

On The ROAD FAST TRACK

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

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President's Message

Saying Goodbye to Col. Wofford
By Lt Col Gary Chambers, USAFR ret.

Colonel Kenneth Wofford made his final takeoff on September 05, 2010. He as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of WW II pilots known for having to fight a two-front battle. The first was against the segregation barring them from doing their patriotic duty to fight the second against the Axis powers.

Colonel Wofford was a trailblazer. Through the Tuskegee Airmen organization, Air Force Association, and his own initiatives, Kenneth Wofford opened avenues for students to build on their education opportunities, encouraging studies mathematics and the sciences.

Kenneth was a compassionate man. He related in one of his speaking engagements how he really wanted to be a doctor. Had he not taken that pilot applicant test, no doubt he would have been a gifted MD. However, compassion continued as evidenced with his dedicated support of the Minnesota Armed Forces Service Center (www.mnafsc.org). He gave of his time and talents volunteering for shifts and spreading the word to build support.

On the personal level, Ken was a friend. He was in charge of aerospace education during my term as president of the Air Force Assn.'s General E. W. Rawlings chapter. I could always count on being greeted with a smile and it feels good to be 50 years old and called, "Young man." The aerospace education

was a key program and my friend set a standard for programs nationwide. Ken was fortunate to be married to his best friend, Willetta Mae, his wife of 66 years.

The internment was at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. There was a flyover of two planes similar to those flown by the Tuskegee Airmen. The B-25, "Miss Mitchell", and P-51C Mustang were flown by members of the Commemorative Air Force, Minnesota Wing, from Fleming Field in South St. Paul. The Mustang is telling the story of the Tuskegee Airmen through the Red Tail Project (www.redtail.org). Col Wofford is a sponsoring member of the project. The traditional military missing man formation was flown by four North American built trainer aircraft, T-6 Thunder. I was fortunate to be in the last plane as a photographer. It was a good place to say good-bye.

Trailblazing, compassionate, and friend are all traits of a good leader. He was a leader in the truest definition of the word. Col. Wofford will certainly be missed. But, he will be remembered.

His work will not go undone for he has equipped his replacements to continue the progress he blazed.



Department Announces \$1,500 Scholarship Competition

The Department of Minnesota ROA is pleased to announce a \$1,500 scholarship from the Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund (MDAFF). The recipient will be determined at the January 13th meeting.

“We are looking at the best way to serve both the young officers and the service with our scholarship funds” says MDAFF chair, Col Marilyn Chambers, USAFR (Ret). Any questions may be directed to Col Chambers.

The full criteria are:

- Warrant Officer or O-1 through O-4
- Member of the Department of Minnesota Reserve Officers Association.
- Or an ROA member from another

department drilling in the state of Minnesota

To apply:

- Study in a Minnesota college or university
- Provide an email letter from your superior officer stating your fitness for increased responsibility and they impact you have had on your unit.
- Submit a short, no more than two pages document outlining your academic goals and how this course of study will achieve them.
- Application deadline is July 12, 2011
- Email the application to Col. Marilyn Chambers at: aromed@att.net

Project Sound Improvement

Notice to MNROA Members:

The MNROA Department of ROA has initiated a plan for the improvement of the Sound System in your 'O Club at Fort Snelling. The Board of Directors believes that a STRONG RELATIONSHIP among the RESERVE and the GUARD and our military personnel who live and serve within the family of MNROA is important. It is realized that a covenant between personnel and their families in their 'O Club facility improves comradeship and moral that is necessary for the club and MNROA. Your 'O Club serves as the anchor for social events, warmly hosted meetings, garden club activities, and card games such as bridge, recognition balls, and more... are activities afforded our membership at your Club. A quality sound system second to none is what we all deserve in our 'O club at Fort Snelling.

Therefore your board voted to start a fund drive to raise money for improvement of the Sound System at the O Club. We are urging members and associated PMA's to raise \$2,500 to accomplish this project for all to enjoy. We urge our chapters to join in this project which should bring it to reality within a year. Send your contributions to the following:

**MNROA Attn.: Will Philipson
P.O. Box 11769
St. Paul, Minnesota 55111-0769**

Changes in the US Public Health Service

by CAPT Gregory J. Murrey

The United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps is a non-military, uniformed service under the direction of the U.S. Surgeon General. It was 'officially' organized in 1798. It is comprised entirely of commissioned officers (no enlisted personnel) in medical and healthcare related fields. Officers serve in many federal agencies such as the Center for Disease Control, Bureau of Prisons, Indian Health Services, Food and Drug Administration, Immigration Services, etc. Officers are often deployed to locations experiencing a national or international emergency (e.g., Katrina and Haiti). As with the other uniformed services, all officers are first commissioned as reserve officers and later can 'augment' to the regular corps with congressional approval. For many years, the USPHS has had an inactive reserve corps (IRC) component. The IRC included USPHS officers formally on active duty, full-time students completing fellowships with the Corps, and officers directly commissioned to an inactive status. The USPHS IRC has not included a ready (drilling) reserve nor has it included retirement for its officers. IRC officers could and have often volunteered for short-tours of active duty within one of

the aforementioned federal agencies or for national emergencies. IRC officers cannot be involuntarily called up to active duty at this time, except if the entire Corps is called up during War time. The last time this occurred was during WWII and Korea. However, with the signing of the Healthcare Reform legislation in March of this year, the USPHS IRC will be dissolved and an USPHS Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) will be instituted. The IRR will be similar to those of the other Services.



CAPT Gregory Murrey, a clinical neuropsychologist (on right) with a village-based counselor (left), taking the 'airport shuttle' in the Native Alaskan village of Wales. CAPT Murrey, a USPHS reservist, served a 4-month tour of active duty providing neuropsychological services to 15 rural villages along the Bearing Sea which are only accessible by small aircraft. Temperature at the time of the photo was -40 degrees Fahrenheit.



Military Retirement Fund

For many years, the Defense Department funded military retirement on a “pay-as-you-go” basis, estimating how much money was needed to write checks for current retirees and adding that amount to the budget. This system worked well as far as paying retirees went, but it did not hold policymakers fiscally responsible for today’s decisions affecting the size of the future retirement bill, e.g., increasing the force size. To promote better management, in 1984, Congress directed a switch to an accrual method of funding retirement. Under this procedure, each year the services transfer into a fund the amount necessary to pay for future retirements. The amount transferred is a percentage of the service’s basic pay. Thus, if a service implements policies that affect the future value of retirement benefits, it sees the budgetary consequences of that decision immediately in the form of an increase in the amount transferred to the retirement fund. Analysis by Arroyo Center researchers William Hix and William Taylor, reported in *A Policymaker’s Guide to Accrual Funding of Military Retirement*, suggests that the current procedures do not fully capture the intent of the legislation and that changes could eventually save the Army as much as \$5-6 billion annually.

When Congress established the retirement fund, it shifted responsibility for service rendered before 1 OCT 84, to the Department of the Treasury; DoD has responsibility to fund service rendered after that date. At the time of the transfer, Treasury accepted an unfunded liability estimated at \$529 billion, which was to amortize over 60 years. Annually the services transfer an amount equal to a percentage of their basic pay accounts for the active and reserve components. The percentage differs by component, but it is identical within components for all services. In FY95, fund transfers equaled 33.5% of the active duty basic pay and 9.7% of the selected reserves. The Board of Actuaries annually calculates the liability for the pre-1984 service, adjusted for changes in assumptions and experience, and transfers an amount

equal to one year’s amortized payment. The money in the fund is invested in nonnegotiable government securities, and it draws interest. Transfers into the fund and its investment transactions qualify as intra-governmental transfers (even though they represent an outlay to DoD) and thus have no effect on the deficit. Only payments to retirees from the fund represent outlays to the federal government. The fund’s liability is not static, and three things can cause what are called actuarial gains and losses:

Funding assumptions can change: To determine how much money DoD has to transfer to the fund, a Board of Actuaries reviews assumptions about economic and noneconomic factors at the beginning of each year. Economic factors include assumptions about pay raises, cost of living allowance (COLA) increases, and interest rates. An assumed pay raise means that the future liability of the fund will increase because retirees will draw more money. Therefore, the amount transferred into the fund has to increase to account for this future liability. An assumption that the interest rate will increase has the opposite effect. The fund earns interest on nonnegotiable government securities. So if interest rates go up, the fund will earn more interest, thus the amount transferred can be less. The so-called noneconomic assumptions include such things as the rates of retirement and the longevity of retirees. If, for example, higher retirement rates or lower death rates are assumed, funding requirements increase.

Benefits can change: Benefit changes also affect the size of the contribution. For example, Congress slipped the 1994 and 1995 COLA increases from JAN to later in the year. These delays reduced the actuarial value of the retirement benefit and, hence, the funding required.

Experience can differ from assumptions: As mentioned, the actuaries review certain economic assumptions at the beginning of the year. Frequently, these differ from what actually happens during the year. For example, if the pay raises or COLAs approved differ from the assumptions, the fund earns

more interest than anticipated, or fewer people retire than anticipated, the funding requirements change. Right now only Treasury benefits from any decreases in fund liability. The Treasury would make annual payments to fund this amount amortized over 50 years. If the liability of the fund goes down because it earns more interest or for some other reason, the size of the Treasury payment goes down. The assumptions made by the Board of Actuaries have turned out to be conservative; over its life, the fund has never had an actuarial loss. All the net changes in liability have been downward. These decreases can be substantial. In FY95, for example, the liability was reduced by \$48 billion. The Treasury amortized this amount over 30 years, and reduced its annual payment by that amortized amount. Over the first 10 years of the fund’s life, the average annual gain has been almost \$30 billion, and the annual Treasury payment has shrunk from \$25 billion to \$11.5 billion.

Another area of interest pertains to service retirement practices. The intention of the annual transfer from the services is to fund the future retirement liability of the individuals represented in those accounts. This procedure assumes that all services retire people at an identical rate. But they do not. A service’s level of seniority directly affects the number of people it retires. The higher the level of seniority, the more retirees. For both the officer and the enlisted forces, the Air Force maintains the most seniority, the Marine Corps the least. Accrual percentages computed with service-specific personnel policies would differ significantly by service. Current policies cause the budgets of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps to carry several hundred millions of dollars a year of the cost of Air Force personnel policies. Hence, in its retirement budget the Air Force appears several hundred million dollars a year cheaper than its actual cost; the other services appear more expensive. [Source: RAND research brief *A Policymaker’s Guide to Accrual Funding of Military Retirement 1997*

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VISION

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

Military Retirement Fund Update 01:

Wartime demands for personnel, and record retention rates due in part to a dismal job market, have left the services with an older, more experienced force and a surprise \$1-billion-a-year pop in retirement costs. The Department of Defense's Board of Actuaries in late July overhauled the assumptions used to calculate what the services must budget for annually to cover future retirement obligations to the current force. It acted on analyses from the DoD Office of the Actuary which, for the first time, weighed the effects on retirement costs of Post-9/11 developments including nine years of sustained operations, a deep economic recession and growth in military entitlements of retirees and survivors. The result is an \$800 million jump in accrual retirement costs the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps have to pay starting 2012 because more service members are staying until retirement. Some of that cost too is a projected 40% increase in disability retirements, the result of a crackdown on the low-balling of disability awards by service through stricter compliance with rating practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Another \$200 million in added yearly retirement costs is attributed to retirees living longer. Death rates are falling — and sharply.

The improvement that military retirees are seeing in their own mortality is just phenomenal, said Peter Rossi, one of DoD actuaries that worked on revising projected retirement costs. Retiree deaths are decreasing at such a rapid rate — faster than the American public, faster than anyone else — we are seeing a 2-plus percent a year change for active, reserve. It's everybody. Deaths for non-disabled retirees in 2008-2009 were 8% lower than found for non-disabled retirees in 2004-2005. For retired reservists, data showed a 4% drop. No cause has been identified, Rossi added. Maybe military folks are just in better shape. The changes in actuarial assumptions reportedly surprised Under Secretary of Defense Robert Hale, the DoD comptroller, who already was under considerable pressure to curb the services' soaring personnel costs. The comptroller was

not pleased, said one official. He now had to go out and find [\$1 billion] when Defense Secretary [Robert] Gates is telling him he needs to save money. That was a contentious issue for a while.

The retention rate of careerist is so high that in the 2012 budget to be delivered to Congress next February, the services will assume that 19% of all new entrants serve for 20 years, long enough to qualify for retirement. That's a huge change from the 17% previously assumed, said Rossi. Specifically, the probability of newly commissioned officers reaching retirement will climb to 49% from 47. For new enlistees, the assumed retirement rate will be raised to 17% from 15. It forces the services overall to set aside \$20 billion in their 2012 budgets to cover active duty retirement costs, an unplanned for 5% jump. Another \$2.8 billion will have to be set aside for Guard and Reserve retirement but that's unchanged. Rossi said the Office of the Actuary has not reconsidered assumptions for Guard and Reserve retirement but it soon will. Another way to look at the effect of the new assumptions on retirement costs is by individual member costs. For fiscal 2011 the services will set aside \$32.70 for future retired pay for every \$100 paid in basic pay. That proportion will climb to \$34.30 for every \$100 in basis pay in fiscal 2012. So if a service member draws \$50,000 in basic pay, his or her service will have to pony up \$17,150 that year for future retired pay, or \$800 more than was needed a year earlier.

For many years, the military ignored future retirement obligations, budgeting only to cover payments due each year to current retirees and survivors. That pay-as-you-go method created a huge unfunded liability. Critics also said the services had no incentive to control retirement costs. In 1984 Congress ordered DoD to switch to accrual accounting for retirement accounts. The Treasury Department was given responsibility for the unfunded liability and established a military retirement trust fund. The services began to pay into that fund whatever amount was needed to cover retirement costs for the current active, Guard and Reserve forces. So

retirement obligations today are paid from two pots. Treasury pays roughly \$50 billion a year to cover annuities of current retirees and survivors. The services pay more than \$20 billion a year in accrual payments. The board of actuaries assumed at its July meeting that military retirees, social security recipients, federal civilian retirees, disabled veterans and survivors will have to wait until at least January 2012 before they see their next cost-of-living adjustment or COLA. That prediction looks even more solid now, to the regret of retirees. No COLA last year eased the unfunded liability of the military retirement system by \$22.3 billion. But it gave no relief to service budgets because Treasury's pays COLAs of current retirees. Rossi said that over time retirees can expect COLAs to deliver an annual average boost of 3%. [Source: Kitsap Sun Tom Philpott article 24 Sep 2010]

In Memory

Maj. Michael Freyholtz, Air National Guard of Alaska, 34, a native of Hines, MN, and a graduate of Blackduck High School, died July 28 with three other ANG men when their C-17 cargo plane crashed during a training run at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska.



Thomas Harper, MAJ USAR (Ret.), kneeling with his dog Buddy after the funeral for MAJ Mike Freyholtz in Blackduck, MN on Saturday August 14, 2010. Tom is a member of the Fargo North Dakota Chapter of the ROA that meets at the American Legion Club in Moorhead, Minnesota. The others in the photo are members of the Patriot Guard Riders. Most are veterans from northern Minnesota, although there were a few from the Twin Cities and one (from North Dakota) is a Viet Nam Vet along with his wife from Hensel, North Dakota.

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.

MN ROA ISSUES Needing Action

a. Board attendance (With quarterly meetings we must count on each board member attending or sending substitute.) We have encouraged individuals taking on offices and participating through the internet in the last few years, but have found little dialogue with some key people during their association. This has handicapped our program and has made membership communications less than desirable. Certainly circumstances can cause one to not be able to attend a meeting but it would help if they'd have someone attend in their place so that actions might be done and communicated to membership.

b. We must seek more persons as officers willing to serve taking on the responsibilities of the office held. Our experience with persons taking the job and then advising they have no time to give us can't be acceptable.

c. We must cope with membership interests in the organization and the stated mission if we are to succeed. We also must count on the Nationals return of our portion of dues, on a timely bases, if we are to carry out our responsibilities. This has been a problem in last four years.

d. Committee chairs must be proactive and recruit members to their committee assignments. The organization can not be successful with one person handling a responsibility and then failing to carry it out because of no backup. (Newsletter publication is a point of example.) Membership program is another.

e. Newsletter must have consistent release on a quarterly basis to make a contribution to communications with members. The failure of this activity past and present hasn't helped the Department promote its program responsibility.

f. The Constitution and Bylaws need a look. Jeff Anderson has agreed to review it and he needs our input.

g. We might consider merging with the enlisted association and program together. There are many details to be worked out, but it might bring us together. Certainly our career issues are the same. It might also bring more people to our meetings.

h. Chapter participation in the Department's program is mandatory. Without their support we're going to go out of business. We need to work hard on this issue.

Suggested by Will D. Philipson.

USN-Ret

Past President MNROA & Chair

Publications Committee

Armed Forces Service Center Supported

The Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC) at the MSP International Airport has a long history of service by those in uniform to our state and nation.

The Armed Forces Service Center is located at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport, and is for active-duty military personnel, their dependents, activated reservists and national guardsmen. In addition, Department of Defense and PHS employees (on orders), and other members of the uniformed services on active duty are served. In appreciation for all those who have served, military retirees and veterans are welcome to a cup of coffee, pastry and seating provided outside the AFSC. The center is located in Terminal 1- Lindbergh, on the mezzanine level above the main ticket area.

The Armed Forces Service Center is a one-of-a-kind facility "unique" to Minnesota. It is not affiliated with the USO or with the Metropolitan Airports

Commission, which owns and operates Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

The Armed Forces Service Center was founded by Maggie Purdum on November 22, 1970, after her son died in Vietnam. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, the Center relies on funding from various veterans organizations and their auxiliaries as well as private businesses and individuals.

The Board of Directors for the Department of Minnesota recently made a donation of \$100.00 to the Center. This continues a history of donation to this worthwhile cause. In addition an ROA member has been a representative of ROA to the AFSC. A long serving member in that capacity until recently is ROA member COL Alan Ruvelson, USAR (Ret.). Thank you!

Members who wish to volunteer are always welcome by those who run the Center. The Center is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

If you are interested in donating your time please contact the Center either in person or by phone or email.

Phone: (612) 726-9155 (to leave voice mail is -9156)

Executive Director, Debra Cain

E-mail: afsc_msp@mnaafsc.org

Assistant Director, Fred Crawford

<http://mnaafsc.org/>

Thank You!

Thank you to the ROA members that are contributing to our Buck-A-Year program! Proceeds from this program are used to offset mailing costs for your newsletter.



They deserve our support!

A Minnesota Wall of Honor is being prepared to recognize the sacrifices of Minnesotans who have been killed in action (KIA) or died of wounds (DOWs) in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

The Wall will be placed at the 934th Airlift Wing Officers' Club at Hwy 5 and Post Rd., Minneapolis.

Each military member's name, rank and branch of service will be engraved on a polished black 3"x5" plaque. The 4' x 8' frame of the memorial is made of beautifully hand-crafted oak. All plaques will be on the Memorial Wall for guests to view and pay honor for each member's sacrifice.

Dedication for the Wall of Honor is Veterans Day, Thursday, November 11, 2010

**1LT John Paul Doe
U.S Army
12 July 2009**

This is a sample of a 3" X 5" plaque that will be mounted on the Minnesota Wall of Honor.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please use the contribution form below to send in your check. This is a wonderful way for all members of MCMOAA and MnDept ROA to unite and create a lasting memorial to our fellow Minnesotans who have died in action in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Please send your check today. We suggest a minimum contribution of \$35.00 (the cost of one plaque). Your donation is most appreciated.

The Minnesota Wall of Honor is sponsored by the members of the Minnesota Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MCMOAA) and the Minnesota Department of the Reserve Officers Association (MnDeptROA), with the cooperation and assistance of the 934th Airlift Wing.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Help us honor those Minnesotans who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn (Iraq), and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan).

The cost of each plaque is \$35.00

Choose: \$35.00 \$70.00 \$105.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail address _____

Make your check out to

MCMOAA - Minnesota Wall of Honor

Mail to:

Thomas Langlais, MCMOAA Treasurer

5901 Auto Club Road

Bloomington, MN 55438-2444

Thank you. Your contribution is appreciated.
Your canceled check will serve as your receipt.

VISION

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

Veteran recalls battle leading to Medal of Honor

By Senior Master Sgt. David Byron
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- In 1968, a battle raged where heroes arose only to be unacknowledged for 18 years. Proper recognition occurred during a White House ceremony Sept. 21 when Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Richard Etchberger was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor after saving three of his men in a battle that failed to make headlines at the time because of its then-highly classified nature.

Retired Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Daniel was one of the Airmen Chief Etchberger saved during the battle at the Lima 85 radar site.

The mission, named Heavy Green, was to provide radar information and assistance to U.S. aircraft bombing military targets in Hanoi, Vietnam, its surrounding areas and along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The radar site, located on a hilltop in Laos, was not officially acknowledged until 1986 because Laos was considered a neutral country during the Vietnam War, despite U.S. and North Vietnamese forces often operating there.

Sergeant Daniel said that although the mission was to guide bombers on longrange strikes, as time went on the radar crews were forced to direct an increasing number of bombing runs closer to their own location.

The North Vietnamese army had discovered the site's location and made a concerted push, including building roads to bring in heavy artillery, to launch attacks against the site.

On the evening of March 10, 1968, the radar crew experienced a lull in guiding bomber missions and decided to take a dinner break. Sergeant Daniel had the additional duty as cook for his shift.

"I asked them what they wanted for dinner, and they all said steaks, so we went down to the barbecue pit and fired up the grill," he said. "We hadn't started cooking yet, and [Air Force Lt. Col.] Bill Blanton came up and said, 'Fellows, we need to have a little get-together up in the equipment.'"

Colonel Blanton told the team that the North Vietnamese army had surrounded them and the situation looked dire, Sergeant Daniel

said. While calling in evacuation helicopters was a possibility, that option was rapidly disappearing as darkness approached. A flight out the following morning would be more likely.

"We took a straw poll of everybody that was there," Sergeant Daniel said. "We decided to just go ahead and drop bombs all night, and in the morning, detonate all the equipment and get out on choppers at first light."

As it turned out, they did not have as much time as they had thought. During the meeting, the North Vietnamese army began its attack. The first artillery round hit the barbecue shack.

"It was a good thing we were at that meeting and not having dinner," Sergeant Daniel said.

The radar team split into two crews. One team would pull the first shift manning the equipment, the other would return to the sleeping quarters, rest and prepare to relieve the first team. The sleeping quarters and bunker were located next to the barbecue shack.

"I said I wasn't going to stay in quarters or the bunker," Sergeant Daniel said. "They already hit there and had the range down on that. I said we should go down over the side of the hill, where we went to write letters. Nobody would find us down there."

On one side of the hill was a ledge where the Airmen often sat to compose letters or tapes to send home. It was 10 to 15 feet below the top of the hill, with a nearly 3,000-foot straight drop below. The five-man crew decided to take cover there.

The five Airmen started hearing small-arms fire and grenades going off on the hilltop, Sergeant Daniel said. "Shortly thereafter," he added, "someone caught a glimpse of us and started emptying their rifles at us."

In the first volley of gunfire, two members of the team were hit, one fatally. The crew returned fire with their M-16s. After the next exchange, two were dead and two others had been wounded. Chief Etchberger was the only one not wounded.

During lulls in the gun battle, the enemy began tossing grenades down on the ledge.

"If I could reach them, I'd pick them up and throw them back on top of the hill," Sergeant Daniel said. "If I couldn't reach them, I'd take the butt of my rifle and kick

them off over the edge of the mountain."

When one grenade landed outside both his own reach and the reach of his rifle, Sergeant Daniel said, he rolled the dead body of a comrade over on top of it.

Roughly 15 yards separated Sergeant Daniel and Chief Etchberger. Sergeant Daniel had a radio near him, and as the attack continued, the chief directed him to call in an air strike on the top of the hill. Throughout the night, a succession of aircraft unloaded their ordnance, both bombs and bullets, on the hill.

At daylight, three members of the team still survived on the ledge. An Air America helicopter spotted them and hovered, lowering a sling. Chief Etchberger broke cover, exposing himself to the enemy, and closed the gap between himself and his wounded colleagues.

"[Chief Etchberger] scooted me on over and got me on that sling," Sergeant Daniel said. "After I was up, he got [Capt. Stan Sliz] up on the sling."

After the two survivors were aboard the helicopter, the chief began to secure himself to the sling. Before he could go up, Staff Sgt. Bill Husband, who had been playing dead atop the hill, dashed to the ledge. The chief locked arms with him, and they rode the sling together and boarded the helicopter.

As the helicopter began to climb, a North Vietnamese soldier emptied his weapon into the underside of the aircraft. Chief Etchberger was mortally wounded and died during the evacuation flight.

"[Chief Etchberger] was one hell of an NCO," Sergeant Daniel said. "He knew the equipment. ... He knew how to handle people He knew what to do and how to do it. You were eager to follow the man, to do what he wanted you to do."

The Heavy Green mission began with volunteers, briefings and sworn statements of secrecy at the Pentagon in 1967. For those involved, the White House Medal of Honor presentation and the Pentagon Hall of Heroes induction ceremony Sept. 22 will provide closure to the mission.

"It's only fitting," Sergeant Daniel said, "that we're back in the Pentagon to finish it up and put an end to it, right where it started, 43 years ago."



There are Benefits to being a MEMBER!

Thank you for being a dedicated member of the Reserve Officers Association. While your greatest ROA member benefit is our advocacy and education mission, your membership in ROA affords you access to many valuable programs. Below you will find a sampling. For more information, visit ROA's Benefits page at www.roa.org/benefits.

Best Regards,
Paul T. Kaye, RADM, MC, USNR (Ret.)
ROA National President

NEW: Get Your Discount on AT&T Wireless Service

AT&T Wireless: ROA members can save 15% on qualified monthly wireless service plans from AT&T online if you have a .mil or .gov email address. Members can also take advantage of the AT&T discount via their company owned retail stores. Military ID will be needed for verification. Alternatively, those interested in receiving the discount or inquiring about products/services can contact Mark Menikheim at mm3309@att.com or 410-530-5061. Visit: www.att.com/gov/movnfor details from a .mil or .gov email address.



NEW: Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance

Sign up to protect the financial investment of your trip with up to \$100,000 of coverage for trip cancellation, trip interruption, trip delay, baggage and personal effects loss and many other valuable benefits.



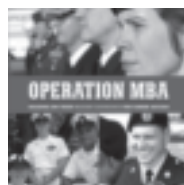
ROA/Corporate Gray Career Center

- Resume posting with search agent functionality (e-mail notification of matching job)
- Career advice, military skill code translator, job fair info, relocation assistance, etc
- Resume searching with candidate matching
- Company profile pages, banner ads, and links to company home pages
- Variety of monthly newsletters with sponsorship opportunities for employers, and more



Operation MBA

GMAC's Operation MBA initiative offers ROA members a 15% discount on the wide array of tools available in the mba.com Store. These



tools, such as The Official Guide for GMAT Review 12th Edition, will help you to prepare for the GMAT exam and be ready to hit the ground running on your first day in an MBA program.

Columbia Southern University

Columbia Southern University is 100% online and is designed for the working, career individual with busy work and family life schedules. ROA members receive a 10% discount on all of CSU's tuition rates, including a waived application fee and textbooks at no cost. Your spouse and children are also eligible to receive these benefits.



Columbia Southern University Partner Program

Instructions: To gain access to the ROA Partner discount, click 'Request Information', then 'Apply Now'. Identify your partner organization as Reserve Officers Association.

Stevens Institute of Technology WebCampus

Students who ROA members receive a 10% rebate when they enroll in WebCampus courses. Choose from over 170 sections in Project Management, Information Systems, Systems Engineering, Computer Science, Engineering, Technology Management, Telecommunications Management, Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, and more.



Stevens WebCampus Rebate Program

Instructions: To take advantage of this benefit, fill out a rebate application and FAX a copy of your membership card (or proof of membership) to +1-201-216-5090.

eKnowledge

eKnowledge distributes its SAT/ACT PowerPrep Programs to military service members and their families. The sponsorship provides both free and deeply discounted programs:

- FREE (you pay only shipping and handling) - The Standard PowerPrep™ - retail \$199.95
- DEEPLY DISCOUNTED - The Combo Premium PowerPrep™ - retail \$599.95 - you pay only \$75.00
- The Premium PowerPrep™ - retail \$299.95 - you pay only \$50.00



FINANCE:

Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PenFed)

The Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PenFed) credit card for ROA members provides the following benefits:

- 5.00% Cash Back on Gas Paid at the Pump

-2.00% Cash Back Paid Monthly on Supermarket Purchases to Include Military Commissaries

- 1.00% Monthly Cash Rewards on all Other Purchases

-4.99% APR on Balance Transfers

-Exclusive ROA card designs, and more



Other financing offers:

- 2.99% APR New & Used Auto Loans

- 4.99% APR Fixed Home Equity Loans, up to 120 months

INSURANCE:

ROA Life & Health Insurance Programs from Marsh

- Hospital Income Plan

- TRICARE Supplements

- Short Term Recovery

- GatewayConnexions International Plans

- Excess Major Medical

- Enhanced Accidental Death & Dismemberment

- Long Term Care

- VPI® Pet Insurance

- Accidental Disability

- Long Term Disability

- Enhanced Dental

- Cancer Care

- Auto/Home Insurance

- Term Life Plans

- Senior Whole Life

- Identify Theft Program (ID Theftsmart™)



Liberty Mutual's Group Savings Plus



- Low insurance rates, guaranteed for 12 months

- Convenient payment through checking account withdrawal or home billing

- Comprehensive auto, home, boat and vacation home insurance protection, as well as many types of life and other insurance

- Enrollment and rate quotes through a toll-free call center, more than 300 local sales and service offices, or online

- 24-hour emergency roadside assistance for auto policyholders

TRAVEL & LEISURE:

Government Vacation Rewards



NEW: Special Offer

Create a free Gov Vacation Rewards account and automatically be entered to win a seven day resort vacation for two! If you already have an account, you are already eligible!

-Best Rate Guarantee- Feel confident that you are receiving the lowest price for your vacation

- More Discounts and Savings than any other travel program

- Access to Military Rates: the military cruise search enables you to quickly find cruise line military rates

- Earn Reward Points for every dollar you spend

- Thousands of Destinations to choose from, all major cruise lines and resorts worldwide

- NO Booking Fees

- FREE Program

- Support for ROA - a portion of the revenue is returned to ROA to support ROA activities

- Receive a 2,500 point BONUS reward upon activation which guarantees savings on every cruise and resort vacations when you enroll in the program through ROA

Hertz #1 Gold Club

-Free Hertz #1 Club Gold Membership

-Faster Reservations and Rentals

- Discounted Rates and Special Offers

- Earn Free Rental Days



MARKETPLACE:

ROA Custom Logo Products

ROA members receive up to a 25% discount on all Alpha products.



Shop ROA with SmartSavings by Motivano

Shop ROA is a discount mall that provides ROA members with access to hundreds of brand name retailers and local merchants.

Apple Computers & Accessories

Apple offers ROA members its Employee Purchase Program, offering savings of 6-12% on many Apple products ROA Apple

Dell Desktops & Notebooks

Delloffers ROA members its Member Purchase Program, offering savings on Dell products including up to a 12% discount on all Dell Dimension Desktops and Inspiron Notebooks.

PUBLICATIONS:

Military Times

ROA members may subscribe to any Military Times Newspaper

for only \$39.95 for 52 issues, a 76% discount, and receive a pair of military boot socks and a multi-function pocket knife. As a bonus, \$5.00 will be donated to ROA.



Member Directory:

ROA has commissioned Harris Connect to publish an Association Membership Publication to celebrate our members' years of service to their country in uniform and ROA's unwavering commitment to protect and enhance the benefits you and others earned through that service.

You will have the unique opportunity to showcase your military career through your listing information. Plus, you will be able to submit a photo of yourself, your family, or from one of your favorite—or dangerous—duty stations. When you receive your postcard or email about the project, please take a few moments and call to verify your information.

There is no cost to be included in the publication. ROA receives a small royalty on the sale of each publication, so your participation helps your association financially too! Contact Harris Connect at 1-877-562-3970. Thank you for sharing your story with other ROA members around the country.

BUCK A YEAR PROGRAM

Since fishing season is upon us here in Minnesota it is high time that we step up to the plate and help out with the costs of our newsletter. We call it a Buck (Walleye) A Year. It cost about \$1,250 an issue to get 1,500 of these out to you and any gift earmarked for this effort would be greatly appreciated.

For recognition we have four levels of giving: Benefactor, Patron, Sponsor & Donor.

Just fill out the form, clip and mail to: Newsletter Editor
PO Box 11769,
St. Paul, MN 55111-0769

Yes... I want to help.

Rank/Name _____

Service _____

Donation Support: _____

- Benefactor - \$25.00
- Patron: \$20.00
- Sponsor \$15.00
- Donor: \$10.00

MNROA: Seeks Nomination for Department Leadership

In the words of the song by Willie Nelson "On The Road Again" MNROA is seeking leadership for the year ahead. We will cast our ballots for the open officer slots in the Department on April 25th. All who would like to contribute to the organization growth and development success should step forward and make their bid for a leadership role.

Our story is one of working to make our commitments to reserve and guard personnel better. Helping our military friends adjust to the causes we defend as well as to the assignments all we have to make sacrifices to meet should be high on an officer's service to the organization and its members. Helping our personnel stand up for what is right for military service and our country is an obligation we must address. Our mission must show the way for service and commitment to the cause as well as our membership.

Clearly our obligation as officers in the Department has to promote full range of earned entitlements military officers enjoy as well as promote information promulgation which clarifies service commitments and individual benefits. Military status is appreciated by our countrymen as will as the countrymen of countries where we are involved. Our open and frank discussions include the quality of life, pay, future benefits and other issues.

Our organization is looking for patriots that recognize and appreciate their service. Their commitment must be broad and undying so that the mission is kept alive and well. They must be willing to devote time and energy to making things happen for its members. I urge you to step forward and declare your willingness to assume the responsibility of serving your fellow officers in this very a leader willing to embrace reform and change in our own professional organization which Congress so wisely chartered.

Will D. Philipson
Captain, USN-RET
Past President

Save The Date

April 30, 2011 is the date for the 2011 Department of Minnesota convention.

The next quarterly Department of Minnesota meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2011. The meeting begins at 1800 in the Ft Snelling Officers Club. All ROA members are welcome to attend.

**Reserve Officers Association
Of The United States
Department of Minnesota
PO Box 11769
St. Paul, Minnesota 5511-0769**

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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.



One of America's Finest And Ours

LTC Theodore J. Daley, USAR, with GEN David H. Petraeus, USA, in Iraq July 2008. The unit in which he served in Iraq was the 407 th Civil Affairs Battalion (Arden Hills, MN). His position was as senior economic advisor in the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). LTC Daley, now assigned to the Pacific Command (J1), Camp Smith, HI, is an ROA (Life) member from Eagan. He affiliates with the St. Paul Chapter of ROA Minnesota.



“Opinions expressed herein are those of the columnist, and are not necessarily those of the Department of Minnesota or of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States. Publication of advertisements or congressional profiles does not imply endorsement by the ROA or the Department of Minnesota of the products & services advertised or officers profiled.”

Attention Minnesota ROA Members

The mailing address label now contains the Minnesota Chapter affiliation of record for you as a member. Please verify. If this chapter affiliation is not correct, as you wish it to be, please make corrections by submitting that request by email to: info@roa.org with the subject line MN Chapter Affiliation Change Request”. In the body of your email state your request for a change to your chapter preference. For more information see our website at: <http://www.mnroa.org> and click “Chapters” and “Your Membership” in the navigation pane. Only you can make the request for chapter affiliation.