**COMMANDER’S REMARKS (6 March 2025)**

We will have our next General Membership Meeting on Saturday, 19 April 2025, starting at 11:30 A.M. at our new venue which is the Black-eyed Pea Restaurant, 5180 S. Broadway, Englewood, CO 80113. It is located near the corner of Broadway and Belleview next to Starbucks. This is the same location where MHMOA held their luncheon meetings. There will be a featured speaker which has not yet been selected.

To get there (The Black-Eyed Pea Restaurant), if you are coming from I25, drive west on Belview to Broadway take a left turn on Broadway, then turn left at the first break in the center divider and you will be there. If you are coming from west of Broadway, drive east on Belleview until you come to Broadway, take a right turn, then turn left at the first break in the center divider and you will be there. If you get lost, you can call me at 303-981-5519 (cell) and I will try to get you un-lost.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our luncheon on Saturday, 19 April 2025.

Coy D. Ritchie, D.M.

LCDR, USN (Ret)

It is nobler to serve than to be served

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 **STAFF MEETING (6 February 2025)**

This meeting was conducted at Frances Long’s home and was called to order by Chapter Commander Coy Ritchie at 1102 hours. Also attending were Capt Dennis Orr, HPM Stephanie Ritchie, HPM Pat Ritchie, and HPM Francis Long. The invocation was offered by HPM Frances Long followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: The minutes of the staff meeting on 6 February 2025 were approved on a motion by Capt Dennis Orr and seconded by HPM Pat Ritchie.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer’s Report as of 28 February 2025 was submitted by LCDR Ritchie. A check for $1,286.55 from the ENT Credit Union account was deposited in the checking account and was then disbursed to pay for supplies for the ROTC and Scouts programs. The U.S. Bank checking account balance is now $2,440.22. The Business Savings Account at the ENT Credit Union account earned 1 cent in interest for a balance of $132.85. The 16-Month Certificate earned $37.28 in interest for a new balance of $9,286.55. The 16-Month Certificate had earned out as of 5 February. The amount of $1,286.55 was transferred to the checking account at U.S. Bank and a new 5-Month Certificate in the amount of $8,000 earning 4.15% was purchased. The total at the ENT Credit Union is now $8,132.85. The Treasurer’s Report was approved on a motion by Capt Dennis Orr and seconded by HPM Stephanie Ritchie.

Scouts: The Gold Award and Eagle Award Certificates have been ordered and received. Contacts will be made soon to obtain the names of award recipients.

ROTC/JROTC: Responses from the high schools and universities are coming in. Medals and Certificates have been ordered and received.

Patriotic Education: RMYLC is scheduled for 16-20 June 2025. Some nominations of students in the Denver Metro area have already been received. The goal is to accept 99 students.

Public Safety and Law and Order: Capt Orr is working on a program for our April luncheon with a possible speaker from ICE.



Region XIII and Dept. of the Rocky Mountains: There will be a Region XIII meeting in June conducted by Zoom.

Membership: We have a new member! Congratulations to SMSgt Steven Seiler, USAF (Retired) who is a USAF Aerospace Science instructor in the JROTC Program at Aurora Central High School. He is our first senior NCO member.

Program/Speaker: Nothing new to report.

Hospitality: The next General Membership Luncheon will be on Saturday, April 19, 2025 at the Black-eyed Pea Restaurant starting at 1130 hours. We will order from the menu.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: The UVC is holding a Round Up on 16 May 2025 at the Four Mile Historic Park. Chapter members are invited to attend.

Next Staff Meeting: Thursday, 10 April 2025, starting at 1100 hours at the home of HPM Frances Long.

Benediction: Given by HPM Frances Long.

Adjournment LCDR Ritchie adjourned the meeting at 1140 hours.

Submitted by Adjutant HPM Frances Long

 **COMING EVENTS (April & Later)**

* **STAFF MEETING (10 April 2025)**
	+ (Thursday), 11:00 A.M.
	+ Location: Frances Long’s Home
* **MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION**

 **(5-10 August, 2025)**

* + Location: Tucson, Arizona
* **MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**

**(19 April 2025)**

* + (Saturday), time 11:30 A.M.
	+ Location: The Black-eyed Pea Restaurant, 5180 S. Broadway, Englewood, CO 80113.
	+ Menu: Order from the menu.
	+ Program: A speaker is being arranged.

**PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP MEETING SPEAKER**

 **(15 FEB 2025)**

The featured speaker was Major John Atland, USA (Ret) who served as an intelligence officer during his Army service. His topic was “Intelligence is the Foundation for Law Enforcement;”



LCDR Coy Ritchie (R) presents MAJ John Atland, USA (Ret) (L) with the MOWW Coin of Excellence and congratulates him on his excellent presentation on intelligence as the foundation for law enforcement.



 **THE PREAMBLE**

To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;

To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and flag;

To promote and further patriotic education in our nation;

Ever to maintain law and order, and 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**

 **TODAY IN NAVAL HISTORY**

 **3 MARCH 1969**

 **“TOP GUN”**

During the Korean Conflict U.S. warplanes dogfought MiG-15s, with the superior American jets and well trained U.S. pilots scoring kill ratios as high as 12:1. But by the Vietnam War two decades later, Communist aircraft technology had improved. The North Vietnamese employed more advanced MiG-17s and MiG-21s. Over the same period, American air-to-air defenses grew dependent on the missile. U.S. planners envisioned the future of air combat to be one of long-range missile strikes against an unsuspecting target. Pilots were not trained in close maneuver gunfighting. In fact, some U.S. fighter aircraft did not even mount machineguns. The effectiveness of American pilots began to decline.

The issue of kill ratio came to a head for the Navy in 1968. The heavy bombing offensive in Vietnam in 1967-68 brought frequent MiG encounters, and Air Force pilots enjoyed better success than their Navy counterparts. During the first half of 1967, Air Force pilots accounted for 46 MiG downings. This was particularly notable in view of the fact that Air Force F-4s and F-105 “Thunderchiefs” were only free to pursue MiGs *after* they had “pushed through” their bombing runs. Air Force pilots were so successful at sweeping enemy fighters that LGEN William Momyer, in command of the 7th Air Force, was prompted to declare to a Senate committee that, *“we have driven the MiGs out of the sky for all practical purposes*.” During the same period, Navy F-8 “Crusaders” (and an A-4) accounted for only 12 MiGs. By the end of 1968 the Navy’s kill ratio had dropped to 2:1.

The reason for the disparity was multi-factorial, but the Naval command was sufficiently alarmed to demand action. In 1968, CAPT Frank W. Ault, a former “air boss” aboard *CORAL SEA (CVA-43)*, was directed to investigate the matter. Honest without regard for his career, his study became famously known as the “Ault Report.” It criticized reliance on stand-off missiles, stressing the need to train pilots in “old fashioned” visual-maneuver dogfighting.

Officially titled U.S. Navy Postgraduate Course in Fighter Weapons Tactics and Doctrine, “Top Gun” enrolled its first class on this day in 1969. Initially formulated as part of the Pacific Fleet’s F-4 training squadron, VF-121, successful Vietnam air veterans were recruited to instruct. They flew highly maneuverable F-4s and F-5s in simulated aggressor roles. By 1972, “Top Gun” graduates had reached the Fleet in significant numbers. And with President Nixon’s escalation of the air war that year, the Navy’s kill ratio climbed to 12:1. Originally formulated at NAS Miramar in San Diego, “Top Gun” was relocated to NAS Fallon, Nevada, in 1997 as part of the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center.

Watch for more “Today in Naval History”

CAPT James Bloom, Ret

ADDITIONAL NOTES: The nickname “Top Gun” dates to 1959 when it was used in signage for the last annual USN/USMC Air Weapons competition at MCAAS Yuma. What had been a yearly event was dropped in 1960 as a cost-cutting move. “Top Gun” was fashioned after the Air Force “DACT” program. “DACT” was an acronym for Dissimilar Air Combat Training, a reference to the use of aggressor aircraft that were dissimilar to the training aircraft.

The first “aces” of the Vietnam War were graduates of “Top Gun.” LT Randall Cunningham and his RIO LTJG William Driscoll reached Vietnam after having flown over 200 simulated dogfights during their “Top Gun” training. They scored their fifth kill in May 1972.

Throughout the Vietnam conflict Navy and Marine Corps aircraft flew 10% more missions than did the Air Force—55,000 in total.

 **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Applications may be obtained by contacting the Chair of the Membership Committee at 303-981-5519 or coyritchie@aol.com.

It is nobler to serve than to be served

 **THE CINC SOLICITATION**

The Commander in Chief is appealing to you to donate generously to the CINC Solicitation by donating in support of our Order’s patriotic and educational activities. He also asks that you encourage other Companions in your chapter to do so too. Our CINC Solicitation goal helps pay for activities such as:

* Supporting chapters via essential services (e.g., YLC insurance) and merchandise (i.e., products of all types)
* Existing awards, e.g., ROTC/JROTC Awards of merit, GSUSA Gold Award, and BSA Eagle Scout Certificates
* New awards, e.g., Outreach Service Medal and BSA Sea Scout, Quartermaster and Venture Scout Certificates
* Service Academy awards and military college awards
* Medals & certificates to ROTC/JROTC cadets & BSA & GSA scouts not supported by chapters
* Promotional material and program brochures for existing and start-up chapters

* The *Officer Review* magazine, which is MOWW’s only way to communicate with all Companions
* YLC Support via additional YLC issues of the O*fficer Review* that YLC Directors use for advertising & recruiting
* The MOWW website at [www.moww.org](http://www.moww.org), which the Order’s Companions use in support of every activity area
* MOWW Convention Support, including the Distinguished Service and National Commander Award programs

It is very easy to contribute, just open up the Order’s web page and at the very top next to the logo is the DONATE tab. You can also mail in your contribution when you receive the solicitation in the mail from MOWW HQ.

Your donation supports patriotic activities only MOWW provides. *Please donate today!*

 **CHAPTER ACTION PLAN**

Each year our chapter is asked to prepare and submit a Chapter Action Plan to the Commander Region XIII. The Action Plan shows the actions to be taken by the chapter to support the MOWW Strategic Goals. Our Action Plan is shown below.

Reviewing the Action Plan may explain why we do certain things.

 **2024-2025 DENVER CHAPTER ACTION PLAN**

*Strategic Goal 1 (SG 1) Consistently develop and deliver attractive and high-impact community outreach programs and activities.*

#Improve planning for speakers at our meetings.

#A new member is chair of Law & Order Comm.

#Continue to Support the Colorado Springs YLC.

#Support Buckley SFB Retiree Appreciation Day.

*SG 2 Expand our impact through alliances and strategic partnerships with organizations that align with our mission.*

#Become a member of the United Veterans Coalition. Their membership includes practically all Veterans Service Organizations in Colorado. This will improve our visibility and communications with like-minded organizations.

*SG3 Increase visibility of the Order at the national and community levels through focused communications, marketing strategies, and local community engagement.*

#We have a social media presence through the Region XIII Hub and Spoke project.

*SG4 Annually grow engaged and sustainable MOWW membership.*

#Hold a general membership meeting every other month.

#Meet or exceed the small chapter recruiting goal of two new members.

#Recruit only military veterans to support the IRS 75% requirement.

#Encourage members to regularly attend general membership meetings.

*SG5 Increase adequate financial resources to fulfill Order’s mission.*

#Obtain at least one donation from a community civic organization or Chapter supporting organization.

#Solicit donations from Chapter members to support selected expensive programs such as ROTC/JROTC, Scouting and recognition awards for deserving Companions.

 *SG6 Increase the number of chapters and strengthen existing chapters.*

#Continue to support our succession plan & prepare Companions to assume leadership roles.

#Continue to identify, recognize, and nominate for awards our highly productive chapter Companions.

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 **POINTS OF CONTACT**

 **Denver Chapter (093), CO**

c/o Coy D. Ritchie

4198 S. Kirk Court

Aurora, CO 80013-6022

[www.mowwscv.com/publications](http://www.mowwscv.com/publications)

**Commander and Treasurer**

LCDR Coy Ritchie, USN (Ret)

4198 South Kirk Court

Aurora, CO 80013-6022

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**Adjutant**

HPM Frances Long

278 S. Kearney Street

Centennial, CO 80111-4237

303-694-1079 (Res)

grannyfrancene@netzero.net

 **Commander, Rocky Mountains Department**

COL Steven A. Shambach, USA (Ret)

 shambachsm@msn.com

 **Commander, Region XIII**

 LTC Ken Robinson, USA (Ret)

 robinson4ken@gmail.com

 **DENVER CHAPTER STAFF**

Denver Chapter Executive Board-Elected Officers

Commander: LCDR Coy Ritchie, USN (Ret) 303-981-5519

1st Vice Cdr: Capt Dennis Orr, USAF (Former) 303-526-2156

2nd Vice Cdr: HPM Stephanie Ritchie 720-910-3647

Adjutant: HPM Frances Long 303-694-1079

Chaplain: HPM Frances Long 303-694-1079

Treasurer: LCDR Coy Ritchie, USN (Ret) 303-981-5519

 Denver Chapter Staff: Committee Chairs

Membership: LCDR Coy Ritchie, USN (Ret) 303-981-5519

Newsletter Editor “ “

Public Relations: “ “

Finance & Budget: “ “

RMYLC Board : “ “

ROTC & JROTC: HPM Stephanie Ritchie 720-910-3647

Scouting: “ “

Programs: Capt Dennis Orr, USAF (Fmr) 303-526-2156

Law & Order: Capt Dennis Orr, USAF (Fmr) 303-526-2156

Hospitality: HPM J. Pat Ritchie 303-690-5118

Marshall HPM Stephanie Ritchie 720-910-3647