

# **GROWING IN MORS**

**By Kirk Michealson, Education and Professional Development Chair**

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## **Introduction**

This article starts with the assumption that you are active in MORS and have volunteered to support the MORS Symposium (MORSS), special meeting and/or one of the MORS committees. If you are just beginning your MORS experience, please see “Getting Involved in MORS.” “Getting Involved in MORS” discusses the variety of ways to begin your MORS experience. In this article we focus on expanding your MORS experience for the benefit of you and the Society.

After your initial volunteering as a co-chair of a working group or as a committee member, two immediate avenues are possible: 1) volunteer for a leadership position (e.g., working group chair); or, 2) expand your experience base by volunteering in another area (e.g., if you have been a working group chair or co-chair volunteer as a committee member). In the following sections we will discuss opportunities in the MORS Symposium, Special Meetings, MORS committees, MORS Board of Directors and lastly as a Society Fellow.

## **Military Operations Research Society Symposium**

You can grow in MORS by volunteering to chair a working group or a component of the special sessions (e.g., tutorials, demonstrations, etc) or by expanding your experience base in the different parts of the symposium. To provide the opportunity for future MORS leaders to grow in the Working Group / Composite Group (WG/CG) organization, the WG Chair’s, WG Advisor’s, and CG Chair’s terms are limited to two years (unless there are no other qualified volunteers). WG Co-Chairs of the same working group at the previous symposium are preferred Working Group Chair candidates. WG Chairs from the previous symposium, current and past Directors, Advisory Directors, and MORS Fellows are preferred Working Group Advisor candidates. CG Co-Chairs and WG Chairs from the previous symposium are the preferred Composite Group Chair candidates. If you have any questions on the Working Group/ Composite Group organization, 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).

If you are interested in getting involved in other areas of 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). Based on experience, interest and enthusiasm, the Program Chair will select volunteers to lead the planning, coordination and execution of the plenary session, security, logistics, information technology, special sessions, VIP program, guest program, poster session, or demonstrations.

## **Special Meetings**

You can grow in MORS by volunteering to lead all or part of a special meeting or by expanding your experience base in the special meetings. For example, you can volunteer to be a Working Group Chair, Synthesis Group member, Synthesis Group Chair, Special Meeting Chair, and / or Bulldog.

If you are interested in participating in special meetings, please contact the Special Meeting Chair of the workshop(s) that interest you or this year's Special Meeting Committee Chair, Greg Keethler ([greg.keethler@peterson.af.mil](mailto:greg.keethler@peterson.af.mil), phone 719-556-0931). The specific Special Meeting Chair (or co-chair) will select their Working Group Chairs based on experience in the working group subject area and their Synthesis Group Chair based on special meeting participation and experience.

### **MORS Committees**

A great way to expand your MORS experience is volunteering to serve on one of these MORS committees: 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.

All of the Committee Chairs are members of the Board of Directors and selected by the President and the President-Elect during the committee slating process at the MORS Symposium. The committee chairs solicit and welcome volunteers to support them during the year. If you are interested in participating on a committee, please contact the MORS Office at [morsoffice@mors.org](mailto:morsoffice@mors.org) (703-933-9070) and they will pass your interest on to the appropriate committee chair(s).

### **MORS Leadership**

You've volunteered and contributed at the MORS Symposiums, a few special meetings, and on a couple standing committees. What's next? The next logical step to grow in MORS is as a member of the Board of Directors. This is a group of energetic, dedicated and talented individuals who collectively accomplish the work that makes MORS one of the premier professional organizations in the nation. It is important for Directors to take their MORS volunteer responsibilities seriously and realize that their contributions are greatly needed and appreciated.

The Board consists of 30 Directors – 28 who are elected plus the Executive Vice President from the MORS Staff and the Immediate Past President (non-voting member). The Directors serve a 4-year term, but that can be extended if serving as an elected officer:

- President
- President-Elect
- Vice President (Finance & Management)
- Vice President (Meeting Operations)
- Vice President (Professional Affairs), and
- Secretary

Each standing committee is owned by one of these officers. The President owns the Advisory, Audit, Ethics & Professional Practice, Nominating and Awards committees. The President-Elect is responsible for the Strategic Planning and Board Governance & Structure committees. The Vice President for Finance & Management owns the Management committee. The Vice President for Meeting Operations is accountable for the WG/CG and Special Meeting committees, as well as the next two year's MORSS Program Staffs. The Vice President for Professional Affairs is responsible for the Education & Professional Development, Heritage, Prize and Publications committees. Finally, the Secretary owns the Membership and Electronic Media committees.

Board members engage in activities by getting personally involved in on-going activities, but also step forward with new initiatives. Directors try to attend as many Special Meetings as possible, selecting at least one annually to play a proactive role. They also pick a set of MORSS working groups/composite groups to get involved in during their tenure on the board. Finally, they participate in committee work – the conduits for getting MORS work done.

All Directors have a shared responsibility for the total functioning of MORS – the symposia, publications, special meetings, awards, etc. All Directors work with MORS members and the Military Operations Research community at-large to help recruit speakers and participants for meetings, write articles for *PHALANX* and papers for the *MOR* journal, and solicit papers for the annual *David Rist* prize.

The bottom line – being a MORS Director is fun, as well as being a professional growth experience! Being a MORS Director can provide one of the richest and memorable experiences in one's career. As Board members press forward to take on new challenges for the Society, their results go a long way to keeping military operations research relevant.

Now that you've learned about the MORS Board of Directors, how can you grow in MORS to this next level? You need to be nominated to the Board by two current Directors. A nomination form is completed by the nominating Director which includes information about you: current status (active duty, government civilian, civilian analyst), MORS background, Military Operations Research experience, and reasons why you should be elected. Several quality candidates are presented to the Board each year, therefore it is recommended to gain experience in all assets of MORS (MORSS, special meetings and committees), as well as presenting and publishing your work.

### **MORS Fellows**

After their time on the Board, many Directors stay involved with MORS. Some stay on the Board as Advisory (non-voting) Directors, while others take a year or so off then are nominated and elected back to the Board ("re-treads"), and finally some are elected as Fellows of the Society. Because of significant, long-term contributions to the Society, certain individuals are selected by the Board of Directors to hold the title of Fellow of MORS. Fellows are elected for life. Selection as a Fellow is intended to be an honor and recognition of significant contributions to the Society. The nominee must have demonstrated long standing, significant, and dedicated service to MORS – the overriding criteria for selection. Expertise in military operations research

or short-term contribution to the Society and its activities is not sufficient. Indications of meeting the criteria include, but are not limited to, some combination of MORS leadership, programs, administration and participation.

No formal responsibilities are imposed on MORS Fellows. Specifically, they do not constitute a committee reporting to any MORS officer. However, the Fellows constitute a valued resource for the Society. In the past, they, as individuals, have provided senior-level counsel to the Society. They have been advisors to Committees of the Society and to officers, Board Members, and staff. Their involvement in activities of the Society should be appropriately solicited as needed.

### **Summary**

As with getting involved with the Military Operations Research Society for the first time, there is a similar, continual theme for growing in MORS: you can volunteer and contribute at MORSS, special meetings, and standing committees at all levels – from new volunteer through the Board of Directors to MORS Fellow. We hope you will seriously consider making this organization stronger by participating with us. If you have any questions about volunteering for MORSS, special meetings, and/or standing committees, please feel free to contact me, ask any board member, or the MORS Staff. We look forward to having you connect with one of our teams.