



Maintenance Officer Association (MOA)

6803 Whittier Avenue ♦ Suite 200 ♦ McLean, VA 22101 ♦ 703/442-8781

27 April 1987

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Chuck Yeager
P. O. Box 128
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

Dear General Yeager,

The Maintenance Officer Association (MOA) is a group of USAF Aircraft and Munitions Maintenance Officers, active duty and retired, who have banded together to promote the knowledge and professionalism of the USAF Maintenance Officer Force. Founded in 1982, we now have over 1,100 members ranging from General (Ret.) Thomas Ryan, Jr. and Lt. General Leo Marquez to 2nd Lieutenants directly out of the technical training course at Chanute AFB, Illinois. Air Force Maintenance Officers occupy management and leadership positions in the laboratories, in headquarters at all levels, and most importantly on the flight-line worldwide in control of 37% of the USAF Enlisted Force and hundreds of billions of dollars worth of aircraft and equipment. The MOA is dedicated to enhancing this management and leadership by offering a forum for the free flow of ideas, experiences, and help to the men and women who "Keep-em-flying."

For the past three years, the MOA has sponsored an annual convention to facilitate this exchange of information. Topics presented at the convention have varied from continuing training program requirements for Career Maintenance Officers, to building "mentorship" for the young people making a USAF career decision. Naturally, not all our convention objectives have been achieved, but the unanimous opinion is that nowhere else can Maintenance Officers of all ranks from all commands sit down together and talk about their common challenges and possible solutions.

The MOA convention for 1987 is scheduled for 16-18 October 1987 in San Antonio, Texas. The theme for this year is "Maintenance in the 21st Century!" Our full agenda is still being developed, but we plan to offer presentations and panels on emerging technologies and their impact on maintenance, what the maintenance workforce will look like in the year 2000 and beyond, and threat driven operational concepts for the future which will drive changes to our maintenance organizations and support concepts. We believe it is appropriate in 1987, as we celebrate the Air Force's 40th anniversary, to have our eyes sharply focused on the future as we learn everything we can from the past.

General Yeager, we would like you to be our featured speaker at the convention banquet on Saturday, 17 October 1987, at 8:30 p.m. Your unique involvement for

the past three decades in the transition of new ideas and concepts to the USAF operational fleet, your clear vision of the needs of the future Aerospace Force and, as evidenced by your book, your appreciation for the long hours and unending demands on the Maintenance Force would bring to our convention and our members a perspective offered by virtually no one else in America today. Your presence would act as a herald to all our members, to the whole Air Force community, and to the aerospace industry that maintenance must stay in step with future developments if we are to ensure long-term national security. Your words would be a trumpet call to the young maintenance people, hungry for encouragement, to look beyond the hard work, the constant pressures, and the cold and dark of the flightline and recognize that the future is in their hands. We sincerely hope that your schedule will permit you to accept our invitation.

We recognize that your time is in great demand and your special talents command a substantial speaker's fee. Unfortunately, the MOA operating budget does not allow us to allocate much in the way of a speaker's fee. We have fiercely fought to keep our membership dues at \$20.00 a year since our establishment to ensure that even the youngest struggling maintenance officer can afford to join the association. The proceeds from membership dues are totally consumed with the management of the MOA and the publication of our newsletter (a copy of which is enclosed for your information). We do believe that if you consent to speak at the banquet we will be able to attract enough commercial exhibitors to generate a respectable fee. We would be pleased to discuss this with you or your agent. Regardless of the speaking fee we might work out, all travel and housing expenses would naturally be borne by the association.

Let us thank you in advance for considering our invitation and for the standards of excellence and professionalism you have set for Air Force officers in all career fields. We hope you will be able to join us in leading the Maintenance Force into the 21st Century, and we anxiously await your reply.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me or our convention chairman. He is:

James B. Marstall
Lt Col, USAF
6213 Capella Avenue
Burke, VA 22015
BUS: (202) 697-4688
HOME: (703) 455-9011

Jim will be happy to provide anything you might need.

Sincerely,

Reginald Jones
Colonel, USAF
President