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2010 Webmaster's Report

In early 2010 there were some 1,060 web pages, documents, graphics, and pictures on the web server constituting USAWOA Online, USAWOA Scholarship and Warrant Officer Heritage Net web sites. Today there are some 2,350 files in the foregoing categories. In part this is due to the numerous receipt of information of importance to Warrant Officers and their families, submission of the accomplishments with pictures by the Chapters, USAWOA members, and our fellow non-member Warrant Officers. The increase can also be attributed to extensive research and submissions by fellow Warrant Officers for inclusion in the comprehensive Warrant Officer Online History maintained by the Warrant Officers Heritage Foundation. By all means keep that input coming to us at usawoa-online@verizon.net!

A few months ago USAWOA entered into a contract with Avectra for an online secure Association Information Management (AIM) product. This allowed USAWOA to migrate our membership data-base, processing of membership actions, purchase of memorabilia and more to an Avectra secure online web server farm. When logged in members will be able to update their personal data to indicate changes of address, promotions and status (i.e. from active status to retired). Another feature is the Online Store where anyone can complete a membership transaction (join, rejoin, renew, change data, request, change Chapter Affiliation, or apply for Corporate Membership, etc), purchase memorabilia, or even make a donation to USAWOA, the USAWOA Scholarship and the WO Heritage Foundation. Also, the monthly NEWSLINER is available online to dues paying members when logged in. Provisions for receiving the NEWSLINER by mail for those without a computer or if so desiring will be announced in the NEWSLINER. Overtime these online features will reduce the manual labor by the Home Office staff. It will also reduce some costs, for example printing and postage.

For the foreseeable future, USAWOA Online will remain as the public site and face of the Association for exposure and marketing purposes. Due to the amount of time and effort required to maintain the USAWOA Online, USAWOA Scholarship Foundation and Warrant Officers Heritage Foundation web sites and to launch the USAWOA Interactive Portal the workload has been divided. National Webmaster Dave Welsh retains responsibility for USAWOA Online et al and Assistant Webmaster Frank Meeks assumed responsibility for the USAWOA Interactive Portal as its Webmaster. Each is the backup for the others' site.

On September 30th via USAWOA Online and in the October NEWLINER the launch of the USAWOA Interactive Portal was announced. To go to the Portal simply go to the USAWOA Online Home or Hot Topics page and click on "Interactive Portal" within the links at the top of either page. Go to USAWOA Online at www.usawoa.org/downloads/Interactive-Portal-Instructions.pdf for instructions on logging in and how to use the Portal. We ask you, each and every member, to please login and update your own personal data. If you have trouble logging on please let us know at usawoahq@verizon.net. Please be patient while awaiting a reply as we do expect a lot of questions at first.

We appreciate the many hours expended by Herb Rundgren in converting the MS Access membership data for load in the Avectra database, Terri Casteel for building the Online Store, and Frank Meeks for building the Portal website. Indeed there have been some trials and tribulations as we all learned the ins and outs of this commercial off the shelf software. As you use the site please feel free to send you comments and questions to us at usawoahq@verizon.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Welsh

David P. Welsh
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National Webmaster