

**National Secretary**  
**By CW4 Wilbert B. Johnson**

**CANDIDATE FOR USAWOA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

I am seeking election as the United States Army Warrant Officers Association's (USAWOA's) national secretary. I am assigned to the National Guard Bureau, Arlington, VA, 27 miles from the USAWOA headquarters office, which easily allows me to participate in meetings and other association activities.

I am an active-duty Personnel Technician 420A serving as the Chief of Issuances providing personnel support to the Executive Secretariat Directorate and services as the principal staff officer. Supports the Directorate of Management and Administration (DM&A), Director of Staff (DoS), the Office of Chief of the National Guard Bureau (OCNGB), and NGB Joint Staff as the program manager. Lead and manage the National Guard Bureau (NGB) Executive Secretariat, Issuances Branch. Duties include conducting continuous analysis and evaluation of the CNGB Issuances Program, reviewing the processes efficiency related to the publication of Policy; including CNGB Instructions (CNGBI); CNGB Manuals (CNGBM); and Directive-type Memorandums (DTM); ensuring policy initiatives are completed promptly, consistent with Department of Defense (DoD) policies and regulations, ensure publications are coordinated via periodical revisions with the NGB-J5 Directorate leadership by researching policy issues with potential impact on the NGB Joint Staff, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and NGB Space Operations. A USAWOA life member since 2018 and I was awarded the Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising "Bronze Award" from the USAWOA 2019. I am a member of the Adjutant General's Corps Regimental Association Potomac chapter.

I have served as a US Army Warrant Officer for more than 15 years, I proudly served the Arlington Hall Minuteman "Silver" Chapter #609; Chapter President (2018-2021), Chapter Vice-President (2016-2018), Chapter Secretary (2015-2016) and USAWOA Scholarship Foundation Selection Board member at National level.

Since becoming an Arlington Hall Minuteman "Silver" Chapter officer in 2015, one of my main goals has been working to improve our membership and increase partnership for our Warrant Officers across all three Army components, our Veterans, and our retirees. This started with the creation of a new All COMPO Warrant Officer Professional Development (WOPD) session, to create a better network through teamwork and providing transparency throughout the WO Cohort.

I believe the Warrant Officer cohort will face challenges in the coming years. These challenges are:

The year 2024 is another time of challenges for Warrant Officer recruiting and retention unlike any other for the USAWOA. The U.S. Army is slashing the size of its force by about 24,000, or almost 5%, and restructuring to be better able to fight the next major war, as the service struggles with recruiting shortfalls that made it impossible to bring in enough soldiers to fill all the jobs. The cuts will mainly affect already empty posts, not actual soldiers, including jobs related to counterinsurgency that swelled

during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars but are not needed as much today. About 3,000 of the cuts would come from Army special operations forces. At the same time, however, the plan will add about 7,500 troops in other critical missions, including air-defense and counter-drone units and five new task forces around the world with enhanced cyber, intelligence, and long-range strike capabilities. The decision reflects the reality that for years the Army hasn't been able to fill thousands of empty posts. While the Army as it's currently structured can have up to 494,000 soldiers, the total number of active-duty soldiers right now is about 445,000. Under the new plan, the goal is to bring in enough troops over the next five years to reach a level of 470,000.

I believe that my tenure as the national secretary will help me provide calm, thoughtful, and deliberate leadership for the USAWOA. I am proud of the collective progress we have made these past few years and I seek an opportunity to serve as your national secretary as I look forward to continuing to move the association forward.