

## The Southeastern Region

By CW5 (Ret) James (Jim) White

### CANDIDATE FOR USAWOA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

I currently reside in Helena, AL, which places me in the Southeastern Region. This allows me to fully participate and represent ALL Chapters within the Southeastern Region.

I have been a member of USAWOA since 1994 and became a Life Member (01043L) in 2008. At Oakdale, PA I founded the Iron City Chapter. During that time, I was the 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command Warrant Office Mentor for Warrant Officers assigned, Warrant Officer Candidates and prospective Warrant Officers. When elected Northeastern Region Director, my priorities were recruiting, retention of members and promoting the Association, each and everyday to ALL Warrant Officers, members, and non-members. Previously I have held the following positions of National Vice President (twice), National President, Northeastern Region Director (twice), and Chapter President and Vice President. Currently, I am the Southeastern Region Director and a member of Redstone Arsenal Silver Chapter, Huntsville, AL.

I began my military career in the Mississippi Army National Guard, where I enlisted in October 1968. Received a Direct Commission as a Warrant Officer One with the United States Army Reserve School in Jackson, MS as a Military Personnel Technician. I held various assignments prior to retirement in February 2006: Individual Mobilization (IMA) Administrative Officer, US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC); Chief, Personnel Data Abstraction Branch, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Washington, DC; Repair Parts Technician, 55<sup>th</sup> Support Command, Fort Belvoir with duty at Fort Pickett, VA; Military Personnel Technician, 98<sup>th</sup> Division (IT), Rochester, NY and 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command (RSC), Oakdale, PA; USAR Research Analyst, with duty Army Development Systems (ADS XX1), assigned Office Chief, Army Reserve, Arlington, VA; Guard and Reserve Manpower Manager, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, DC; and Military Personnel Technician, 390<sup>th</sup> Personnel Group, Richmond, VA. During my 37 + years of military service I was able to develop skills of communication, mentorship, advising and recruiting with soldiers and families. In March 2013, I was appointed as the State Adjutant, Pennsylvania Disabled American Veterans (DAV). As Adjutant of the Department, I was responsible for the Charter of the Department, its Constitution and Bylaws, safekeeping of correspondence, records and proceedings covering the business of the Department of Pennsylvania.

I feel the three most significant challenges facing US Army Warrant Officers are:

1. Promote Warrant Officer initiatives in Army Talent Management.
2. Support the efforts of our Senior Warrant Officers in all three components of the Army.
3. Support ongoing Warrant Officer education initiatives.

The Army Talent Management System will align assignments to fulfill the weakness of Warrant Officer management within the Army. This will help retain Senior Warrant Officers to ensure continuity of technical and expertise in the Army. This will help identify potential soldiers within the junior Warrant Officers to provide success and satisfaction in their career progression. This will improve the readiness of the Army.

There are several challenges that face USAWOA. I feel the three most significant are:

1. Membership and Money
2. Relevance of the USAWOA to Warrants at all levels.
3. Mentorship of junior Warrant Officers of our Association

Sustainability of the USAWOA for the future is of high importance. We need to promote the Association to Warrant Officers of all levels as to the relevance of our Association. USAWOA is the only organization that advocates for Army Warrant Officers in the areas of "Professionalism, Representation and Recognition." Once the value of the USAWOA is recognized and understood, membership will increase along with a monetary increase. Dues alone will not support and sustain the future of the Association without a realistic budget. Additional Corporate sponsorships with a reasonable fee should be pursued to ensure continuity of funding for the future. As the current leadership of the Association continues to mature and age, we need to identify and mentor junior members of the Association to develop the "fire in their gut" to step up and become leaders of the future Association at the Chapter, Region, and National level.

I am asking ALL Southeastern Region Members for their support and vote for election as Southeastern Region Director.