

Past Presidents Council (PPC) Report **CW5 (Ret) Frank Meeks, Acting Chairman**

On January 15, 2008, the National President notified the Past National Presidents that the Board of Directors (BOD) had reactivated the Past Presidents Council (PPC) and invited them to be members. As the Acting Chairman of the Past Presidents Council, I also emailed an invitation to participate in the PPC to all of the Past European Region (ER) Presidents and Region 6 Past Presidents (before the boundaries were designated as part of the North Eastern Region). We currently have 22 members serving on the PPC.

As part of adding the duties and responsibilities of the Past Presidents Council back into the USAWOA Manuals during the review this year, a note was added as follows: "All Past Presidents currently serving on the National Board of Directors *or as a Regional official* are excluded from serving on the Past Presidents Council until such time as their term of office is complete on the National BOD."

With all references for the PPC in the USAWOA manuals being deleted in the late 90's, Bob Scott, Don Hess and I drafted up the Past Presidents Council function and mission statement which were first reviewed by the PPC members and then presented to the BOD. On April 5, 2008, the BOD members approved the following PPC function and mission statement at their semi-annual meeting:

PPC Function and Mission

Our mission and function is to assist the USAWOA BOD in the organization and management of the USAWOA. The PPC is organized to provide guidance and counsel based on our individual knowledge and experience.

The PPC is not organized to replace the BOD nor the EXCOM, but rather to supplement their efforts to make the USAWOA as efficient and highly organized as possible.

Efforts contributed by the PPC will include but not be limited to:

- *Reviewing organizational directives to keep them current and applicable to the Association and the membership, not only as organized today, but also to ensure directives support future programs and growth.*
- *Maximizing the utilization of technology.*
- *To represent the EXCOM and BOD members when they are unable to attend briefings, seminars, etc.*
- *Assisting in office operations to reduce the workload of office staff.*
- *Assisting in the recruitment and retention of USAWOA members and staff.*
- *Acting as mentor to current Directors and Chapter Presidents as appropriate.*

- *Conducting one-time, special studies and analyses as requested by the BOD and EXCOM.*

On April 8, 2008, the PPC was given its first task to review Focus Group 1 recommendations from the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Members (AMM) and provide the National President feedback by August 31, 2008. The Focus Group #1 recommendation was to open up billets for Warrant Officers in Army Service Academies.

On June 9, 2008, the PPC responded to the National President and the BOD on opening up billets for Warrant Officers in Army Service Academies. The following report was submitted to the BOD for their review and consideration:

Opening Up Billets for Warrant Officers in Army Service Academies

After much email discussion and correspondence with Army Agencies, current and past senior Army Warrant Officers who held the highest positions in the Army and the members of the Past Presidents Council, we believe the issue to have Warrant Officers as instructors in Army Service Academies is not within the USAWOA scope and the USAWOA should not pursue this issue any further.

We fervently believe that the USAWOA should spend our time and efforts on issues that affect and will positively impact the entire Warrant Officer Corps. We currently have more visibility in the Warrant Officer Corps than we have ever had in the past years with Warrant Officers assigned to the staff level of all three components to work on Warrant Officer (WO) issues.

Pros:

- 1. The purpose behind the recommendation is to give cadets exposure to Warrant Officers.*
- 2. The effort, if successful, would give a few WOs the opportunity to gain some additional recognition, as none have served in those positions in the past.*
- 3. It may cause the Cadet Corp to have a slightly better opinion of WOs.*
- 4. It is a disservice to our young officers NOT to provide them with the opportunity to learn from the vast knowledge that is obtained through experience versus a book.*

NOTE: *Are these few reasons sufficient justification to take WOs out of the force and away from their jobs (such as flying, tactical intelligence, etc)?*

Cons:

- 1. Combined Arms Center (CAC) was recently asked to find 2 to 5 WOs to be instructors at Intermediate Level Education (ILE), and they are getting a lot of negative push-back from the Branches.*
- 2. Many of the Branches are short and are having enough difficulty filling their own slots.*
- 3. Branches are very reluctant, and rightly so, to try and fill slots like this unless there is a very good reason for it and they see the benefits to their own Branch.*

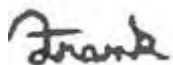
4. *What could WOs bring to the academic environment that is not available from current instructors?*
5. *Where is the right place to insert these role models in the structure of the academies?*
6. *Instructors must have a minimum of Masters level education for West Point and are normally selected and groomed (including providing any education required) 3 years out from the start of their actual stints on the platform.*
7. *Resources expended to bring Warrant Officer nominees to this level of academic rigor would not provide the needed return on investment, from the point of view of the institution, the Branch and of the Warrant Officers involved.*
8. *Instructors at the academies are branch commissioned officers for a reason - that is what the academies produce.*
9. *If we put a WO in an instructor position to teach relative mathematics, then what makes the WO different?*
10. *The bottom line is that WOs are technical leaders and trainers responsible for the Army's systems, and we as a matter of course mentor junior officers.*
11. *WO skills are better utilized teaching Branch material technical subjects at the various service and professional development training courses that commissioned officers attend.*
12. *The real push-back will come from the entrenched Alumni brotherhood. This is the entity that holds power at USMA.*
13. *The Commandant of Cadets responds more quickly to this group than even to the senior active duty leadership of the Army, mainly because they hold the key to funding for support of culture and heritage at the academy.*
14. *There is a strong resistance to change among alumni groups, solely for the sake of maintaining the traditions of the academy that will have to be overcome if such an infusion of Warrant Officer mentors were to be successful.*
15. *There are some concerns that the Branch Officers are becoming too technical and WOs need to remain the specialist. This proposal seems to make the WO like the Branch Officer, so which is it we want?*

The Past Presidents Council report on opening up billets for Warrant Officers at the Army Service Academies is currently under review by the BOD.

Summary:

The Past Presidents Council appreciates the opportunity afforded it this year in supporting the BOD. The Past Presidents Council stands ready to address any future issues in support of the leadership of the USAWOA.

To the Corps,



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CW5, USA, Retired
Acting Chairman, Past Presidents Council