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**Annual Report for Annual Meeting of the Members (AMM)**

**2005 - From Hand Grenades to Hurricanes**

I started out the fiscal year with the challenge of finding explosive devices for my units to use in training exercises. Our Common Task Training (CTT) had become Warrior Task Training (WTT), and my job now included finding and procuring the devices. Being in an Institutional Training Division, this kind of training was not something we even thought about or planned for. That of course was before our Soldiers started dying daily in theatre from driving by, or stepping on, seemingly innocent piles of refuse that went boom. Turns out we didn't need mock grenades - we needed Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) - or in reality, something that would provide an explosion and smoke. Now, at the end of the year, we all know to one degree or another how to spot them and what steps must be taken. I watched some of my fellow Warrant Officers put on their field packs and go through WTT and weapons qualification, some for the first time in decades, with varying degrees of interest and excitement. It only took one or two of the trainers telling of their experiences in Iraq; things they had seen and comrades they had lost, to get their attention. There are no safe havens in the Army Reserve today, because even us garrison troops are becoming in short supply. It is not a matter of if you will mobilize, but when. We have heard that from the top down and the longer we are at war, the more relevant that statement becomes.

This year ended with the horrible destruction of our Gulf coast by a force we could not plead or bargain with - not once, but twice. The terrible blows struck by nature have left our country devastated in a way no enemy could. Our already-stressed forces now have a new mission; and it is here at home. And it is pretty much the same old story, support of the military wanes until you need it. Watching television and reading the paper, I see the war protesters and the parents fighting to keep military recruiters out of schools; and I wonder if they felt the same sense of relief I felt watching those National Guard troops rolling into New Orleans? I will not in any way discount the heroic efforts of our police, fire, and medical heroes; but when times get bad this country looks to us; and we always answer the call, with our efforts and even our lives.

As I look into my crystal ball at next year, I see many changes and challenges. We will meet those challenges because we are better prepared, have more training, and are learning from our mistakes every day. We will continue to be a force to be reckoned with that cannot be discouraged, despite our foes.

Being your Reserve Affairs Assistant Vice President this year has been an excellent experience for me. I have received many emails from around the world, either commenting on my articles, or asking for help with issues. I heard from several of my Warrant Officer Candidate, Basic, and Advanced Course classmates. They caught me up on where their careers had led them. Many of them have been deployed, and one is now on his second tour in Iraq, looking for a third. We are a diverse and multi-talented

group, to be sure. It is obvious to me that Warrant Officers are the glue that helps hold our forces together. We have the knowledge and expertise to perform and lead that doesn't happen overnight. We will continue to step up and do what needs done to keep this country on its feet. We may not be wearing the rising eagle, but that spirit is still alive and well. We are a group I am very proud to be a small part of. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Warrant Officer Corps and this great organization, USAWOA !