



## Soldiers can forward AKO e-mail to other accounts

by Patrick A. Swan

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - Using an Army Knowledge Online e-mail address doesn't mean soldiers must surrender their current military or commercial e-mail accounts.

In fact, with AKO's forwarding rule, e-mails from "us.army.mil" addresses can be automatically forwarded to any other e-mail address a user selects, AKO officials explained. They said users can do this by clicking on the "personalize" button after they log on, and then choosing "user profile."

AKO officials set up the forwarding rule because they said they realized most AKO e-mail accounts complement, rather than replace, soldiers' local post and AOL- or Hotmail-type accounts, said Harold Tucker, AKO systems architect.

"Considering how often soldiers move around," added David Hale, AKO webmaster, "it is a significant advantage for them to have one e-mail address that does not change as they move from post to post or from mission to mission.

"Having a `us.army.mil' email address is much easier for soldiers' buddies, families and colleagues to remember than the typical installation e-mail address string," Hale said. The Army's global e-mail directory doesn't always have a soldier's most current e-mail address, Hale said. However, he said that AKO's global e-mail directory does. "That means you stand a much greater chance of reaching the person you want to contact via e-mail," Hale said.

Also, because soldiers can gain access to their AKO accounts from any Internet terminal in the world, Hale said they can maintain communication at times they wouldn't ordinarily have any Army e-mail address, such as when they are in-between assignments or in jobs that don't provide regular Internet access.

(Editor's note: Patrick Swan is a public affairs liaison officer with the Chief Information Officer/G-6.)

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**Note: If you change your name (marriage, divorce, etc.) please provide your new AKO address as soon as possible to 210-221-8306 DSN: 471 or email [yvette.woods@us.army.mil](mailto:yvette.woods@us.army.mil). This will allow us to keep a free flow of pertinent SP information to you. If you PCS please discontinue AKO forwarding until you reach your new address or change it to your personal email address.**