

**USAWOA MID-SOUTH REGION REPORT
CW4 CANDIS MARTIN, REGION DIRECTOR
35TH ANNUAL MEETING - 14-20 OCT 2007**

Mr. President, Fellow Board Members, Members –

It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to the city I call home – San Antonio. Mid Southern Region and primarily the Lone Star Silver Chapter members have been busy with Annual Meeting preparation. My personal thanks to those who have been instrumental in making this meeting a success – Joe Diaz, Deputy Director of Mid Southern Region, Lone Star Silver Chapter Members -- Juan Gomez and his wife Lourdes and daughter Stephanie, Bill Strout, Don Sammons and his wife Mandy, Sue Farrell, Dorene Matheis and her husband Bryant, and my husband, Ed. Our home office staff, along with National volunteers has responded quickly to my questions, concerns, and sometimes demands. Herb Rundgren, Terri Casteel, Frank Meeks, Bob Scott, and Dave Welsh– thank you! Without your guiding hands, this gathering would not have been possible.

Three years ago when I took the oath of office as Mid Southern Region Director, we were the smallest Region. We're still the smallest region, but keep in mind – good things come in small packages. The Mid Southern Region covers Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas.

Sooner Plains Chapter, under the guiding hand of President Joe Diaz, has an increase in the number of members attending meetings. He has offered professional development activities at meetings, causing his meeting attendance numbers to increase.

I was able to visit the Fort Hood Silver Chapter in March and presented them with their Best Website of 2006 Award. Fort Hood Silver, under the direction of Mike Gamble, has a strong membership and great things happening within their chapter. They conduct “Trash-Off” days, in conjunction with Fort Hood’s Make a Difference Day each quarter. Their Annual Golf Scramble netted the chapter more than \$2,000 to help them support upcoming charitable events. They were able to provide a substantial scholarship to a well-deserving Mary Hardin-Baylor student as well as sponsor a local talented Middle School student, on her way to participate in the USA World Showcase Talent Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. Fort Hood Silver’s newest charity is Habitat for Humanity.

Lone Star became the Lone Star Silver Chapter this year – the first Chapter to achieve Silver status as a result of 25 continuous years of Chapter Charter. Lone Star Silver had a few fund raisers this year, in an effort to continue their scholarship offer. This year’s scholarship went to a UT Health Science Center Nursing Student, who dedicates her spare time to medical mission trips in Latin American Countries. President Juan Gomez, in an attempt to peek meeting attendance, donated door prizes for a membership raffle. Raffle tickets were sold and a few were rewarded with some great gifts.

Lone Star Silver was graced with the presence of President Roy Valiant during one of his many trips to San Antonio. Thank you, Mr. President, for taking the time to visit a Chapter meeting when you're in the area. You are always welcome.

The North Texas Chapter and Sun City Chapter continue to hold their heads above water amid the high optempo and continued deployments.

I am concerned for the Razorback Chapter. All of my attempts to regenerate the Razorback Chapter have turned up empty. It is with personal regret, because I was instrumental in getting the Razorback Chapter chartered nearly 12 years ago, when I was stationed in Little Rock. I am also apprehensive about the state of the Acadiana Chapter at Fort Polk. Their optempo of deployments and the PCS'ing of key Chapter personnel cause concern for the provision of their Chapter. They have not held a meeting in over a year. I am soliciting help and immediately accepting offers of help in getting these two chapters back on their feet. USAWOA membership required. No experience necessary!

The Mid Southern Region is home to 692 members of USAWOA. I want to extend a colossal thank you to those members who have continued to support USAWOA with their membership. In today's world, it is becoming more and more difficult to balance family, career, and membership commitment to an organization. I am thankful to all 692 of you who have met that challenge and continue to support an organization I believe in.

Please accept my personal thank you to all of you who have taken time to be in attendance at our 35th Annual Meeting of the Members. It is truly an honor to be among my peers, who continue to work hard to make it better for all Army warrant officers in the near and not so near future. I am anxious to see the harvest of this year's Annual Meeting. Good things will happen here! The Annual Meeting is not only a good time, but a great deal of hard work. I wish all of you and your guests an exciting week in the Alamo City.

Respectfully Submitted,

CW4 Candis Martin
Director, Mid Southern Region