

Military Order of the World Wars



Chapter 151 Region XIII December 2024 Newsletter



The Military Order of the World Wars
Colorado Springs Chapter
Post Office Box 2152
Monument, Colorado 80132

COMMANDER'S REMARKS (9 Dec 2024)

Greetings Companions!

Many thanks to Dave and Jeannie Egan for their outstanding presentation in November on the history of the US military in France! Very detailed and the distillation from a three-inch-thick book to a 20-minute meaningful presentation was impressive! We will get them back at a future date to talk about their experiences supporting veterans from Vietnam, specifically the My Lai massacre.

We are taking the month of December on hiatus, given the busyness of the season and to give time for thanks and family in our great nation. I hope everyone had a joyful and wonderful time over Thanksgiving with loves ones, and that your Christmas season is peaceful! We are thankful for those who are serving overseas and in CONUS for their service to our Nation and their willingness to "stand the watch" to keep us and our freedoms safe, and to those first responders who keep us all safe every day.

As mentioned at our last meeting, Region XIII will be hosting the 2025 National Convention in Tucson from August 5-10, and will be conducting a "rehearsal of concept" in conjunction with the Winter Region XIII conference from 16-19 January. We highly encourage attendance at the next convention to ensure your voice is heard and to help our Region in a Region XIII "All Hands on Deck" effort in August. If you are interested in attending the January conference in Tucson, let me know and I can send the registration materials!

We will have a homeland security themed presentation at our January 25th meeting, either NORTHCOM J5 Arctic Planning or the National Cybersecurity Center. We are also coordinating for Chief Justice Bain to speak, and have Gen Kevin Chilton tentatively penciled in for Apr 19th. It will be a busy year with parades, high level speakers, and elections!

As we enter the new year, I wish you all a peaceful, memorable, and meaningful 2025!

Thank you again for the honor and privilege!

Merry Christmas!

V/R,

Kerm

It is nobler to serve than to be served

COMING EVENTS (December & Later)

- ✓ **STAFF MEETING (12 DEC 24)**
 - Thursday, 1700
 - Location: Hill House
 - Virtual Mtg [Link](#)
- ✓ **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA EL PASO COUNTY, CO, SATURDAY, 14 DEC 24**
 - Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Saturday, 0900, [link](#) for information and wreath sponsorship
 - [United States Air Force Academy Cemetery](#), 1000, [link](#) for information and wreath sponsorship
 - Evergreen Cemetery, 1000, [link](#) for information and wreath sponsorship
 - Fairview Cemetery, 1000, [link](#) for information and wreath sponsorship
 - Memorial Gardens, 1000, [link](#) for information and wreath sponsorship
- ✓ **NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN DECEMBER**
- ✓ **NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON 25 JAN 25**
TOPIC NATIONAL SECURITY
 - Saturday, 1100
 - Location: Patty Jewett Golf Course
 - RSVP: No later than noon on 22 January to [LTC Mike Berendt](#)
 - Virtual Mtg [Link](#)

DECEMBER COMPANION INFORMATION

Please considering participating in El Paso County Wreaths Across America (WAA) at various cemeteries in El Paso County. WAA objective is to:

- REMEMBER the Fallen
- HONOR those who Serve
- TEACH our children the value of Freedom

You can participate through sponsoring a wreath for veteran or volunteer to place wreaths at the cemeteries.

STAFF MEETING (SCHEDULED FOR 12 DEC)

Staff will continue to meet December 12 and January 16, 2025.

Staff committed the Chapter to support the 2025 National MOWW convention in Tucson, AZ. Some staff member will attend the Region XIII Quarterly Conference in Tucson January 16-19 to determine Chapter support requirements.

January 25, 2025 next membership meeting with National Security topic.

Chapter seeking volunteer for the National Security Chair and Veterans Affairs Chair.

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING (16 NOV) National Security

The Chapter welcomed David Egan as the guest speaker for the November membership meeting. He provided a thorough presentation of the U.S. military experience in post WWII France in 1945 until the U.S. departure from France in 1968. He regaled the audience with numerous first-hand experiences from the 400 interviews conducted in researching his book The U.S. Military in France, 1945-1968. Adding to the interviews was his extensive research in 50 international archives. His recollection of the US personnel that served in France (i.e., Col Tibbets pilot of the Enola Gay, Chuck Yeager, and other historical characters who served in France) were among the interesting interviews and experiences contained in his book. It is the definitive work on the postwar American military deployment to France and contains authoritative text along with original, professionally made maps, diagrams, and illustrations made for an interesting step back in time.

CHAPTER ACTION PLAN (CAP)

Strategic Goal (SG) Current	Initiatives
SG1 Outreach – Consistent impactful outreach programs and activities.	Support Region XIII hosting of national MOWW convention in Tucson, AZ. Please contact Rich Peters if interested in participating in convention support. Contact Rich Peters if you have any suggestions on meeting SG-1. In Progress.
SG2 Strategic Partnerships -	Engage with other veteran organizations to establish

	strategic partnerships. Contact Kerm Neal with any suggestions on meeting SG-2. In Progress.
SG3 Maximize Visibility	Please consider supporting Wreaths Across America in December.
SG4 Annually grow engaged and sustainable MOWW membership.	Chapter recruiting goal is three Companions. Please contact Jim Borders if you have any prospective candidates.
SG5 Obtain financial resources to fulfill Order's mission.	Regular solicitation of donations from Chapter Companions. Contact Mike Berendt if you have any questions concerning donations.
SG6 Increase number of chapters and strengthen existing chapters.	Please contact Rich Peters if you would like to volunteer your skills in recruiting, social media, branding or suggestions on strengthening Chapter.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS NATIONAL NEWS

REGION XIII NEWS

Regional Commander Marlon Ruiz scheduling quarterly Chapter Commander's meeting 16-19 January 2025 in Tucson, AZ at the site of the 2025 MOWW Convention. The convention is scheduled for 5-9 August at the Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel ([link](#) to hotel website). The region's Chapters will work together hosting the annual convention. This is an "All Hands-on Deck" region effort. Please contact anyone on staff if you would want to volunteer on convention planning and execution. Chapter Staff planning "road trip" in synchronization with January Region XIII Commander's meeting to identify functions the Chapter can support.

HISTORICAL ARTICLE

DECEMBER 7, 1941 A DAY THAT WILL LIVE IN INFAMY

See this [link](#) for National World War II Museum in depth articles on the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on that fateful day.

NATIONAL PROGRAM – ARTICLE HOMELAND SECURITY (HS)

DHS Strengthens Maritime Cybersecurity and Chemical Security Cooperation with the Philippines During Third Indo-Pacific Exercise of 2024

From December 3-5, DHS, in collaboration with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and U.S. Embassy Manila, conducted a high-impact maritime

cybersecurity tabletop exercise and chemical security workshop with the Government of the Philippines. This marks DHS' third major Indo-Pacific maritime cybersecurity effort in 2024, following successful exercises with Indonesia and Japan earlier this year. These activities are part of a broader commitment to strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation to protect critical port infrastructure and bolster maritime security across the Indo-Pacific.

Held in Manila, the exercise tested realistic scenarios involving sophisticated cyberattacks on critical port infrastructure, including automated cargo handling systems and communication networks. Philippine public and private stakeholders, alongside U.S. experts, tackled complex simulated incidents that tested joint emergency response protocols and strengthened public-private sector coordination. Participants evaluated the effectiveness of their existing emergency procedures, coordination mechanisms, information sharing agreements, and communications plans. Building on existing regional cooperation and the inaugural U.S.-Japan-Philippines Trilateral Cyber & Digital Dialogue, the exercise included observers from the governments of both Australia and Japan.

"The long-standing alliance between the Philippines and the United States has contributed to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region for more than 75 years. The world relies on unrestricted maritime access and open sea lanes in the Indo-Pacific. Cyber actors routinely target maritime infrastructure, and the increase of regional maritime cyber threats requires tightly coordinated public/private and governmental defense against attacks, accidents, and disasters, as well as contingency planning and operational integration with a wide range of industries and domains to include our trusted partners," said Vice Admiral Andrew Tiongson, commander, U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area. "Strengthening relationships with our Indo-Pacific partners through effective exercises is critical to ensuring long-term stability in the region." (See this [link](#) for additional information on this exercise.)

NATIONAL SECURITY (NS)

National Security Strategy (NSS) – An Overview

The NSS is a document approved by the President of the United States for developing, applying, and coordinating the instruments of national power to achieve objectives that contribute to national security.

The NSS is produced yearly by the National Security Council (NSC) and signed by the President. It provides

grand strategy and overarching national security goals and objectives for the United States. The National Defense Strategy (NDS) is conducted in January every four years, and intermittently as appropriate, by the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) and provided to the Military departments other Department of Defense (DoD) components and congressional defense committees. In years the SECDEF does not submit a NDS, an assessment of the current strategy must be submitted to Congress in February. Required content includes: - Priority mission of DoD and force planning scenarios and constructs - Strategic environment, threats imposed, and strategy to counter these threats - Strategic framework that prioritizes threats and missions, how DoD will allocate and mitigate risks, and make resource investments - Roles and missions of the armed forces to carry out missions - Force size and shape, force posture, defense capabilities, force readiness elements of the defense program to support the strategy - Major investments DoD will make in the following five-year period. The NDS replaced the Defense Strategy Review (DSR) in 2017. National Military Strategy (NMS) is a Joint Strategic Planning System (JSPS) document developed by the Joint Staff (JS). The NMS states from the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), in consultation with the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and the Combatant Commands (COCOMs), to the President, the National Security Council (NSC), and the SECDEF. (See this [link](#) for additional information on the NSS.)

PUBLIC SAFETY/LAW & ORDER (PS/L&O)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Training and Education

FEMA Training and Education is divided into two categories. Category 1 focuses on First Responders and Emergency Managers and Category 2 on Individuals and Communities.

Communities can become more resilient when people get involved in building capacity and planning for the unexpected. FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division (ICPD) develops and provides trainings for volunteers and local organizations to support their community during emergencies of all kinds.

Organizations Preparing for Emergency Needs (OPEN)

When community-based organizations (CBOs) such as food pantries, daycares and non-profits are unable to sustain operations during an emergency, people who rely on them are exponentially impacted.

OPEN training is designed to empower these organizations to better prepare for incidents with ten preparedness actions and guidance on developing disaster response plans.

You Are the Help Until Help Arrives

Life-threatening emergencies can happen fast, and emergency responders aren't always nearby.

The You Are the Help Until Help Arrives training teaches people how to save a life by taking simple actions immediately.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic covered in last month's newsletter. The CERT Basic Training includes research-validated guidance for CERT programs to teach members what to do before, during, and after the hazards their communities may face.

The course [FEMA Independent Study IS-317: Introduction to CERT](#) can be taken online before or during training.

ROTC/JROTC

Mike Berendt contacted all military detachments to verify email addresses of POCs for the upcoming awards season. He also informed all Retired E-7 through E-9 Senior NCOs of the new MOWW membership opportunities and invited them to attend an upcoming MOWW Meeting to learn about what we do and how they might become involved with the COS MOWW Chapter."

SCOUTING

Boy Scouts. Col Neal continues working to re-energize Eagle Scouts in the "Scout Venturing Crew." Col Neal working with POC Ric Trimillos to coordinate meeting scouts this month.

Outreach to Girl Scout Award Ceremony point of contact (POC) continues. Need to follow up for OY 24-25 award presentations.

Rich Peters continues to engage with USAF Civil Air Patrol unit to integrate with MOWW Awards program.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2024, Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) Chapter 151 laid a wreath at the Colorado Springs Memorial Park. The ceremony was hosted and run by the local Special Forces Association Rocky Mountain Chapter 4-24 in Colorado Springs. Companion Colonel Paul L Bailey, USAF (Ret) represented the Chapter in presenting the wreath at the Air Force Memorial located at Memorial Park. Numerous other veteran



organizations in the Colorado Springs area also presented wreath's during the ceremonies.

COMPANION OUTREACH & INTEREST COMPANION ARTICLES AND FUNDRAISING/DONATIONS/SALES

The Chapter continues to seek donations from Companions to allow the Chapter to continue supporting all the various outreach programs.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Companions consider volunteering for the following Chapter vacancies for OY25:

- Historian
- National Security Chair or Committee member
- Veterans Affairs Chair
- Public Safety/L&O Committee member



RECRUITING

Our recruiting goal for OY25 is to add three Companions to the Chapter's rolls.

NOVEMBER COMPANION BIRTHDAYS

1 Nov - COL Michael E. Boatner; 5 Nov - LTC John C. Russell; 17 Nov - MAJ Roosevelt Hines, Jr.; 21 Nov - Col Richard H. Rima

DECEMBER COMPANION BIRTHDAYS

Dec 10 - Lt Col Simon L. Willis, Jr.; Dec 12 - Ms. Lisa M. Wieland; Dec 18 - SFC Keith L. McKim; 21 Dec - Col Kermit D. Neal; 22 Dec - BGEN Anthony F. Trifiletti; Dec 28 Dec - MAJ Raymond G. Schmah; 31 Dec - LTC Warren L. Wieland

ANNIVERSARIES

- Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday: This anniversary is celebrated on December 1.
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day: On December 7, 2024, the United States will commemorate the 83rd anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This attack marked the beginning of the United States' involvement in World War II. The attack killed or wounded more than 3,500 American troops and civilians.
- National Guard Birthday: This anniversary is celebrated on December 13.
- National Wreaths Across America: This event is celebrated on the third Saturday in December.
- Army Chaplain Assistant Anniversary: This anniversary is celebrated on December 28.

TRIVIA

Q1: In 1776, who crossed the Delaware River on Christmas night with the Continental Army to surprise the British at the Battle of Trenton?

Q2: In 1972, President Richard Nixon ordered "11 Days of Christmas," 11 successive days of raids by an aircraft that would bomb the North Vietnamese in Operation Linebacker II. What aircraft was it?

Q3: On Christmas Day 1896, John Philip Sousa, known as the "March King" and a long-time director of the U.S. Marine Band, wrote what iconic song that became America's national march in 1987?

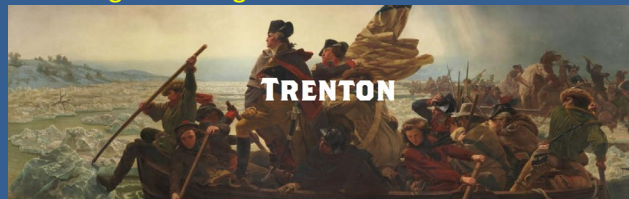
(Questions courtesy of US DoD Website "It Happened on Christmas Day – see [link](#) for additional information.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION COMPANION AWARD(S)

SG 3 Maximize Visibility and SG Goal 4 Growing Engaged MOWW Membership are linked through the Companion Awards program. Please review the MOWW Awards program (Chapter 7) for eligibility criteria and nominate deserving Companions and non-Companions for the appropriate award. Your active participation will support the Chapter in accomplishing this strategic goal.

Trivia Answers:

Q1 George Washington



George Washington crossed the Delaware with the Continental Army on Christmas night to surprise

the British and defeat them at the Battle of Trenton.

Q2 B-52 Stratofortress

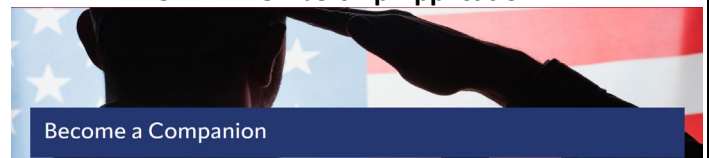


B-52s dropped 15,000 tons of bombs via 729 sorties involving 12,000 airmen during the "11



Days of Christmas," or Operation Linebacker II. Q3. "Stars and Stripes Forever" officially became America's national march in 1987. Sousa said it was born out of homesickness and fond memories of his time as the Marine Band's leader.

MOWW Membership Application



Please use this link to submit an electronic application: <https://moww.org/become-a-companion/>. Please see Staff for paper membership application or this link to print your own application: <https://moww.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/MembershipApplication-MOWW-1.pdf>

Preamble

To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;
To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and the Flag;
To promote and further patriotic education in our Nation;
Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the Armed Forces;
To promote the cultivation of Military, Naval and Air Science and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of National Security for the United States of America;
To acquire and preserve records of individual services;
To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of Memorials of the World Wars;
And to transmit all these ideals to posterity, under God and for our Country, we unite to establish "The Military Order of the World Wars.

POINTS OF CONTACT

MOWW Chapter 151
Colorado Springs, CO



Commander

Kerm Neal (Col, USAF, Ret)
13303 Honey Run Way
Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (719) 205-1106
knealsfour@yahoo.com

Senior Vice Commander

Jim Borders (Lt Col, USA, Ret)
15350 Pompeii Square
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
(719) 650-0382
jborders@me.com

Junior Vice Commander

Ulysses Swift (Lt Col, USAF, Ret)
2585 Deliverance Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
(719) 548-0865
swift888@comcast.net

Adjutant

Rich Peters (Lt Col, USAF, Ret)
2225 Brent Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
(719) 660-8501
rich1979@comcast.net

Treasurer

Mike Berendt (LTC, USA, Ret)
1230 Bowstring Rd.
Monument, CO 80132
(401) 908-6777
berendt478@aol.com

Patriotic Education Committee Chair

Stephen A. Shambach (COL, USA, Ret)
15270 Churchill Place
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
(719) 447-5505
shambachsm@msn.com

Homeland Security Committee Chair

Jon K. Wisham, Sr.
13882 Lazy Creek Rd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
(719) 313-2125 or (719) 487-0656 jkwisham@comcast.net

Public Safety and Law & Order Committee Chair

John Hanaan (CPT, USA, Fmr)
3332 Union Jack Way
Monument, CO 80920
(602) 448-2726
john1hannan@yahoo.com

ROTC and JROTC Committee Co-Chairs

[Mike Berendt \(LTC, USA, Ret\)](#)
[Ulysses Swift \(Lt Col, USAF, Ret\)](#)

Scouting Committee Chair

[Kerm Neal.](#)

National Security Committee Chair

(Vacant)
Acting Chair [Rich Peters](#)

Veterans Affairs Committee Chair

(Vacant)
Acting Chair [Rich Peters](#)

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Surgeon General

Tisha K. Ellis (MAJ, USAR)
5555 Chukar Trail
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
402 541-2230
kim40@icloud.com

Judge Advocate General

Mark A. Ellis (COL, USAR, Ret)
5555 Chukar Trail
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
402 709-3373
mae77@icloud.com

Rocky Mountains Department Commander

Stephen A. Shambach (COL, USA, Ret)
15270 Churchill Place
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
(719) 447-5505
shambachsm@msn.com

Region XIII Commander

Marlon Ruiz (Lt Col, USAF, Ret)
8346 N Mammoth Dr
Tucson, AZ 85743
520 780-7107
ruizmarlon08@gmail.com

[Link to MOWW Preamble](#)

Chapter Website: www.cos_moww.org



CONTRIBUTION OR PLEDGE

Yes, I am making a tax-deductible contribution or pledge to the Colorado Springs Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____ to the Patriotic Education Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____ to the ROTC Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____ to the Boy and Girl Scout Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____ to the Law & Order Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____ to the Operations Fund (postage, bulletin, directory, recognition programs – plaques, medals, etc.)

Name

Please make checks payable to Colorado Springs Chapter, MOWW

Send to: LTC Mike Berendt (USA, Ret)
1230 Bowstring Road
Monument, CO 80132