

**The European Region**  
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**CANDIDATE FOR USAWOA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

My history with the United States Army Warrant Officer Association has not been the most consistent. I maintained good standings for the first four years of my Warrant Officer career but demands of the profession and lack in representation/awareness of local Chapters caused me to lose track of my USAWOA membership. It wasn't until my current assignment when the incoming Region 1 Director mentored me to renew my membership and assume the role as her Deputy Director.

My current assignment has placed me in a particular role when I have been the lead for developing and implementing training and operational plans to support a theater ally in the defense of their freedom and protecting their citizens from an invading state actor. In this effort, I have led multinational teams to the fastest air defense fielding in history and the success is still on-going. I know that I can bring this leadership to the Region 1 European theater.

**Challenges facing US Army Warrant Officers**

1. Challenge one - Retention: This challenge has always been present. Due to high OPTEMPO the WO population sees no advantage to serving past their 20 years. This has created challenges in the W3 and W4 ranks. The US Army is already working to resolve this challenge by assessing candidates earlier in their career (<12 years).
2. Challenge two - Positions: I can't speak for the US Army as a whole but within the Air Defense branch we lack multiple positions that we can hold which causes our population to rotate into similar positions across commands. With the Air Defense branch growing, as subject-matter-experts, positions need to be incorporated to the new weapon systems IOT gives us greater diversity and to better advise the Commander.
3. Challenge three - Professional Military Education: Although there has been improvement in PME we as Warrant Officers are not afforded the same conditions as Regular Officers. The course length of our PME is largely unequal and equivalent civilian education benefits while attending are not present. Lastly, PME enrollment should be HRC directed and should be a prerequisite prior to promotion consideration to the next grade

**Challenges facing the USAWOA**

1. Challenge one - Awareness: This I truly believe in self-inflicted. All Chapters, across all Regions, need to improve awareness to USAWOA and to recruit/sustain membership. Also, encourage Chapter Presidents to coordinate with WO PME course managers for opportunities to brief classes. This won't always directly impact their respective Chapter but a win for another Chapter is still a win to the association.

**Conclusion:** I have served as the Region 1 Deputy Director for the past 13 months and if elected I will do my best to continue my support and represent the WO population in Europe.