

## The First Warrant Officer Summit

By CW5 Gary Nisker  
President



The first Warrant Officer Summit was held at the Warrant Officer Career College (WOCC), Fort Rucker, Alabama 7-11 June 2010. Invitations were limited to the most senior leaders of the Warrant Officer Corps. The purpose of the Summit was to aggressively seek issues that will promote improvement of the WO Corps. The theme for this event was "Learn from the past, focus on the future".

WOCC Commandant COL Mark T. Jones opened the Summit with a welcome and a review of the WOCC history, present, and plans for the future. He stressed emphatically that future advances will not happen without coordinated intervention by WO leaders from their respective Branches and other key WO leaders within the Corps.

COL Jones was followed by the current leaders from each of the components. CW5 Gary R. Nisker, CCWO ARNG; CW5 James E. Thompson, CCWO USAR; Senior Warrant Officer Advisory Council (SWOAC) Chairman, CW5 Wade H. Lovorn; and the Warrant Officer Senior Advisory Council (WOSAC) Chairman, CW5 Richard L. Ernest. These gentlemen addressed the current issues from their respective positions and all presentations were followed by short question and answer periods.

CW4 (Ret) Don Hess, President Emeritus of the USAWOA, then presented a historical perspective of the WO culture from the early 1950s to the present. He highlighted the USAWOA's successful efforts in changing the culture and bringing the WO Corps into the main stream of the officer corps.

The first day ended with an update on the new curricula of the Professional Military Education (PME) syllabus of the current courses and the projection of future courses to be taught at the WOCC (WOCS-WOSC-WOSSC).

The second day focused on three study group topics previously developed by the WOCC staff with input received from these senior leaders. Attendees were assigned to a group or elected to float among the 3 groups to study the topics and recommend possible solutions and/course of actions to resolve these topics if possible.

### **The topics were:**

1. Are the established civilian educational levels for Warrant Officers appropriate for current operational environment requirements--appointment level, senior level, master level, e.g., should an associate's degree is required for

appointment and a bachelor's degree be required for the master level?

2. Are the current PME-LD opportunities for Warrant Officers appropriate for their operational environment requirements, e.g., should some CW3/4s attend ILE at satellite campuses, should selected Warrant Officers attend post graduate colleges?

3. What actions can Warrant Officers take to facilitate a significant change in the legacy mindset, e.g., senior Warrant Officers must embrace the fact that all Warrant Officers are leaders and must promulgate that understanding?

Following the completions of their respective study groups each group presented their group consensus of recommended courses of action for possible resolutions. The groups were diligent and focused on the theme of the Summit. MG Jon L. Trost, DCG, TRADOC closed the second day's activities with an address on the above issues and how the Corps identity could become more visible within the officer corps.

On the final day COL Jones' closing remarks thanked the leaders for their diligence and stated that the recommendations from the topic study groups will be invaluable in planning the future of the Corps.

I found the Summit to be very informative, professionally conducted, and the study group topics especially helpful in transforming the WO Corps from the Legacy force to the one needed to support todays and future forces. All members are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting of the Members (AMM) in November to hear more about these efforts to bring the WO Corps into the main stream of the officer corps. As these recommendations are developed, we will be reporting their progress in future NEWSLINERS and at our AMM in November. Other activities at the Summit are reported elsewhere in this issue but in this article I wanted to focus on the theme of "Learn from the Past, Focus on the Future."

For the Corps! 



*USAWOA National President CW5 Gary Nisker presents the President's Award to WOCC Commandant COL Mark Jones.*

*USAWOA President Emeritus CW4 (Ret) Don Hess presents the USAWOA Honorable Award of the Eagle Rising to WOCC Commandant Mark Jones.*

