

2007 NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
MID-NORTHERN REGION
US ARMY WARRANT OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

Mr. National President, Head Table, Fellow Region President and Directors, distinguished guests and members of the US Army Warrant Officer's Association. I am Phil Tackett, Director of the Mid-Northern Region. I can not be with you today due to another military commitment (which I will address in a few moments). I have asked CW5 Billy Ray Robinson, President of the Star of the North Chapter, to represent me and the region at this meeting. He has graciously agreed to do so and I wish to thank him for stepping up to the plate. I know he will do an excellent job.

Good day to the members of the Association from the great state of Missouri and the Mid-Northern Region. Well, it's beginning to look a lot like fall for most of us in the region. The weather is turning cooler, (for Mr. Robinson, probably colder). The grass is turning brown and the trees are beginning to break out into all colors of the rainbow. As nature keeps it OPTEMPO going, so goes the OPTEMPO of all the hard working warrant officers of the USAWOA chapters within the Mid-Northern Region.

All of us in the Region want to wish all Mid-Northern warrant officers, and all warrants who are deployed, continued success, to stay safe, and for all to return to the region and their respective home stations together. We are all proud of the hard work they are doing and wish them all a safe return.

The Region represents thousands of warrant officers of the Active Army, The Army Guard, The Army Reserve and retirees from all the components. Many of these highly skilled men and women serve as helicopter pilots, intelligence analysts, armament and equipment repair technicians, personnel managers, equipment repair technicians, logisticians, and other technical fields, which are critical to success of the modern battlefield. All of these warrant officers proudly serve daily either here at home or in many of deployed environments. The Mid-Northern Region is composed of 12 local chapters consisting of over 970 Association members either as chapter members or members-at-large. The Region continues to attempt to maintain our chapters and to increase membership.

Concerning Recruitment and Retention, we continue our efforts to increase our marketing/publicity of events. We are making increased efforts to get the word out to other warrants of what we do and who we are. Some of our chapters are looking at various ways to increase attendance at chapter meetings by changing the days/times/locations of the meetings. Some hold breakfast meetings, some lunch, some meet in Warrant Officer Huts, some in dining facilities. Chapters are taking the lead in getting people to attend the meetings. The WO1 free membership helps to get us started, but all region leaders needs to ensure renewal of these members. This helps tremendously in maintaining our National membership as well as funds to continue to operate. A few chapters are using raffles to assist in getting people to the meetings. Although there are many Warrant Officers in Mid-North who do not belong to the Association, the bottom line is that the Region represents all Warrant Officers.

Under professional and community support, some chapters conduct Warrant Officer Candidate Boards to assist the WO applicant in preparing a more professional packet as well as to better prepare them for the candidate course. Other chapters contribute to their communities by participating in all types of community events and in some cases, sponsoring those community events. A good portion of the proceeds are being donated back to their respective communities in the form of monetary donations to Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts/sports teams/other private organizations. Other chapters sponsor events such as golf tournaments, road races, and others set up USAWOA booths at other community events such as an Annual Retiree Open House and Job Fairs. Still others offer academic scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

As hard as our deployed folks are working, so too are the warrants here in the region. Regardless of whether we are Active Component, Reserve or National Guard, we are all working to address various Warrant Officer policies and issues and to leverage the tremendous capability within the Warrant Officer Corps.

The US Army today is all about change, or transformation. The Army is changing its design and structure, changing our uniforms, and changing its education systems.

One key initiative currently working is the Warrant Officer Education System (WOES) redesign. This is being worked by all 15 branches of the Army which have warrants. Within the Mid-Northern Region, this is being worked by the Engineer and Military Police branches at Ft Leonard Wood, MO. This redesign was initiated via an OPORD on 17 Sep 04, by the CG, Combined Arms Center, Ft Leavenworth, KS. Extracts taken from the OPORD follow:

“The mission of this project is to consolidate WOES into a single Officer Education System (OES) in order to allow appropriate shared education and training to occur at all education levels. In the execution of this task, the intent is that branch and warrant officers would be permitted to learn skills pertinent to both cohorts in a shared environment, facilitating a better understanding of roles and responsibilities of each cohort. Three key tasks include: Develop a consolidated OES that includes elements unique to warrant officers, branch officers, and elements common to both; Identify warrant officer professional military education requirements for the current and the future force; Conduct a Needs Analysis and Critical Task Analysis for each military education level. The end-state is a WOES which is vertically aligned, synchronized, and integrated into a single OES.”

This brings me to the reason for my absence this week. As we sit here, there are two major Warrant Officer events going on at the same time in two different places in the country. Both meetings effect all warrants of all components and both meetings should be attended by all senior warrants who are the Chief Warrants of the Branch/Regimental Chief Warrant Officers as well as senior warrants who are in key positions at DA, TRADOC, USAR, NGB, and the WO Career Center. All these warrants will be attending the Senior Warrant Officer Advisory Council (SWOAC) at Ft Leavenworth, KS. This council is chartered by the Vice Chief of Staff of the

Army and is just as important to the professional careers of the Army Warrant Officer as this Association's meeting. Many of these council people need to be here to provide briefings to you and to assist in taking part in the various focus groups. However, since I am still Active Army, and a Regimental Chief Warrant Officer, I must be at the SWOAC meeting. This conflict should have never occurred and hope for better coordination in the future. So, I wish all of you well, hope for a professionally successful meeting, and look forward to the results of the focus groups. I am sure your efforts will meet the needs of all warrant officers.

In closing, we see OPTEMPO, at all levels, continues to be high and our warrant officers are doing some great things, both in the deployed theater and at home station. Our retirees are helping to keep our chapters viable and effective. Here is a hearty THANK YOU to our QUIET PROFESSIONALS who are all members of the Mid-Northern Region -- for all your great and heroic efforts to keep us going and charging forward.

FOR THE REGION, FOR THE ASSOCIATION, AND FOR THE CORPS.

Thank you

PHILIP E. TACKETT
CW5, President
Mid-Northern Region