

GOOD MORNING MR. PRESIDENT AND GOOD MORNING FELLOW
WARRANT OFFICERS AND GUESTS OF THE US ARMY WARRANT
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION AS WE GATHER TOGETHER FOR OUR
NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS.

I AM CW5 PHILIP TACKETT, A MEMBER OF THE SHOW-ME CHAPTER,
FT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MID-
NORTHERN REGION. IT IS TRULY A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH
YOU, IN THIS BEAUTIFUL LOCATION, AS WE BEGIN A WEEK OF
PROFESSIONAL HARD WORK AND REDEDICATION TO BEING THE
SUPERB WARRANT OFFICERS WE ARE IN THE US ARMY AS WELL AS
TO THE USAWOA.

I AM HERE IN THE STEAD OF CW5 HOWARD LUNDIN, OUR REGION
DIRECTOR, WHO CANNOT BE WITH US TODAY, AS HE JUST RECENTLY
DEPLOYED TO THE THEATER OF OPERATIONS FOR OPERATION IRAQI
FREEDOM. HE IS ONE OF MANY WARRANT OFFICERS IN OUR FINE
ORGANIZATION WHO HAVE DEPLOYED TO DEFEND THIS GREAT
COUNTRY OF OURS. AS WE PROCEED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, I

ASK THAT WE KEEP ALL THESE HEROES IN OUR HEARTS AND OUR PRAYERS AND HOPE FOR THEIR SAFE RETURN.

WITH THIS SAID, IT IS SIGNIFICANT WE ARE ABLE TO BE HERE TODAY. THIS PAST YEAR, AS IN THE LAST FEW, HAS BEEN A LONG, STRESSFUL AND TUMULTUOUS ONE. WE HAVE SEEN MANY CHANGES, NOT ONLY IN OUR ASSOCIATION, BUT OUR WARRANT OFFICER CORPS, OUR ARMY AND OUR COUNTRY.

THE MID-NORTHERN REGION IS COMPOSED OF 12 CHAPTERS. WE HAVE 2 WHICH ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF THE DEPLOYMENTS AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO REMAIN ACTIVE.

WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY 513 CHAPTER MEMBERS AS WELL AS 369 AT-LARGE MEMBERS WITHIN THE MID-NORTHERN REGION IN CHAPTERS STRETCHING FROM MINNESOTA TO MISSOURI. THESE NUMBERS REPRESENT THE WIDE SPECTRUM OF OUR JOB SPECIALITIES AND ENCOMPASSES THE ACTIVE, RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD COMPONENTS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE TRAINING FACILITIES.

OUR REGION CONTINUES TO PUSH THE SLOGAN OF “GETTING OUT AND ABOUT” THE MID-NORTHERN MILITARY COMMUNITIES TO “SHOW THE USAWOA FLAG”. BECAUSE OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISPERSION OF THE REGION, THIS IS DONE MAINLY VIA EMAIL, TELEPHONE CALLS, AND THE US MAIL. AT TIMES, THIS CAN ALSO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OFFICIAL TRAVEL OR VIA PERSONAL TRAVEL.

IT IS THE DUTY OF EACH MEMBER OF THE MID-NORTHERN REGION TO “GET OUT AND ABOUT” AND TO CONDUCT PROFESSIONAL, SOLID WARRANT OFFICER BUSINESS WHENEVER THEY ENCOUNTER ANOTHER WARRANT OFFICER.

ALL NEED TO KNOW THE MID-NORTHERN REGION IS THERE FOR THEM, TO KEEP THEM IN TOUCH WITH AND UP TO DATE ON CURRENT WARRANT OFFICER ISSUES. THIS NOT ONLY INCLUDES THE MEMBERS WITHIN THE REGION BOUNDARIES, BUT OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE DEPLOYED.

WE ARE MAKING INCREASED EFFORTS TO GET THE WORD OUT TO OTHER WARRANTS OF WHAT WE DO AND WHO WE ARE.

SOME OF OUR CHAPTERS ARE LOOKING AT VARIOUS WAYS TO INCREASE ATTENDANCE AT CHAPTER MEETINGS BY CHANGING THE DAYS/TIMES/LOCATIONS OF THE MEETINGS. SOME HOLD BREAKFAST MEETINGS, SOME LUNCH, SOME MEET IN WARRANT OFFICER HUTS, SOME IN DINING FACILITIES. WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET WARRANT OFFICERS TO THE MEETINGS, WE ARE DOING IT IN THE MID-NORTHERN REGION.

CHAPTERS ARE TAKING THE LEAD IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS IN GETTING PEOPLE TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS. THE WO1 FREE MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO HELP, TO GET US STARTED, BUT THE REGION LEADERSHIP NEEDS TO ENSURE THE RENEWAL OF THESE MEMBERS. THIS HELPS TREMENDOUSLY IN MAINTAINING OUR MEMBERSHIP AS WELL AS FUNDS TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE. A FEW CHAPTERS ARE USING RAFFLES TO ASSIST IN GETTING PEOPLE TO THE MEETINGS.

BOTTOM LINE : ALL CHAPTERS ARE LOOKING AT INNOVATIVE WAYS TO INCREASE ENROLLMENT AS WELL AS RETENTION WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION.

UNDER PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT, SOME CHAPTERS CONDUCT WARRANT OFFICER CANDIDATE BOARDS TO ASSIST THE WO APPLICANT IN PREPARING A MORE PROFESSIONAL PACKET AS WELL AS TO BETTER PREPARE THEM FOR THE CANDIDATE COURSE.

OTHER CHAPTERS SPONSOR EVENTS SUCH AS GOLF TOURNAMENTS, ROAD RACES, AND OTHERS SET UP USAWOA BOOTHS AT OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS SUCH AS AN ANNUAL RETIREE OPEN HOUSE AND JOB FAIRS.

STILL OTHERS OFFER ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS CONCLUDES MY PRESENTATION AND I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE BY SAYING THAT I REPRESENT SOME OF THE HARDEST WORKING, SEVERLY DEDICATED, AND THE MOST PROFESSIONAL WARRANT OFFICERS ANYWHERE, AND THEY ARE ALL MEMBERS OF THE MID-NORTHERN REGION.

THANK YOU.