



United States Army
Warrant Officers Association
462 Herndon Pkwy, Suite 207, Herndon, VA 20170-5235
USAWOA Online - 757-336-6869 - C: 757-999-2022
www.usawoa.org -- usawoa-online@verizon.net

National Webmaster's Report, AMM 2006

To Officers and Members
U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association

It has been a pleasure to have served as your National Webmaster over the past year. This has been a very satisfying but occasionally disappointing year in maintaining and updating USAWOA Online. I do want to thank Frank Meeks for his assistance with USAWOA Online and for maintaining several Region and Chapter websites. I also want to thank those of you who have provided stories, pictures, and leads to topics of interest to Warrant Officers & their families.

USAWOA-Online Background:

On the web since Sept. 1996 hosted on Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PFCU) web servers at www.penfed.org/usawoa

In the summer of 2003 we added websites for the new USAWOA Scholarship Foundation at www.penfed.org/usawoa/woasf, and the new Warrant Officers Heritage Foundation at www.penfed.org/usawoa/woheritage.

In Jan. 2004 we registered the URL "www.usawoa.org" and PFCU pointed the URL to their web server and continued to host all three websites at no cost to USAWOA or the Foundations. The URLs are www.usawoa.org, www.usawoa.org/woasf, & www.usawoa.org/woheritage.

There are a few rules we must adhere to due to being hosted on a Federal Credit Union web server. We may not post executable files such as MS Office suite products (macros are executable), fill-in forms (macros), ZIP files, etc. Portable document files (PDF) are acceptable, and actually better, because they can be reduced in size thus opening and downloading faster. We also cannot post advertising other than our affiliates and/or Corporate Members.

Now on to the disappointing side:

We made three attempts over the course of the last year to create a "Members Only" password protected section on USAWOA Online. During test of each attempt we experienced "lock out" after several uses which required the PFCU web security folks to reset. With over 5,000 members and the frequent visitors to USAWOA Online the potential existed for a too frequent need for PFCU to reset. This also means that while waiting for someone to report the lock out, passing the info to PFCU, and having a technician reset the password, Members Only would be unavailable to anyone. Work on a viable solution continues.

The website serves USAWOA BUT also tells our story & the WO story to others service members, and to the public. Unfortunately, only about 10 folks are regular contributors. Like the NEWSLINER, we need more input!

Many Chapter websites are in dire need of updating. We will work on that over the next year.

In our future:

We continue to explore a feasible method to launch a Members Only feature.

We are exploring the possibility of converting to HTTPS secure site.

Here are a few 12-month stats on updates/uploads to the site and feedback. Please note that multiple files are normally contained in each upload.

USAWOA Online -- 96 Downloads page -- 15 Members Only -- 11 Officers -- 28
USAWOA Scholarship Foundation -- 8 WO Heritage Foundation -- 50

Online submissions -- 448 (New, Rejoin, Renew, Change Date, and Memorabilia Orders)

Online feedback -- 310 (Change Date, corrections to website, questions, criticism, and kudos)

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Welsh, CW5 Retired,
USAWOA National Webmaster