

National Conference News

LOA enjoyed another huge and successful National Conference in Columbus, Ohio with the help of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Kitty Hawk Chapter. Almost 1300 members attended this year's conference along with 134 vendors who set up booths in the exhibit area.

In a departure from past conferences, the 2009 conference in Las Vegas, Nevada will be the first without a host chapter. Past National Boards have charted this path of a no-host conference to relieve the heavy burden placed on host chapters. A "turn-key" operation increases costs slightly, but removes the burden on chapters. The move opens up a wide variety of cities available to host LOA National Conferences. However, LOA is still looking for volunteers to be General Officer and Senior Executive Service escorts, Command Post operators, and facilitate the golf tournament. If you would like to volunteer to help at the 2009 conference, please contact our new Conference Chairman, Lt Col John Kubinec via his email: conference@loanational.org. His team is pulling together what will likely be LOA's biggest conference yet. The conference theme for 2009 is *Connecting the Joint Logistics Environment*.

New LOA Executive Board Sets Vision for the Future

The new LOA National Board took over as the 2009 conference ended in Columbus. The New Officers are: Col Doug Cato, President; Col Bob Hamm, Vice President; Lt Col Terry Dyess, Treasurer; and Ms Cathy Snyder, Information Officer. The Executive Board spent Veterans Day weekend laying the foundation for the 2009 conference and setting a course for the future. The executive board set "**Professionals Shaping the Logistics Environment**" as its vision and "**Develop Logistics Professionals and Foster Logistics Innovation to Enhance the Joint Fight**" as its mission. The Executive Board charted four goals and 19 objectives to achieve LOA's vision and mission in the next two years, including:

- 1. Develop Premier Logistics Professionals.** During the 2008 conference, several members expressed interest in interactive breakout sessions and LOA plans to have at least one of those during the 2009 conference. LOA is beefing up the scholarship program by adding some additional criteria and raising each scholarship to \$2,500. Starting in 2009 LOA plans to offer graduates of the Aircraft Maintenance and Munitions Officer Course and the Logistics Readiness Officer Basic Course one-year free memberships to expose them to LOA early in their careers. Additionally, LOA will offer the distinguished graduate from each of those classes a lifetime LOA membership.
- 2. Enhance Logistics Operations in the Joint Fight.** We are tackling this one head on by making "joint" the 2009 conference theme. In the Exceptional Release you'll see an effort to add articles on joint/combined operations. Our final objective under this goal is to double our joint and combined membership.
- 3. Provide a Forum for and Incentivize the Exchange of ideas Among Logisticians.** The National Board will sponsor an annual writing competition designed to solve a specific logistics challenge. Winners will receive \$1,000 and present their paper on the national conference main stage. In addition, LOA will incentivize other scholarly work through a \$250 award for the best paper presented in each AMMOS and ALROC class, starting in 2009. Soon, members will see a LOA web site where members can publish their innovative work and seek solutions to problems.
- 4. Continuously Improve Business Operations for LOA National.** LOA will work to increase national membership across the board. The Executive Board set a goal to have 85% of all eligible AFSCs become LOA National members and double its civilian logistician membership within the next 5-years. To improve communication, the Board is bringing back the electronic newsletter on a quarterly basis between issues of the Exceptional Release.

Look for more news in our March 2009 Newsletter.

Send Questions, comments or suggestions to Ms Cathy Snyder at InfoOfficer@loanational.org.

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