

Military Order of the World Wars



Chapter 151 Region XIII January 2025 Newsletter



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

COMMANDER'S REMARKS (7 Jan 2025)

Greetings Companions!

Wishing you all a very happy New Year, and that it brings you good health, prosperity, joy, and peace! Also hoping you all had a very Merry Christmas and were able to spend it with family and friends!

As mentioned at our last meeting, Region XIII is hosting the 2025 National Convention in Tucson from August 5-10 and is 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 provide any assistance the Region Staff will need in executing the National Convention. We will publish specific volunteer opportunities for the National Convention in future newsletters.

Additionally, it is my honor to announce that two of our Youth Leadership attendees won 1st place and 1st Runner Up at the national level for their Phoenician Essays! Congratulations to Mason Meredith (1st place) and Vaughn Slivka (1st Runner Up)! We hope to get them to our January luncheon, and if not then to a future luncheon. Very impressive work on their part, and on the part of the RMYLC Staff!

The CEO of the National Cybersecurity Center (NCC), Ms. Aleta Jeffress, will be presenting at our January 25th meeting. Headquartered right here in Colorado Springs, the NCC is committed to advancing pragmatic, forward-thinking security policies and programs through cybersecurity leadership, collaboration, and education. With cyber integration permeating every aspect of daily life—from critical infrastructure to workforce development—the NCC stands at the forefront, advocating for resilience through thought leadership, interdisciplinary collaboration, and immersive education. We tentatively have Kevin Chilton (Gen, USAF, Ret) scheduled for our April 19th membership meeting and we are coordinating with the Honorable Erin Sokol, District Judge and Chief Judge for the 4th

Judicial District to speak at a future membership meeting.

It will be a busy year with parades, high level speakers, and Chapter elections! For anyone interested in perpetuating our mission to serve others, there will be an opening for the Chapter Commander position, as I am term limited with my service ending at conclusion of operating year 2024 on 30 June 2025.

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

Thank you again for the honor and privilege!

V/R,

Kerm

It is nobler to serve than to be served

COMING EVENTS (January)

- ✓ **STAFF MEETING (9 JAN 25)**
 - Thursday, 1700
 - Location: Hill House
 - Virtual Mtg [Link](#)
- ✓ **REGION XIII VIRTUAL MEETING OPEN TO ALL CHAPTER COMPANIONS (18 JAN 25)**
 - Saturday, 0900-1200 MST
 - Location: [Virtual Link](#)
 - Password: 1919
 - Meeting ID: 236 983 7269
- ✓ **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](#)

STAFF MEETING (SCHEDULED FOR 9 JAN)

Staff committed the Chapter to support the 2025 National MOWW convention in Tucson, AZ. Some staff members 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.

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING (25 JAN) National Security

Please join us at the January meeting featuring Ms. Aleta Jeffress from the National Cybersecurity Center (NCC) who will present on the National Cybersecurity Center's mission and impact to our community and nation. Ms. Jeffress is the current Chief Executive Officer for the National Cybersecurity Center (NCC) and a member of the board. Hired to redefine strategy and direction, Aleta is responsible for driving business development, operations and programs to build cyber resiliency and collaboration in the security market across Colorado and the US. In her first six months at NCC she secured an additional \$1M in funding and established relationships with key organizations in government, education, and industry.

As an executive business leader, Ms. Jeffress led business development, service delivery, and operations for CGI, an international IT consulting and services firm. As Senior Vice President, she oversaw commercial and public sector accounts across six states, managing 100 direct reports, and holding P&L responsibility for \$45M+ across various sectors. Past roles include Chief Information & Strategy Officer and Chief Privacy Officer at City of Aurora, CO, following two years as the Chief Information Officer for the State of Indiana Department of Revenue. In both positions, she built cybersecurity offices and PMO's from the ground up to improve project execution and reduce organizational risk. Ms. Jeffress obtained her CISSP certification during her tenure at the Department of Defense, DFAS, where she managed a \$30M mid-tier infrastructure environment, security certified her team of 40 contractors and passed a DoD internal audit on the initial evaluation.

(Please see this [link](#) for additional information on the NCC.)

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	Chapter participated in 2024 Colorado Springs Veterans Day parade in November and 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 site survey in synchronization with January Region XIII Commander's meeting to identify functions the Chapter can support.

NATIONAL PROGRAM – ARTICLE HOMELAND SECURITY (HS)

The Department of Homeland Security and its components play a lead role in strengthening cybersecurity resilience across the nation and

sectors, investigating malicious cyber activity, and advancing cybersecurity alongside our democratic values and principles.

DHS Cybersecurity subordinate organization:

The **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)** leads the national effort to understand, manage, and reduce risk to our cyber and physical infrastructure. The agency connects its stakeholders in industry and government to each other and to resources, analyses, and tools to help them fortify their cyber, communications, and physical security and resilience, which strengthens the cybersecurity posture of the nation.

CISA is at the center of the exchange of cyber defense information and defensive operational collaboration among the federal government, and state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) governments, the private sector, and international partners. The agency has two primary operational functions. First, CISA is the operational lead for federal cybersecurity, charged with protecting and defending federal civilian executive branch networks in close partnership with the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of the National Cyber Director, and federal agency Chief Information Officers and Chief Information Security Officers. Second, CISA is the national coordinator for critical infrastructure security and resilience, working with partners across government and industry to protect and defend the nation's critical infrastructure.

(See this [link](#) for additional information on DHS Cybersecurity.)

NATIONAL SECURITY (NS)

National Cybersecurity Strategy (NCS)

Implementation Plan

The Biden Administration released the second version of the National Cybersecurity Strategy Implementation Plan on May 7, 2024. The first version was published on July 13, 2023. It described more than 65 initiatives to achieve the objectives set forth in the Biden Administration's National Cybersecurity Strategy, which called for (1) rebalancing the responsibility to defend cyberspace towards the "most capable and best-positioned actors" in the public and private sectors and (2) realigning incentives to favor long-term investments in cybersecurity. The second version builds on this goal, discussing 100 initiatives that are separately assigned to 18 federal agencies for implementation. The Office of the National Cyber Director ("ONCD") is responsible for coordinating the execution of the Implementation Plan.

New Initiatives

The second version added 31 initiatives under each representative "pillar" of the National Cybersecurity Strategy. These additions reflected a focus on supply chain risks, public-private collaboration on cybersecurity issues, ransomware threats, software vulnerabilities, and other areas.

Some of the new initiatives added to the pillars:

Pillar One, "Defend Critical Infrastructure"

- "Promote adoption of cybersecurity best practices across the healthcare and public health sector"
- "Promote cyber supply chain risk management (C-SCRM) and encourage effective enterprise-wide sharing of supply chain risk information"

Pillar Two, "Disrupt and Dismantle Threat Actors"

- "Implement the 2023 DoD Cyber Strategy"
- "Increase collaboration between private-sector entities and Federal agencies to disrupt malicious cyber activity"
- "Disrupt ransomware crimes through joint operations"

Pillar Three, "Shape Market Forces to Drive Security and Resilience"

- "Assess the feasibility of approaches to understand open-source software security risk"
- "Explore approaches to develop a long-term, flexible, and enduring software liability framework"

Pillar Four, "Invest in a Resilient Future"

- "Promote secure and measurable software solutions across the building blocks of cyberspace"
- "Drive the development and adoption of cybersecurity principles for electric distribution and distributed energy resources (DER) in partnership with energy sector stakeholders"
- "Promote skills-based hiring practices" for the cyber workforce

Pillar Five, "Forge International Partnerships to Pursue Shared Goals"

- "Implement the International Cyberspace and Digital Policy Strategy"
- "Develop guidance for secure development and manufacturing of semiconductors"

(See this [link](#) for additional information on the NSS.)

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

Recent events in Aurora, CO highlighted the Venezuelan prison gang Tren de Aragua resulting in an internet search that produced the following article from Domestic Preparedness website: [From Prison Gang to Transnational Organized Crime Syndicate in the U.S.](#) Please review this article for information on this gang and the challenges posed to law enforcement.

ROTC/JROTC

The oldest ROTC program in the United States is the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AROTC) at Norwich University. The program's origins date back to 1819 when Captain Alden Partridge established the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy, which is now known as Norwich University. (See this [link](#) for information on Norwich University)

Unique ROTC Programs – Military Junior Colleges (MJC) and Early Commissioning Program (ECP) are a U.S. Army ROTC programs that allows graduates of one of the nation's four MJC's to become commissioned officers in the reserve components (National Guard or Reserve) in two years, instead of the usual four. Upon completion at MJCs, ECP lieutenants must receive a bachelor's degree before serving as active-duty officers or continuing a career in the reserve components. They must graduate within the next 24 months (waiver for one additional year may be granted by Cadet Command) after receiving early commission. While attending their universities, ECP lieutenants serve in a non-deployable status. (See this [link](#) for additional information on the Army ECP program.)

SCOUTING

Col Neal contacting Mr. Ric Trimillos with the intent to facilitate a meeting between the USAFA Cadet Eagle Scout Venturing Crew in January or February. Purpose of the meeting is to introduce himself and the Order to the Cadets in pursuit of SG-1 Outreach, and to enlist them for assistance in establishing a relationship between the Cadets and the order Scout recruiting.

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

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Thanks to Companions Mike McGrath (CAPT, USN, Ret) and Rich Peters (Lt Col, USAF, Ret) who participated at the USAF Academy Wreaths Across America (WAA) ceremony. USAFA Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Tony Bauernfeind, presided over the ceremony and Companion Mike McGrath laid a wreath representing POW/MIAs.



Companion and former POW Mike McGrath.

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.

JANUARY COMPANION BIRTHDAYS

2 Jan - Lt Col Isaac K. Woodfork; 23 Jan – Lt Col Derek A. Jeffries; 14 Jan – Maj Dustin W. Keller; 29 Jan – LTC Leslie D. Krohnfeldt; 25 Jan – 1SG Jason Robinson; 30 Jan – Ms. Shirley S. Durham; Lt Col K. Anya Wynn

FEBRUARY COMPANION BIRTHDAYS

2 Feb – Lt Col Susan E. Cooley; 4 Feb – Lt Col Robert D. Becerra; 5 Feb - MG Thomas R. Csrnko; 8 Feb – Col Phillip L. Madden; 18 Feb – Maj Timothy J. Matson; 22 Feb – MAJ Charles W. Clark; 23 Feb – Mr. Jonathan W. Cole; 24 Feb – 1LT Andrew D. Alexander; Capt Douglas S. Katein-Taylor; 26 Feb – Mr. Michael W. Wilson; 2nd Lt Isabel M. Taylor;

ANNIVERSARIES AND TRIVIA

Operation Desert Storm - The air campaign that began on January 16–17, 1991. The US-led air campaign destroyed Iraq's air defenses and attacked its communications networks, government buildings, weapons plants, oil refineries, and bridges and roads.

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.

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.

SPONSORING BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Please consider patronizing the following businesses that have supported the Chapter throughout the years.

[Patty Jewett Golf Course](#) – Sally Doyle and her staff continually host our monthly Chapter membership meetings. 2024 Best of the Springs Golf Course included "... best golf in the Springs, great atmosphere, good food. The course is always pristine."

Breakfast Served Monday - Friday until 11 am
Brunch served Saturday and Sunday until 2 pm
Open for Lunch and Dinner. Checkout their Saturday Prime Rib Dinner (Prime Rib, garlic mashed potatoes, side salad) Cost 12oz \$21.95; Big Willy Cut 24oz \$35.95. (See this [link](#) for additional information.)

[Summit Dry Cleaners](#) – this business cleans the Flag of the United States at no cost. Chapter discovered this benefit when cleaning our flags.

[Designer Signs and Banners](#) – we purchased Chapter magnetic signs used for Veterans Day parade from this business. This is a veteran friendly company.

ORGANIZATIONS

[Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Foundation \(RMYLF\)](#) – Although the Foundation's fundraiser has passed you can still donate to RMYLF. Please access this [link](#) to make donations.

[Colorado Military Historical Group \(CMHG\)](#) – this is a 501(c)3 organization we have strategically partnered with for World War II vehicles used for the 2024 Monument July 4 parade and 2024 Veterans Day parade. Please consider donating to this organization that is "preserving the history of World War II." Through our association with CMHG it is a costly endeavor maintaining vehicles that are in operation 80 years after they were built.

POINTS OF CONTACT

MOWW Chapter 151
Colorado Springs, CO



Commander

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Senior Vice Commander

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Treasurer

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Patriotic Education Committee Chair

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Homeland Security Committee Chair

Jon K. Wisham, Sr.
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Public Safety and Law & Order Committee Chair

John Hanaan (CPT, USA, Fmr)
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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
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402 541-2230
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Judge Advocate General

Mark A. Ellis (COL, USAR, Ret)
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Rocky Mountains Department Commander

Stephen A. Shambach (COL, USA, Ret)
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Region XIII Commander

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[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