

July is here and on 9 July, across the Warrant Officer Cohort, our USAWOA chapters and members are celebrating the 107th birthday of the Army Warrant Officer. It's one of my favorite months as we see dozens of social media posts (<https://www.facebook.com/USAWOA>) of currently serving and retired warrant officers, and their families, leading and participating in birthday events. It is abundantly clear to me the impact USAWOA, through the efforts of you, our members, continues to have in our communities.

Chapters should ensure these events, whether led or just participated in, are reflected in the chapter minutes. Our chapters and members continue to do great things but often forget to include these items in their minutes. Often, we will see that a chapter planned to do something, then on social media we see they did what they planned, but the follow up minutes do not reflect anything. This information is important because it allows the USAWOA Awards committee (which I wrote about last month) to identify, recognize, and reward their efforts at the Annual Meeting of the Members (AMM). Additionally, we would like to publish photos from these events in the NEWSLINER. Please email original photos and a short byline that identifies the chapter member or event title to director@usawoa.org and we can share with all of our members, especially those who may not be on social media.

With the excitement of celebrating our 107th birthday, I feel it important to also recognize all those affected by the tragic events of recent flooding in Texas. It's hard to fathom the scope of what happened in such a very short amount of time. We send our thoughts and prayers to our members who were affected directly, or indirectly by this catastrophic event.

As recovery efforts continue, we know there will be other natural disasters like tornadoes, hurricanes and additional flooding that thousands of Americans and likely our members and our families could experience. Warrant officers and military veterans have a unique combination of leadership, technical skills, logistic prowess and resilience that make us invaluable in disaster relief. In doing some quick research, here are some ways we can channel our expertise to support affected communities.

1. Join veteran-led relief groups

Organizations like Team Rubicon and Veterans Response mobilize veterans to deliver essential services—debris removal, shelter setup, medical aid, and water purification—after disasters strike. Veterans' military-style organization and mission focus enable swift, efficient response.

2. Partner with FEMA and CERT programs

FEMA and its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) initiative actively recruit veterans. Through CERT, veterans can leverage their skills in neighborhood-level

disaster preparedness and response—including first aid, search and rescue, and fire safety. FEMA Corps, open to veterans, offers structured deployment in crisis zones.

3. Work with local VOAD-affiliated nonprofits

Veteran volunteers are welcomed by local chapters of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), like the VFW Foundation, which provides immediate financial and shelter assistance. Aligning with VOAD ensures efforts complement wider relief operations.

4. Offer logistical and technical support

Veterans with technical training—engineers, medics, communications experts—can assist with critical tasks. From managing supply chains to providing field medical care, these veterans bring high-value skills rarely found in civilian volunteers.

5. Pursue specialized training before deployment

Veterans can enhance their impact by obtaining disaster-specific certifications: CPR, first aid, Mental Health First Aid, or Wilderness EMT. Many veteran-focused NGOs offer pre-deployment training to ensure volunteers are field-ready.

6. Continue long-term recovery efforts

Relief isn't over when the cameras leave. Veterans can support community rebuilding for months—or years—after a disaster. USAWOA members and veterans bring their unique talents to formal programs—often staying engaged beyond the initial crisis—and therefore significantly boost disaster relief effectiveness, while rediscovering purpose and camaraderie in service to their communities. For those who have already stepped in to volunteer their time, money or experience, thank you.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable, remainder of July.