Military Operations Research Society
Awards and Prizes

David Rist Prize

Purpose: The Rist Prize recognizes the practical benefit sound operations research can have on “real life” decision making and seeks the best implemented military operations research study from those submitted in response to a call for entries. The call solicits abstracts with letters of endorsement for implemented recommendations from studies or other operations research-based efforts, e.g., analyses, methodology improvements, that influenced major decisions or practices.

Nomination & Selection Process:

1. An abstract and letter of endorsement from a high-level official (Industry Vice President level or Government General Officer/SES level), and MORS Abstract Form are submitted to the MORS Office on or about 15 November in response to a call for competition.
2. A judging panel reviews the submitted abstracts and selects 3-5 finalists on or about 15 January. Finalists must submit an annotated presentation brief and MORS Disclosure Form to the MORS Office on or about 1 April.
3. The finalists give their presentations at a session on the Monday prior to the MORS Symposium. The judging panel is able to question the presenters then make their decision that evening so that the presentation of the prize can be made at the Plenary session the next day.

Richard H. Barchi Prize

Purpose: The Barchi Prize recognizes the best paper given at the MORS Symposium (MORSS). Each year the Barchi Prize winner is selected from among presentations given at the previous year’s Symposium. Each Working Group, Composite Group and general session selects one presentation from all those presentations given during the three-day period. The presenter is then asked to submit his or her presentation in paper format. Once each group’s nominee has submitted a paper (or has chosen not to) the judging is held and the winning paper is announced at the following MORSS.

Nomination & Selection Process:

1. Authors of papers, which are selected as the best paper in a working group, special session, or composite group at the MORS symposium, are invited to submit a written paper.
2. The Prize Committee reviews the written papers submitted and makes its recommendations.
3. The MORS Executive Council makes the final determination of the award.

Wayne P. Hughes, Jr. Award - FS, former Dean of the Graduate School of Operational and Information Sciences at the Naval Postgraduate School

Purpose: In 2007, MORS established the Junior Analyst Award to recognize young analysts who are already making an impact on operations research. The award now bears the name of Wayne P. Hughes. Awardee is announced at the MORS Symposium in the nominating year.

Nomination & Selection Process:
1. The Awards Committee Chair will announce the call for nominations in early March to the MORS membership, military and civilian schools, MORS Sponsors, and the various study agencies. This announcement will review the eligibility criteria and identify the key dates in the selection process.

2. The criteria for eligibility are:
   a. Nominees should be forty-years old or less as of 1 June the year of nomination and have been doing operations research for less than 10 years.
   b. Distinguished self by one or more of the following accomplishments:
      i. Outstanding publication(s) highlighting their analyses
      ii. Development of significant new analysis
      iii. The use of research results in the solution off military problems

**Vance R. Wanner Award**

Purpose: Recognizes a national security operations research professional who has played a major role in strengthening the profession. Winners have distinguished service over time to the profession of national security operations research and have demonstrated sustained excellence as leaders and managers in the conduct of national security operations research, resulting in significant contributions to the security of our nation. Awardee is announced at the MORS Symposium in the nominating year.

Nomination & Selection Process:

1. Annually submissions on or about 1 March in response to a call for nominations.
2. Any member of the military operations research community may propose a name for nomination; however, the name must formally be placed in nomination by one of the below. The nominator then becomes responsible for ensuring that the candidate does in fact meet the eligibility criteria and that his accomplishments and contributions are indeed worthy of consideration for this prestigious award.
3. Viable Nominators:
   a. Any of the four military services, the Joint Staff, or Office of the Secretary of Defense, Sponsors of MORS and military service officials at the assistant secretary level and above.
   b. Senior military officers (O-6 and above), or civilians of equivalent rank, in duly appointed positions as managers of staff or field activities, the primary role of which is military operations research.
   c. The senior executive officer of educational, research, or analytic institutions directly and intimately associated with military operations research. Examples of the intent here include the Academic Dean, US Naval Postgraduate School, and the equivalent position at the Air Force Institute of Technology, the Presidents of Defense related Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, and the directors of defense scientific laboratories.
   d. Present and former members of the MORS Board of Directors.

**Clayton J. Thomas Award**

Purpose: Recognizes an individual who has, through his or her involvement in the field of national security operations research, exhibited sustained outstanding individual performance and contributions, shared knowledge and talents with others in the field, and provided technically sound options to national security decision makers. Awardee is announced at the MORS Symposium in the nominating year.

Nomination & Selection Process:
1. Considered annually via submissions on or about 1 March in response to a call for nominations.

2. The criteria for eligibility are:
   a. Distinguished service over time to the profession of military operations research.
   b. Enhancement of the image and substance of military operations research as a unique scientific discipline and as a means for providing technically sound alternatives to defense decision makers.
   c. Sustained, outstanding performance as a practitioner in military operations research, resulting in important improvements to our tools and to the application of our analytical capabilities.
   d. Extension of individual knowledge and talents to others in the profession of military operations research leading to improvement of our analytic capabilities.
   e. Current Sponsors and Board Members are not eligible for the Thomas Award.

**John K. Walker, Jr. Award**

Purpose: to recognize the author(s) of the technical article judged to be the best published in PHALANX, The Bulletin of Military Operations Research, during the previous calendar year. Author(s) of the award winning article is announced at the following MORS Symposium.

Nomination & Selection Process: Selected by the PHALANX Editors

1. The criteria for eligibility are:
   a. Individuals must have published a technical article in PHALANX during the previous calendar year whose content is judged to be timely, interesting and important to the PHALANX audience.
   b. Each published article will be judged on the basis of its ability to communicate to the military operations research community the ideas of the author(s) clearly, concisely, and unambiguously.
   c. Current Sponsors, members of the Board of Directors, members of the PHALANX editorial staff including PHALANX Department Editors, members of the editorial staff of Military Operations Research Journal including MOR Associate Editors, and members of the Publications Committee are not eligible for the Walker Award.