A Perspective continued on page 6

VISION

The Department of Minnesota ROA strives to be the premier member organization on all issues affecting Minnesota's Reserve military officers.

Legislative Report

Robert A. Silvagni, LTC USAR (Ret.)

Thanks to all Minnesota Department members who took action to support State legislation in 2007. The Legislature funded \$1.5 million to continue reintegration efforts for redeployed service members, \$1.5 million to help returnees to get back into civilian life, \$2 million to support the personal needs of veterans who became temporarily disabled and can not work and \$80,000 for veterans counseling.

While working with legislative matters I began to compare Minnesota and Wisconsin policies and programs toward veterans and military personnel. I found that Minnesota's policies and programs pale in comparison to Wisconsin's. Wisconsin provides full income tax exemption for military pay and pension income, provides a free college tuition program, a home loan program and seven other generous programs. I believe the Minnesota voters would support increased benefits for military and veterans if they understood the issues. For example, the taxing of military pay and pensions is a disincentive for soldiers from Minnesota to remain citizens of

Minnesota while in the military and is a strong disincentive for a retiring military person to return to and retire in Minnesota. (Note: I am told many retiring military personnel settle in Wisconsin to avoid paying income taxes on their military pension.) One wonders why Minnesota companies that claim they have trouble finding people to fill skilled jobs don't become more vocal to make military retirees and veterans more welcome since these people have proven leadership and technical skills.

Supporting our returning soldiers is critical to our nation. During this last legislative session a bill was introduced with substantial support to fund higher education needs of non-citizens who never served this country yet adequate funding to meet the education needs of returning soldiers was not available.

I urge all members of the Minnesota Department of ROA to keep informed on legislative issues and use your influence in the community to inform others about these issues. If you belong to local clubs and fraternal organizations, you could

suggest they sponsor a program and invite a state Senator or state Representative to discuss their position on these matters. Please take the time to write your Senator and Representative and request they support state policies and legislation to support military personnel, military families and veterans. As you become more informed, consider writing a letter to the editor in your local paper to stir up community interest.

This newsletter will present the Legislative agenda for 2008 as it is formed by a consortium of military and veteran organizations. We hope it will provide you with the necessary information to contact your legislators on specific bills in both legislative houses of the state legislature.

Your brothers and sisters in uniform need you and your influence in the political process.

Members interested in legislative enactment reference military and veterans enactments by the 2006 MN Legislature by searching Google for "Jim Cleary, MN state legislature."

A Perspective

continued from page 5

We will continue the fight for freedom.

Major Charles Erickson is an officer in the Army Reserve who was stationed at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, and previously served in Afghanistan. The Waconia, MN, resident has also previously served as a chairman of the John Adams Debate Society.

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\$\$ DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA "BUCK A YEAR"

Yes, I want to help pay the cost of publishing "On the ROAd Fast Track."
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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.

What retirement pay exemption means for the State of Minnesota

Emil Milacek, LT USN (Ret)

The analyses made in this paper indicate that a military retiree family residing in Minnesota (retiree plus spouse—no children) on average contributes \$6,161 to MN tax revenues (income, property and sales taxes) **even if** the military retirement pay is exempt from Minnesota income taxes. Further, only 2,748 additional retirees need be attracted to Minnesota residency (14,429 already reside here) to offset the loss in income tax revenues attributable to exempting the military retirement pay of the 14,429 already here.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. That the \$1,402 average monthly retirement income (\$16,824 annually) shown on information sheets provided by Ralph Donais is representative of a military retiree residing in the State of Minnesota.
2. That the annual **non**-military income of a military retiree that is subject to income tax is \$40,000. This estimated amount, after income tax deductions and exemptions, is assumed to be a valid approximation of the non-military income realized by a military retiree family both before and after social security retirement. In other words, the retiree's Minnesota income tax return (line 2) will reflect \$40,000 of taxable income if military retirement pay is excluded, and \$56,824 (\$40,000 + \$16,824) when military retirement pay

is included.

3. That the dollars of disposable income realized from excluding military retirement pay from income taxation will be spent in Minnesota on goods and services that are subject to 6.5% sales tax.
4. That approximately 50% of the Minnesota taxable income (one-half of \$56,824) will be spent in Minnesota on goods and services that are subject to 6.5% sales tax.
5. That each retiree family will pay approximately \$2,000 in Minnesota property taxes, either directly, or through rental equivalents.

ANALYSIS:

1. Minnesota income taxes for a military retiree family when military retirement pay is included in income will result in Minnesota income tax obligation of \$3,569 (married filing jointly, using Minnesota 2006 income tax instructions). Exempting the military retirement pay from income tax (income of \$40,000 instead of \$56,824) will result in income taxes of only \$2,314. Savings to retiree (loss to Minnesota revenues) will be \$1,255 (\$3,569 - \$2,314).
2. Using information from analysis item 1 above, Minnesota income taxes for the

14,429 Minnesota military retirees will fall by \$18,108,395 (\$1,255 x 14429.) However, applying general assumption #3, if the \$18 million plus dollars are spent in Minnesota, \$1,177,046 of sales taxes will apply; hence the net effect to Minnesota revenues will be \$16,931,349 (\$18,108,395 - \$1,177,046).

3. A recap of the three principal kinds of taxes paid indicate the following estimates may be applicable to a military retiree family:

Income taxes when retirement pay is excluded.	\$2,314
Property taxes.	2,000
Sales tax on 50% of all income . . .	1,847

Total MN taxes from typical retiree family \$6,161

4. Given analyses items #2 and #3, the additional number of military retirees needed in Minnesota to offset the loss of Minnesota revenues if military retirement pay is excluded from income tax would approximate 2,748 persons (\$16,931,349/\$6,161). The 2,748 represents an increase of roughly 19% over current level of MN military retirees. Most importantly, these computations indicate that the 2,749th and each additional retiree after that will actually **increase** Minnesota tax revenues by \$6,161!

Club Membership Drive Oct. 1 - Dec. 31

Join the club & receive a gift, FREE 6-month membership and a chance to win a \$250 Best Buy gift card! There are many benefits to being a club member, including cash rewards, discounts, and much more! For more details, call (612) 767-1960 ext. 200 or (612) 713-1680.

Current club members who encourage an eligible individual to join the club receive a gift (1-time) and a chance to win FREE 1-year membership. The military branch with the most eligible people who join the club gets \$500 OFF an official function at either the Services Club or Officers' Club!

Both clubs are open to all ranks and all military branches. The clubs serve meals, offer fun activities year-round, and cater special events. For the Services Club catering, call (612) 713-1674. For the Officers' Club catering, call (612) 767-1960 ext. 202.

VISION

The Department of Minnesota ROA strives to be the premier member organization on all issues affecting Minnesota's Reserve military officers.



The 451st Army Band

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