

## **Focus Group #2**

# **Automatic Assignment of Members At Large to Local Chapters**

**Leader: CW4 Pete Hill**

**Panel Members: CW5 Charlie Parker  
CW5 Edmund Stephenson  
CW3 Randy Galbraith  
CW5 Bryan Lauzon**

# Background:

- **Bylaw III Membership: Section 7: Assignment of members To Chapters: joining or renewing ... may select one of two alternatives...Chapter Member or Member at Large (no Chapter affiliation)**
- **Of the 4951 members in USAWOA, 25% (1215) are presently registered as members at large (non-affiliated).**

## Cont.

- **Chapters are not required to provide information or other support to these non-affiliated members. That responsibility rests with the National Office (NewsLiner and web site).**
- **Chapters do not receive rebate payments from National when Members at Large renew their membership (\$4K+ per year)**

# Charge To Focus Group:

**Does the advantage (\$\$) to be gained by Chapters outweigh the potential backlash by those who want to remain Members At Large?**

# Discussion:

- **A new Warrant Officer, at Ft. Rucker, generally doesn't know where they are going to be assigned, they select non-affiliated, expecting someone to contact them upon arrival at duty station; they are looking to be contacted by the local chapter**

# Discussion cont:

- **A member is a member is a member, every vote counts**
- **Term: Member at Large vs non-affiliated**
- **The list of Members at Large is provided to Regional Directors and Chapter Presidents as a recruitment tool, it is up to the Chapter to tactfully approach these members and encourage them to participate in chapter functions and become members of the chapter.**

# Group Recommendation:

- **Leave it alone. Make no change.**
- **Change the membership application to reflect by-laws.**
- **Encourage chapters to tactfully approach Members At Large**

# **Rationale:**

- **Membership concerns outweigh potential financial gain by Chapters**
- **Financial impact on National**
- **Alienate Members At Large**

Questions?