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Webmaster's Annual Meeting 2005 Report

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Once again it has been a busy year since last year's AMM. We continue to maintain five web sites, four on the Pentagon Federal Credit Union web sever, and one using a commercial provider. The PFCU web sites are USAWOA Online, Monthly Reports Package Online, the USAWOA Scholarship Foundation, and the Warrant Officers Heritage Foundation. The commercial site is used to store downloadable executable forms which are not allowed on the PFCU web server for security reasons. These forms include the General Purpose Membership Form, the Memorabilia Order Form, and the Travel Voucher used by National Officials. Please read the directions carefully when using the downloadable executable forms. The directions insure that you data remains secure while traveling over the internet. We also use the commercial site to test concepts and new ideas from time to time.

Many thanks to CW5 Frank Meeks my assistant and Web Editor. Frank also designed and maintains external web sites for the President Emeritus, Immediate Past President, all the USAWOA Regions (except Western Region), and for the Fort McCoy Chapter.

While reviewing Chapter web sites, we still notice that many of these sites have not been updated. Some do not even contain the names of the current Chapter Officers. While we well realize that OPTEMPO and deployments are very high, this does not project a good image for the local Chapter or USAWOA as a whole. We are attempting to contact the Chapters where this exists. If the site is not updated, we will remove the Chapter web site link from the Chapters page on USAWOA Online.

On the "what's new" front, we are finally close to being able to launch a "Members Only" section. This feature will be password protected. The password will be published monthly in the NEWSLINER and it will change quarterly. This is being done to make USAWOA Online a more distinct and valuable service to our membership and will curtail those that say "why should I join and pay dues? I can get all the information I want for free on USAWOA Online." Believe us, some folks do say exactly that!

Another new feature we are pursuing is an HTTPS 128 bit Secure Socket Layer (SSL) site to replace our current commercial site. This will allow us to launch online fillable forms while further protecting your personal and credit card data.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the USAWOA National Webmaster over the last year. It is work, but it is a lot of fun, and very rewarding!

FOR THE CORPS!

Dave Welsh
National Webmaster since 1996