

45th AMM Aviation Panel

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On 6 October 2017, the 45th AMM Aviation Panel focused on the future of the Army Aviation branch. Sitting on the panel were (pictured left to right) CW5 (Ret) David Cooper, The first Army Special Operations Aviation Command (ARSOAC) CCWO; CW5 Frank G. Volpe, Jr., Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Officer, DA G3/5/7; ARSOAC CCWO CW5 Mark A. Meyer; Aviation Branch Proponent CW4 David J. Stock; and Aviation CWOB CW5 Joseph B. Roland.

Each panelist provided opening remarks, focusing on their specific areas of influence. CW5 (Ret) Cooper shared his perspectives as both a retired senior Warrant Officer leader, and a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for extreme gallantry in aerial combat in 2006, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Pictured right, CW5 Roland opened the panel, providing a branch update. Among other things, he focused on the need for additional resources, lifecycle management of airframes, and other commitments.

He also spoke briefly about ongoing recruiting and retention initiatives, a subject that CW4 Stock expanded on in his remarks. To learn more about this, see their jointly written article in the June 2017 Newsliner, entitled “Recruiting the Future Today.”



The panel fielded numerous questions from the Members in attendance, ranging from equipment modernization to potential shifts in Aviation utilization in future conflicts, both in the conventional and Special Operations missions.

Pictured left, CW5 Harold Griffin asked about the role of UAS aircraft on the future battlefield. Army Vice Chief of Staff GEN James C. McConville had touched briefly on this in his opening address to the Members on Thursday morning.



Pictured right, CW5 Volpe discussed the incredibly rapid evolution that has occurred with UAS, and speculated that there will be prolific expansion in the utilization of UAS aircraft in future conflicts.

CW5 Roland agreed, but stressed his professional belief that unmanned systems could never replace the instantaneous judgment and instinct necessarily provided by human pilots on the battlefield.



Following the panel (pictured left), CW5 (Ret) Cooper posed for a picture with his old friend Lockheed Martin Director of Army Aviation Programs CW5 (Ret) Daniel Curry. Also an employee of Lockheed Martin, CW5 Cooper served as the master of ceremonies at the 45th Annual Banquet and Ball that evening, sponsored by his company.

USAWOA is grateful to both Northrup Grumman and Lockheed Martin, for their respective generous support of the Aviation Panel, and the Banquet and Ball. It also personally thanks these two gentlemen for their participation in both of these events. 🇺🇸

