

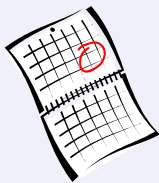
Peach State Patriot



Volume XXVI, No 2

A Publication of the Georgia Reserve Officer Association

April - Jun 2004



Upcoming Events

23-24 Apr 04

DoGA/SC meeting Greenville, SC

14 May 04

Chapter 25 Meeting, Atlanta, GA

8-12 Jun 04

2004 ROA National Convention
Salt Lake City, UT

Important Notice

To ensure you always receive your copy of the Peach State Patriot, be sure to update your mailing and email address on the national ROA site at <http://www.roa.org>

To look at this publication on the internet
Increase view size.

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The President's Briefing

Time to Volunteer

My final article...a retrospective on life. Do you remember back in grade school when you said, "I can not wait 'til summer gets here?" Then summer came and seemed to last forever!

Finally, Fall came around and the next thing you knew you were back in school. And from grade school you could not wait to go to middle school and from middle school to high school. Then you thought "I can not wait 'til the weekend". As time seemed to drag on it became "I can't wait 'til the prom", or "til I graduate." This turned into "I can not wait 'til I turn 21 or 'til I join the service and get out of here, to "I can not wait 'til I get off duty!" Maybe then you did your military time and it became "I can not wait to get a good job".

The cycle repeats itself and you are back to "I can't wait 'til the weekend!" And on and on and on the "I can not wait" continues. "I can not wait 'til I get married" or "I can not wait 'til I have kids!" Life is moving faster and faster and faster, and we say "I can not wait 'til I retire." Retirement comes and finally, now... we can wait!

What is the problem? We have wished our lives away, instead of enjoying the Now, the Moment, and the Present. In between all the "I can not waits" of life, there are far too many, "I did not have time for that" moments. We now wish we could go back in time and make time for all

the things we wished away or did not have time for.

NOW is the time for new adventures, time to make a difference, time to become involved with families and friends or with our Reserve Officer Association. Why? All because we were too busy saying, "I can't wait 'til" and missing out on great times with family, friends and things that really do matter. There is no tomorrow, only "NOW".

I am saying all of this to say what? We DO have the time and we have time now for wherever the "**now**" is in our lives. Now is the time to work, the time to enjoy life, the time to volunteer, and the time to make a difference in this world. It may seem too late, but it is never too late. You can make time for your friends, your faith, and your favorite volunteer activities.

Hopefully, the Reserve Officer's Association, your Reserve Officer Association is one of your "now I have time" to do things. Start now and be an active part of ROA. Work with your local chapter as well as your state ROA. Volunteer to be a committee member and do your part. If you can not work on a committee, support the meetings on the local, state and national level. If you decide to take the time, you will make a difference. In this trying time of our great nation, with terrorism, your answer to the "call to action" is needed more then ever.

As I reflect on my past years in serving ROA in



different chapters and now finally culminating in my year as Georgia State Department President, I am amazed at how many people want to get involved, but do not have time or do not make the time. In every department, there are the faithful few, the ones who make it happen. Usually these are same 'busy' people who make time for more things than they seem capable of.

I am proud to have been associated with each of these hard working officers, and I wish each of you the best. You have made a difference because you made the time to get involved; thank you!

The load is so much easier to pull when we all pull together. You may not be able to do what I do and I may not be able to do what you do.

However; as long as each of us does our part we will accomplish our goals. Be an active part of the Reserve Officer Organization.

NOW is your chance to make a difference in this life and make a difference in ROA. As my late father, "Coach" Pat Droskinis, a WWII Veteran, always said "Get involved, never quit, and keep the faith"!

God Bless America!
Jim Droskinis
LTC, USAR (Ret)
President DoGA

National Council Report**Mid-Winter Conference Report**

The two scheduled sessions of the ROA National Council, led by COL Al Diaz, Steering Committee Chairman, at the Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, were very efficient as the Council accomplished the timely business.

Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh, Exec Dir., and RADM Robert Merrilees, President, addressed the Council initially to describe issues in process.

Three in place programs (Industry Affairs, Civilian Patriot STARS, and the revised Minuteman Building Revitalization Fund (Wall of Gold) are up and running and need all of our support.

Several industries have been recognized for their financial support of ROA. The National Council throughout the year and this session eagerly challenged changes to the Defense Educational Forum (DEF) which led to realization of the importance and revalidation of this activity.

A new initiative to bring spouses, widows, and widowers into ROA is being pursued and will require C&BL changes which will need a ¾ vote at

the 2004 Convention in Salt Lake City.

Legal review has stated such action to be legal and to support the mission and purpose of ROA. To quote the paper making the case, “First, rather than continuing to deny spouses, widows, and widowers the opportunity to join ROA, it is time to welcome them as members so they can help ROA remain viable and able to support adequate national security and strong Reserve components”. And “second, we should want to optimize our Association’s ability to ensure equitable and proper treatment for our survivors”.

A total package membership effort will be presented to stress the benefits of a joint ROA- ROAL membership. Both of the organizations will then be stronger.

And “second, we should want to optimize our Association’s ability to ensure equitable and proper treatment for our survivors”

In the space allotted, I have only whetted your appetite hopefully and you are encouraged to carefully study these issues as they appear in detail in The Officer. The future of ROA is bright, so continue with your support in many different ways. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

*Wade B. Hammer
COL, AUS
National Councilman,
DoGA*

“First, rather than continuing to deny spouses, widows, and widowers the opportunity to join ROA, it is time to welcome them as members so they can help ROA remain viable and able to support adequate national security and strong Reserve components”.

In God We Trust

**COL Francis C Smith
USAR**

Chaplains Corner

Through Great Opposition

Recently I came across an article in the Atlanta Journal about James Madison. Very little is written about this five feet four inch tall one hundred pound giant. No statues, no pictures on currency, not even a sign on I-64 designating his home, Montpelier, Virginia.

Yet, this individual is totally responsible for the first ten amendments to our Constitution. He fought against great odds for the passage of the Constitution.

He helped organize the Constitutional Convention of 1787. He debated the great Patrick Henry during the ratification of the Constitution by the commonwealth of Virginia. He made a promise to the American people that in return for ratifying the

Constitution, which then had no Bill of Rights, the new congress would immediately propose amendments to protect individual liberty. His adversaries opposed such amendments. His opponents did all they could to keep Madison out of the first Congress so he could not offer a Bill of Rights.

The Commonwealth of Virginia proposed districts in which he could not get elected. They opposed him with some of the most powerful men of the times including James Monroe. In spite of all of the efforts of the opposition, Madison was elected. There was great opposition to the Bill of Rights for various reasons.

Madison called upon his extraordinary legislative skills to persuade two thirds

of the members of each house to forward the Bill of Rights to the various states. Congress approved the first twelve amendments, ten of which were the Bill of Rights. Where would this great country be today without these ten amendments to the Constitution? Read them and draw your conclusion. When we review American history we tend to focus on Washington and Jefferson, great in their own way and each over six feet tall, but we somehow overlook the works of the five feet four inch "giant", James Madison. It does not matter how big you are, what matters is what is in your heart.

In God We Trust
Joe Drewry
COL, USA
Chaplain DoGA

**...five feet
four inch tall
one hundred
pound giant.
No statues, no
pictures on
currency, not
even a sign...**

Dates to Remember

Department Meeting

23-24 April 04
Department Convention
Greenville SC,
Joint with South Carolina

On Friday 23 April there will be a Golf outing at Greenville Country Club and later a Reception hosted by MGEN and Mrs. William Gantt.

Saturday 24 April will begin with a continual breakfast and we have several guest speakers to include MGEN James Bankers, and MGEN Tom Wessels from

Georgia, and COL Rene Dolder from South Carolina, ROA National Representative COL Jay Barnes and many more. For a complete itinerary and registration form go to our website at

http://www.geocities.com/garoa_geo/

Note: The Department Executive Committee (**EXCOM**) is composed of elected and appointed Department Officers plus Past Department Presidents, Chapter Presidents, and national Officers from the

Department, plus the Department ROAL President. EXCOM meetings are the operative body for Department business. The Department Secretary publishes minutes for each meeting.

Any ROA member in good standing is cordially invited to attend Department EXCOM meetings. To see the Georgia ROA in action, please join us.

**GA / SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT
RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONVENTION
23 – 24 APRIL 2004
Greenville Hilton Hotel**

	AMOUNT	NUMBER	TOTAL
Full Convention Package (Includes all items listed below)	\$70.00	_____	_____
Registration Only (Required to attend any function)	\$15.00	_____	_____
Hospitality	\$10.00	_____	_____
Business Meeting Only (Includes Continental Breakfast)	\$5.00	_____	_____
Confederate Museum tour (Please give us a count)	N/C	_____	_____
ROA/ROAL Luncheon Only	\$20.00	_____	_____
ROA/ROAL Banquet Only (Cash Bar)	\$30.00	_____	_____
Total Enclosed			_____

ROA Registration

Rank	Last Name	First Name	MI	Service	Chapter #
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ROAL Registration

Last Name	First Name	MI	Service	Club
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Guest Registration

Last Name	First Name	MI
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Make your check payable to SCROA and Mail to: Col Joe Harris, USAFR (Ret), 178 Sea Myrtle Dr, Green Pond, SC 29446

Twenty rooms are reserved at the Greenville Hilton Hotel, 45 West Orchard Drive, Greenville SC 29615 for \$75.00 per night for regular room; \$79.00 per night for a junior suite and \$99.00 per night for parlor Suite, if one is available. Make reservations directly with the hotel www.hilton.com or 1-800-hiltons (1-800-4458667), **NLT 19 April**. Check-in 1500; Check-Out 1100. For questions call Richard Kingman at (864) 918-2052. Please respond quickly so we can give the Hotel a head count by 19 April. Thanks.

Directions:

From Atlanta: Take I-85 N to exit 51 (I-385N), then take exits 39, turn right on Haywood Road and immediately turn left on West Orchard Park Drive. **From Augusta:** Take US Highway 25 to I-185 N (toll road) merge onto I-385N, then take exit 39, turn right on Haywood Road and immediately turn left on West Orchard Park Drive. **From Charlotte:** Take I-85 S to exit 51 (I-385N), then take exits 39, turn right on Haywood Road and immediately turn left on West Orchard Park Drive

For map: http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/hotels/local_maps.jhtml?ctyhocn=GSPSCHF

Golf at the Greenville Country Club

MG "BK" Sutton, AUS (Ret) will head up the Friday golf outing at the Greenville Country Club. The cost is \$80.00 per player, and a separate check should be included with the convention registration for that amount, payable to "BK Sutton." Be ready to tee off NLT 12:30 so as to be finished in time to attend the reception. Each player's must provide his/her name, handicap, or average score, in addition to their check NLT 1 16 April, the week prior to the outing. For additional information call BK at 864-288-5947

Reception

MG Bill Gantt, AUS (Ret) and his wife Brenda will host the Friday reception from 6:30-8:30 PM at their home; 138 Covey Hill Lane, Greenville, SC 29615, which is located near the conference hotel. For additional information call 864-370-9713.

Voice of the Chapters

Greater Atlanta Chapter 25



Meetings for Chapter 25 are now held at the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant, 3829 Clairmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia

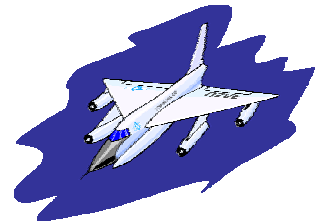
The Atlanta Chapter held its first meeting at the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant 3829 Clairmont Road, Atlanta, GA 30341 on 11 March 2004. Elections were held and CPT William Makepeace was voted in as the next President.

Richard D. Jackson, MAJ, USMC, Chairman of the Board EBank Financial Services, Inc, Atlanta gave an excellent presentation on Military Tactics and Business Strategy which enlightened

us how to apply military training in the business world. The chapter's next meeting, Change of Command is scheduled for 13 May 2004. All Current, Active, Retired and Former, Reserve, Guard and Regular Commissioned Officers, and Warrant Officers, ROTC and Military Academy Students of the United States Uniformed Services, and their Spouses/Dates/Guests

are invited to attend. Please RSVP MAJ Andy Alexander at (770) 968-0200 ext 222 or by email to aalexander@resourceconsultants.com NLT 8 May 2004. Be sure to visit Chapters 25 website at

<http://www.roa.org/ga/ch025>



Assembly of Patriots

Help Defray Publishing and Mailing

Help defray publishing and mailing cost of the Patriot by joining the Assembly of the Patriots.

Mail and printing rates for the Peach State Patriot continue to climb. It costs 58 cents per copy to publish and mail this Patriot to you, 25 cents of which goes to the USPO.

If you enjoy reading the quarterly Patriot featuring of topics that are of concern to reservists, we invite you to become a member of the Assembly of Patriots.

To obtain membership in the Assembly of donate a gift to help defray publishing and mailing costs of the Patriot. We have two levels of giving. Order of the Patriot, \$25 annually, your business card printed and your name will be mentioned as a Patriot contributor in one edition

and Patriot Society, \$10 annually, with your name mentioned as a Patriot contributor in one edition. Newest Member of the Patriot Society:

- COL Francis C Smith USAR (Ret) #014-04

The Assembly of Patriots recognizes our newest members to the Order of the Patriot:

- CPT Eloy E. Diaz USAR #019 - 02 6/21
- COL John K. Ottley, Jr AUS #012-01 2/2
- COL Emory C. Parrish AUS #031-04

The Department of Georgia will recognize the members of the Assembly at the Department Convention in Spring 04.

Contact the patriot editor for membership enrollment. We request your participation.

Thank you
The Editor

"Let's Roll"

CPT Eloy E. Diaz
Family & Internal Medicine

(B) 770 995 9400

"God Bless America"

COL Emory C. Parrish
AUS

His 81st Aviation Battalion Buddies

Toast the
Memory of
COL John Shepard

He always flew
"Above the Best"

Report from Dover

There are no reporters on the tarmac at Dover Air Force Base. The public is not allowed to witness the military tradition of "receiving the remains".

Instead, there are soldiers, roused at dark hours to stand in the confines of what seems like a secret as the dead are brought home. I am one of the soldiers.

Nearly every day we learn of another death in Iraq. In our collective consciousness, we tally the statistics of dead and wounded. The number is over 500 now. But none of our conjuring are as real and tangible as the Stars and Stripes folded perfectly over a coffin cradling one of those statistics on his or her way home. It does not matter where somebody stands politically on the war, but I believe that all who have an opinion should know the cost of that opinion. When a soldier dies in a foreign land, his or her remains are returned to the United States for their final rest. The remains arrive in Dover, Del., without fanfare.

No family member is present. There are no young children to feel sad or confused. Just a small group of soldiers waiting to do their duty and honor the fallen.

"Dover flights" are met by soldiers from the U. S. Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment, the storied Old Guard. They are true soldiers, assigned to an esteemed regiment, but it is a unit defined by polish, not mud. It seems that they quietly long to be tested with their comrades "over there." But it is clear to me as I watch them that they find immense pride in honoring their country this way. Silence.

I am a helicopter pilot in the

U. S. Army, and it is my job to have the honor guard at Dover at whatever hour a flight arrives. In military-speak, the plane's grim contents are referred to as "HRs"- "human remains. "

Once the plane arrives, conversation ends. The soldiers form a squad of two even ranks and march out to the tarmac. A general follows, flanked by a chaplain and the ranking representative from the service in which the fallen soldier served. The plane's cargo door opens slowly revealing a cavernous space. The honor guard steps onto a mobile platform that is raised to the cargo bay. The soldiers enter in lock-step formation and place themselves on both sides of the casket.

The squad lifts, the soldiers buckling slightly under the weight. The remains have been packed on ice into metal containers that can easily exceed 500 pounds. The squad moves slowly back onto the elevated platform and deposits the casket with a care that evokes an image of fraternal empathy. It is the only emotion they betray, but their gentleness is unmistakable and compelling.

The process continues until the last casket is removed from the plane. On bad nights, this can take over an hour. The few of us observing say nothing, the silence absolute, underscored by something sacred. There is no rule or order that dictates it, but the silence is maintained with a discipline that needs no command.

The caskets are lowered together to the earth, where the soldiers lift them into a van, one by one. The doors close, and the squad moves out.

Just before the van rounds the corner, someone speaks in a voice just above a whisper. We snap to and extend a sharp salute. There are those who would politicize this scene, making it the device of an argument over the freedom of the press. But if this scene were ever to be exploited by the lights and cameras of our "infotainment" industry, it would be offensive.

Still, the story must be told. A democracy's lifeblood, after all, is an informed citizenry, and this image is nowhere in the public mind.

The men and women arriving in flag-draped caskets do not deserve the disrespect of arriving in the dark confines of secrecy. But it is a soldier's story, and it must be told through a soldier's eyes. In the military, we seldom discuss whether we are for or against the war.

Instead, we know intimately its cost. For those of us standing on the tarmac at Dover in those still and inky nights, our feelings have nothing to do with politics. They are feelings of sadness, of empathy. And there is nothing abstract about them

By Jonathan Evans



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Reserve
Officer
Association**

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Publication Policy

The Patriot is a symposium of reserve issues of interest to the Georgia ROA Membership. All signed articles are the opinions of the author, and do not represent the viewpoint of Department or policies of ROA National.

To Change Your Address

Clip out mailing label on this issue, include new information and send to: Reserve Officer Association of the United States, 1 Constitution Ave., N.N. Washington, DC 20002. Or you may go online and update your information on the National Website at: <http://www.roa.org>

Do not send address changes to Patriot Editor.

ROA GA Website:

http://www.geocities.com/garoa_geo/

WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE

Call your Legislator toll-free at are 1-977-762-8762 and 1-888-449-351.

Please Use them

After reaching the Capitol Switchboard, ask for your Senator and or US Representative

Nominations Sought

Southeast Conference

The Southeast Conference is seeking nominations for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer. All nominations must be sent to LTC Chris O'Donnell, President, Dept. of Florida, at cvodon@earthlink.net.

The nomination committee consists of LCDR Peggy Hoefer, LTC Jim Droskinis, BGen J.B. Cobb and I.

It is our responsibility to request and review the

nominations for the Southeast Conference Board which will be elected at this coming ROA National Convention meeting.

Nominations that I have received at this time are as follows:

* BGen. Richard Simmons for SEC Chairman

* Rear Admiral Paul T. Kayye for Vice Chairman

* COL Jay Barnes for SecTr.

Include a short narrative

stating their qualifications and why they would like the position.

All nominations must be in by no later than May 8, 2004.

Should you have any questions regarding this process, please contact LTC O'Donnell at 813-994-8007, evenings please.

Chris O'Donnell
LTC
President, DoFL

Reserve Officer Association Purpose is to.....

“To support a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate National Security and to promote the Development and Executive thereof.”



The Peach State Patriot

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Sharpsburg, GA 30277

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1 Dec for Jan - Mar 1 Mar for Apr - Jun
1 Jun for Jul - Sep 1 Sep for Oct - Dec

**Delivery Before: 15 April 04
Time Sensitive Material**