

# GETTING INVOLVED IN MORS

## Introduction

You've attended a couple of Military Operations Research Society (MORS) events. You feel they were conducted in a professional manner and that you have learned a great deal. You decide you would like to volunteer and contribute to the Society. How do you do that? As a new volunteer, there are several ways you can choose to participate. In this article, I'll highlight areas where MORS needs volunteers to help with MORS Symposium (MORSS), special meetings, and standing committees.

## Military Operations Research Society Symposium

The principal product of the Military Operations Research Society is MORSS. MORSS is classified, three days in duration, and attended by over 1100 persons representing all military services, government agencies, contractors and academic institutions. The meeting typically includes concurrent general and working group sessions, as well as tutorials. There are 33 working groups, each having 15 to 35 members, that provide for informal discussion and debate on specific issues, methods and applications of operations research. The backbone of the annual symposium is these working groups.

We are always soliciting volunteers to be a part of this backbone, and a good place to get involved for the first time is as a Working Group Co-Chair. The duties of the co-chair include assisting the working group chair in the preparation of the agenda and invitation lists, as well as performing other duties that may be delegated by the chair. To learn more about the duties of the Working Group Chair, go to the MORS website ([www.mors.org](http://www.mors.org)), click the [MORSS Volunteer Information](#) link at the bottom of the home page, and then click on the link for [Tutorial: How to be a Successful Working Group Chair](#).

There are also six composite groups you can volunteer to help. These composite groups consist of two or more working groups that are joined by a common thread of interest, and usually meet for a single session during MORSS. By volunteering here, you can help the Composite Group Chair solicit papers and coordinate the presentations during these sessions.

The six composite groups and the 33 working groups are listed below. To learn more about each working group, go to the MORS website, click the [Symposium](#) link at the bottom of the home page, and then click each working group's link that interests you to view their charters.

### CG A – Strategic and Defense

WG 1 – Strategic Operations

WG 2 – NBC Defense

WG 3 – Arms Control and Proliferation

WG 4 – Air and Missile Defense

**CG B – C4ISR and Network Centric Operations**

- WG 5 – Operational Contribution of Space Systems
- WG 6 – Battle Management/Command and Control (BMC2)
- WG 7 – ISR and Intelligence Analysis
- WG 8 – IO/IW
- WG 9 – EW and Countermeasures
- WG 10 – Military Environmental Factors

**CG C – Joint Warfare**

- WG 11 – Unmanned Systems
- WG 12 – Land and Expeditionary Warfare
- WG 13 – Littoral Warfare and Regional Sea Control
- WG 14 – Strike Warfare
- WG 15 – Air Combat Analysis and Combat ID
- WG 16 – SO/OOTW and Inter-Agency Issues
- WG 17 – Joint Campaign Analysis

**CG D – Resources, Readiness & Training**

- WG 18 – Mobility and Transport of Forces
- WG 19 – Logistics, Reliability and Maintainability
- WG 20 – Manpower and Personnel
- WG 21 – Readiness Assessment and Force Management Tools
- WG 22 – Analytic Support to Training
- WG 23 – Battlefield Performance, Casualty Sustainment and Medical Planning

**CG E – Acquisition**

- WG 24 – Measures of Effectiveness (MOEs)
- WG 25 – Test and Evaluation (T&E)
- WG 26 – Analysis of Alternatives (AoAs)
- WG 27 – Cost Analysis
- WG 28 – Decision Analysis

**CG F – Advances in Military OR**

- WG 29 – Modeling and Simulation and Wargaming
- WG 30 – RMA, Transformation, Homeland Defense and Combating Terrorism
- WG 31 – Computing Advances in Military OR
- WG 32 – Social Science Methods
- WG 33 – Warfighting Experimentation

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer as part of this backbone please contact the chair of the working group(s) that interest you or next year's WG/CG Coordinator, Terry McKearney ([terry.mckearney@therangergroup.com](mailto:terry.mckearney@therangergroup.com), phone 619-822-3568). *As an aside, the MORS calendar for meetings runs from June to June. The individuals listed in this article as current chairs hold these positions from 24 June 2005 through 15 June 2006, while next year's chairs start their time on 15 June 2006.*

On the other hand, if you are interested in getting involved with MORSS but not with the working groups, please contact next year's Program Chair, John Ferguson ([JOHN.R.FERGUSON@saic.com](mailto:JOHN.R.FERGUSON@saic.com), phone 703-676-0177). You can volunteer for next year's MORSS to assist with the plenary session, special sessions, VIP program, guest program, poster session, or demonstrations.

The plenary and special sessions consist of formally prepared papers or panels centered on a theme approved by the Board of Directors. In this area, you can assist the Program Chair and Special Session Coordinator by means of communication with the speakers, coordination for the specific sessions, and set-up in their assigned locations. As part of the VIP program team, you can lend a hand assuring all VIPs are identified, have received and completed all necessary paperwork, are assisted with pre-symposium coordination, and are assisted with all procedures, including registration, at MORSS. For the Guest Program team, the team is responsible for planning and executing a program for guests of attendees. Finally, you can assist the respective coordinators in solicitation of demonstrations and posters, as well as facilitate in the coordination and set-up in their assigned locations.

### **Special Meetings**

In addition to the MORS Symposium, MORS conducts special meetings to address significant and complex problems. For these issue-specific workshops and mini-symposia, MORS defines the problem in advance with a concept paper that eventually turns into a document called the "Terms of Reference (TOR)." Participants with specific interest and expertise collaboratively share information about the problem, discuss issues in depth and work together to produce useful results. Arrangements and products for each meeting are tailored to best accomplish its specific purpose. The number of attendees may range from a dozen to over 300.

MORS holds two to five special meetings each year. A listing of upcoming and completed special meetings can be found by clicking the [Special Meetings](#) link at the bottom of the MORS home page. As more information is developed about each special meeting, this information will be posted on the MORS website.

As with the MORSS, a good place to get involved for the first time with special meetings is as a Working Group Co-Chair. The duties of the co-chair include assisting the Working Group Chair in the preparation of the agenda and invitation lists, as well as performing other duties as may be delegated by the chair. The special meetings planned from June 2005 to June 2006 include:

- *"Using Agent Based Models and Analysis in Support of Stability Operations"* Workshop, Chair: Steve Stephens, MCCDC; 25-27 OCT 2005 at SAIC, McLean, VA.
- *"Decision Support for Homeland Security"* Workshop, Chair: Tom Denesia NORTHCOM; 15-17 NOV 2005 at JHU/APL, Laurel, MD.
- *"Adaptive Planning"* Workshop, Chair: Joe Bonnet, J8; 31 JAN – 2 FEB 2006 at Booz Allen Hamilton, McLean, VA).

- “CBPII: Analyzing Risk in the Post 9-11 World” Workshop, Chair: Tom Allen, FS; co-chair Randy Hall, AFSAA; MAR 2006 at place TBD.

If you are interested in getting involved with any of these workshops, please contact this year’s Special Meeting Committee Chair, Greg Keethler ([greg.keethler@peterson.af.mil](mailto:greg.keethler@peterson.af.mil), phone 719-556-0931).

### **MORS Committees**

In order to provide consistent supervision for its operations, the Board of Directors has established a number of standing committees, including Audit, Education and Professional Development, Ethics and Professional Practice, Heritage, Finance and Management, Membership, Nominating, Prize, Publications, Special Meetings, Strategic Planning and Working Groups/Composite Groups. Any member of MORS can serve on one of these standing committees, and the Working Groups/Composite Groups and Special Meeting committees were the subject of the previous sections. In this section, we will discuss four additional committees: Education and Professional Development, Heritage, Prize, and Publications.

The Education and Professional Development (EPD) Committee monitors and reports to the Board of Directors on educational and professional developments affecting military operations research and recommend related actions to be taken by the Society. Members of this committee provide support to the MORS Student Chapters, as necessary; plan, coordinate and conduct the annual Education Colloquium; assist the Tutorials and Junior/Senior Analyst Coordinators for the annual symposium; create and implement a mentorship program for the Society; and develop training, as requested. If you are interested in joining the EPD Committee, please contact the current chair, Kirk Michealson ([kirk.a.michealson@lmco.com](mailto:kirk.a.michealson@lmco.com), 757-935-9501).

The mission of the Heritage Committee is to collect and preserve the historical legacy of the Society and to promote programs that encourage a better understanding of the development of military operations research. The committee’s purpose is to record the significant activities, preserve the society’s oral, written and multi-media products and garner the historical intellectual property of the profession of military OR. The committee is designed to perform limited research, gather noteworthy documentation, conduct oral histories, establish repositories for heritage items and solicit from the membership contributions of writings, journals, and annual reports.

For more information on OR History, visit [http://www.mors.org/or\\_history.htm](http://www.mors.org/or_history.htm) then jump to the Oral History page at [MORS ORAL History Project](#) at the bottom of the page. We will soon be populating this page with completed Oral Histories. We are always looking for assistance in conducting interviews and in proofreading the Oral History transcripts. With the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of MORS being planned for the 74<sup>th</sup> MORSS in June 2006, this is a great time to be involved with our Society’s heritage. If you are interested in assisting this committee, please contact the current Chair, Bill Dunn ([william.h.dunn@eis.army.mil](mailto:william.h.dunn@eis.army.mil), 703-373-1373).

The Prize Committee evaluates the available work of all eligible contenders for a given prize to be awarded on behalf of the Society. MORS offers two prizes for best papers – the *Richard H.*

*Barchi Prize* and the *David Rist Prize*. The Barchi Prize is awarded to the best paper from the previous MORS Symposium, while the Rist Prize is awarded to the best-implemented military operations research analysis. The Prize Committee can always use extra sets of eyes to review the nominated papers. If you are interested in helping review and evaluate military operations research papers, please contact the current Prize Committee Chair, Corinne Wallshein ([corinne.wallshein@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:corinne.wallshein@pentagon.af.mil), 703-588-6985).

The Publications Committee recommends activities to the Board of Directors with respect to operations research oriented publications. These publications include military OR texts, *Military Operations Research* journal paper, and *PHALANX* articles. If you are interested in reviewing texts and articles, please contact the current Publications Chair, Dr. Niki Goerger ([nicolette.goerger@usma.edu](mailto:nicolette.goerger@usma.edu), 845-938-3180), or the current *MOR* and *PHALANX* Editors.

### **Summary**

We hope you will seriously consider making this organization stronger by volunteering to be a part of and contribute to the Military Operations Research Society. If you have any questions about volunteering for the MORS Symposium, special meetings, or standing committees, please feel free to contact Kirk Michealson ([kirk.a.michealson@lmco.com](mailto:kirk.a.michealson@lmco.com), 757-935-9501), ask any board member, or the MORS Staff. We look forward to having you connect with one of our teams.