A Call to Remember

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THE ORDNANCE CORPS MEMORIAL FUND

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Greetings from the Home of Ordnance!

Ordnance Team, I would like to once again thank you for your unwavering support to the Ordnance Corps and to our Nation. I’ve had the opportunity to visit many of your installations in the past two years, and I couldn’t be more proud of our Ordnance Soldiers and the great work they do in support of the Warfighter.

We continue to focus our efforts on reinvigorating core competencies through the implementation of a 91B skills based training pilot, additional technical training phase in warrant officer PME, and an 89B pilot in which NCOs will receive Ammunition Surveillance (QA) and Ammunition Inspector (QC) training.

Ordnance is leading the development of a Logistics Readiness Training Package (LRTP) for Brigade Combat Teams focusing on logistics tools that result in an increase of their sustainment competencies and readiness. Working with the 7th Infantry Division, Ordnance created a Stryker focused LRTP and are currently working with 3rd Brigade 1st Cavalry Division to build an Armored Brigade LRTP. These resources include apps/podcasts, maintenance and supply programs, train the trainer programs and training support packages, and are available to all units on the Sustainment Unit One Stop portal at https://www.cascom.lee.army.mil/private/TD/Multifunctional/website/site-operational/pages/bct.htm.

The Ordnance School also launched an initiative to support the Command Maintenance Discipline Program (CMDP), outlined in DA PAM 750-1. Our online knowledge center serves as a one-stop shop for digital maintenance products, tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs), and rapid updates to the field. We are partnered with logistics agencies across the Army and are continuing to post new materials every day. The knowledge center also allows for leaders across the Army to seek the Ordnance School’s assistance with maintenance challenges and to develop best practices. Check out our article in this edition of Ordnance Magazine and send us your feedback.

In May, the Ordnance School will host the Ordnance 2025 Strategic Planning Symposium to gather insights from senior leaders on the current and future challenges of our core competencies; maintenance, ammunition, explosive ordnance disposal, and explosives safety. The learning demands identified during the symposium will drive our campaign of learning to inform our OD Strategic Vision (OSV), inform solutions strategies for OD2025 and Beyond, and identify potential new challenges. The Ordnance campaign of learning is an enduring effort nested within our strategic planning framework which will serve as a road map to winning in a complex world.

In closing, I ask you to keep up the good work and stay safe this summer. Keep those cards, letters and emails coming. The feedback and observations from the field are invaluable and help shape the future of the Ordnance Corps. Continue to monitor the Ordnance website and submit any questions or comments through the “Ask the Chief” link. I would also encourage you to send us pictures of our Ordnance Soldiers in action, submit articles for the Ordnance and Sustainment magazines and engage the Regimental Leadership with your issues via Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. You are all key to the success of the Ordnance team as we move the Ordnance Corps into the future. — GO ORDNANCE! SUPPORT STARTS HERE! ARMY STRONG!!! 🇺🇸
Greetings from the Home of the Ordnance Corps! It’s an honor to serve as your 12th Regimental CSM. As you already know, it is critical that we continue to set our Soldiers up for success by ensuring that the Ordnance mission is clearly understood by every Ordnance Soldier in your formation. The continuity between those of us in combat and garrison operations during this critical time is extremely important as the reduction of forces will continue to affect some of our Ordnance Soldiers.

The Regimental Team and Personal Development Office (PDO) are working very hard to ensure that maintainers receive the most relevant training necessary to support the logistical demands of our War-Fighting force. With regard to promotions and NCOES attendance, the completion of Structured Self Development (SSD) is paramount to Soldiers ability to effectively compete for advancement. I implore leaders to aggressively pursue getting our maintainers engaged and ahead of their SSD requirements. I also encourage you to take time out of your busy schedules to visit the Ordnance Corps webpage at www.GoOrdnance.com—it houses a wealth of information and can be a valuable resource for logisticians.

I would like to congratulate the six NCOs that were selected to participate in the incredible Training with Industry (TWI) program. My advice for leaders who are interested in participating in this phenomenal program is to start the application process now! These NCOs will have an opportunity to learn and develop alongside of industry experts, and bring some of their best practices and techniques back to the Army. Our Personnel Development Office will be accepting applications from May 1 through November 30, 2015.

I would also like to publically recognize and extend personal congratulations to the thirty two outstanding Ordnance leaders selected for command service through the Command Selection Program; as well as the eighteen Ordnance Master Sergeants that were selected to attend the prestigious United States Army Sergeant’s Major Academy—best of luck Class 66!

The Ordnance School is planning several events to commemorate the 203rd anniversary of the Ordnance Corps and to celebrate the vast achievements of its members, past and present. One of the highlights will be the Ordnance Corps Retreat Ceremony and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on May 14. I am so proud that three of the finest Ordnance NCOs are being inducted- CSM(R) Joseph R. Allen, CSM(R) Edward T. Brooks, and CSM(R) Mark S. Gerecht. I hope that many of you will be able to attend the ceremony, and I encourage you to read more about these great Americans in this issue of Ordnance Magazine.

In closing, I would be remiss without a mention of Staff Sergeant Jeffrey M. Dawson, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation’s second highest award for valor, this past February 17, 2015. SSG Dawson, an Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal Sergeant, exhibited bravery during an enemy ambush in Afghanistan. The Corps salutes you SSG Dawson!

As I have traveled around to our posts, camps and stations these last five months, I am in awe of the many accomplishments and the sacrifices that our Ordnance Soldiers must endure protecting our nation around the globe. Words cannot express how proud I am of the Soldiers, Civilians and family members in our Corps. Thank you for your continued commitment, hard work and service to our nation. — GO ORDNANCE! 🇺🇸
The technical competency of the Ordnance Warrant Officer in the functional areas of maintenance and munitions is being called to action. There is overwhelming data from decisive action rotations at the CTCs, Reverse Collection AARs, and Operational Commands requesting training to validate the impact of skills atrophy after sustained combat action and to focus on organic capabilities we have outsourced.

The Army expects the warrant officer to be an adaptive, agile, and innovative technical expert, manage Logistics Information Systems, integrate processes, and lead Soldiers. We cannot buy our way out of this problem of lacking experience performing our craft or adding another school. As a cohort we must address problems head on; even if that means reading technical manuals, fault isolating side by side with Soldiers, or conducting operations that you performed as an NCO. No matter what it takes, it is essential that we fill in the gaps.

Many of our Soldiers and NCOs haven’t had the developmental opportunities we had running motor pool/shops/ASPs. Many did not perform their MOS during deployments to OIF/OEF and we reduced time in PME to ensure the operating force had sufficient manpower to deploy.

The Ordnance School developed some training products available through Sustainment Unit One Stop for use in home-station environments, we also developed customized training to send Soldiers to Ft. Lee and obtain additional technical training and take back to their units. These training products can help inject some level of proficiency; however it is still up to the warrant officer on the ground to visualize/describe the solution to this problem to the commander in order to be able to allocate the resources. In most cases that resource is time, i.e. scheduled technical training on calendars, relief from taskings, or innovative training events that use your soldiers in their MOS.

We have changed our PME to add more technical depth to the 915A WOBC/WOAC, the technical follow on for WOAC, WOLLE and WOSSC is programmed for FY17, all initiatives to improve our PME and add rigor. Unfortunately if you have previously attended one of these PME’s, these changes will not apply to you. We will need to take the time to share best practices and knowledge gained during hands on performance in the shops/motor pools with our NCOs, as they are our future warrant officer accession pool. As a cohort, we are only as good as they are. You have reach back capability here at the schoolhouse and Regimental HQs as it is our role to facilitate the training and developmental needs. I urge you to utilize the capabilities and technologies available at the Home of Ordnance!

On May 14, 2015, we will induct Chief Warrant Officer Five (retired) Patrick M. Endicott, Chief Warrant Officer Five (retired) Robert M. Vachon and Chief Warrant Officer Five (retired) Ralph E. Williams III, into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame Class of 2015. Each of these outstanding Warrant Officers is being recognized for their significant achievements and contributions to the Corps and to the U.S. Army.

In closing, my successor, Chief Warrant Officer Five Rick Myers will be assuming the responsibility as your 9th RCWO on May 14, 2015. I sincerely thank you for the support that you have shown to me and my family these past three years. I would ask that you show that same level of support to Chief Myers and his wife Stacy. Please welcome them to the Ordnance Regimental Command Team and Fort Lee community. I look forward to seeing you at all of our Ordnance events in May. — **GO ORDNANCE!**

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There is some confusion in the field regarding the number of fire extinguishers required on Army vehicles when transporting ammunition and explosives. Indeed, the various publications and forms available contribute to the confusion. The bottom-line-up-front is that Army vehicles will be equipped with at least two Class 2–A:10B:C or equivalent fire extinguishers. This requirement is found in Army Regulation (AR) 385-10, The Army Safety Program, 27 November 2013. Please refer to paragraph 14-4.c.

The US Navy and Marine Corps requires only one class 10-B:C fire extinguisher IAW with their OP-5 Volume 1, Ammunition and Explosives Safety Ashore, publication. The US Air Force requires the same as the Army IAW with their AFM 91-201, Explosives Safety Standards, publication. Commercial trucks transporting ammunition for the Army are required to have one 10BC fire extinguisher or greater IAW 49 CFR and DA PAM 385-64, Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards. The Army cannot mandate that commercial trucks meet AR 385-10 standards.

Army operated Ammunition Supply Activities (ASA) will provide an external SOP to all its customers. This SOP will outline the ASA’s operations and the procedures to be followed in requesting, receiving, and returning ammunition and residue IAW AR 710-2, Supply Policy Below the National Level. It is your responsibility to make sure the customers you support know your requirements. Thus, if you are an Army-operated ASA and support other US armed services, you must make them aware of the number of fire extinguishers required to transport ammunition.

It is often a good practice to maintain a few spare fire extinguishers at the ASA to loan to a truck that does not have the correct number and type of fire extinguishers. The unit would return the fire extinguisher once their mission was complete. “Loaners” are not a requirement, just a method to assist the unit in completing its mission.

By Mr. Mitchell Bates, GS-13 Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Surveillance (QASAS), DAC/USATCES
Today, the U.S. Ordnance Corps Association is more important than ever as our Corp continues to decrease in size. Since the Ordnance Center & School movement to Fort Lee in 2009, the Associations has been working diligently to reestablish operations, so it can accomplish its primary mission of promoting the development, production, acquisition and support of weapon systems, ammunition, missiles, and ground mobility materiel through research, quality, educational material, and knowledge of military arts and science with special attention to the role of the Ordnance Corps in ground warfare.

One of the key objectives in growing our associations is promoting the professional educational development of our members. This professional development has at its hallmark the mission of fostering and preserving, through education and the scholarship programs, the spirit, traditions, heritage, and history of the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps.

As your new Ordnance Association President, I pledge to continue fostering the Corps’ heritage and stay linked to the Chief of Ordnance’s Strategic Vision in efforts to continue to promote the professional educational development of our members. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Kevin Smith and the other past presidents for their service to our Corps who served before me for their untiring devotion to our Ordnance Corps and our Nation. Our Association can be a strategic means to help get the word out to both new individuals and corporate members we want to recruit as part of the Chief of Ordnance’s Strategic Communication. At 1295 individual members and 28 corporate members, we still have lots of room to grow. We currently have one outlying Chapter at Fort Gordon, Georgia. It is my goal to build a chapter at all of our divisional installations, double the number of individual members and increase by 20% the number of corporate members. The more members and support for the Corps that we have will increase our ability to provide more scholarships and support to our Soldiers and Families. The Ordnance Memorial Foundation is about four years old now and continuing to grow. As we prepare to celebrate another Corps Birthday, it is important that we don’t forgot the Ordnance Soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice since 9-11. If you would like to support the Ordnance Memorial Foundation or the Association, you can visit either of the GoFundme sites: http://www.gofundme.com/ordmemorialfund; http://www.gofundme.com/n4v0k4. You can also make a donation by visiting www.usa.usaocaweb.org or by calling 804-733-5596. We have already set up a foundation account and have already started taking donations towards $185K goal.

The Ordnance Corp Association takes great pride in supporting our Ordnance Corps, its Soldiers, Civilians, and their Families. From awarding scholarships, to helping needy Families at Christmas and Thanksgiving, to our several recognition programs, we continue to keep our heritage strong. Thank you for helping me support our great Ordnance Great Americans. — GO ORDNANCE!

Serving proudly,
Gregory A. Mason
Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)
President, Ordnance Corps Association

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EOD Logistics Captain Career Course Phase Development

by Susan J. Troendle
Chief, Training Development Division, EOD Directorate,
U.S. Army Ordnance School

EOD Directorate in partnership with the Army Logistics University (ALU) are undergoing a new course design and development for our EOD 89E Captains. The last two years the EOD Directorate and ALU’s Logistics Captain Career Course (LOG-C3) has supplemented a week of EOD specific training within the Captain’s curriculum. Using this EOD week’s data and feedback; The Ordnance Corps and the EOD community have determined that the LOG-C3 does not adequately prepare 89Es to conduct Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mission Command within Unified Land Operations (ULO) and a need for a more comprehensive and undivided training program to better support and arm our EOD leaders for future Company Commands and leadership roles. The development of this 12 week phase received approval from BG Haley, the Chief of Ordnance, and MG Lyons, the CASCOM Commander, in December of 2014.

Upon gaining approval from the CASCOM Commanding General; EODD, ALU, and Officers from the EOD operational force collaborated through Working Groups, automation tools, and research in the development of this new course - a 12 week phase of the LOG-C3, tailored to develop EOD qualified Logistics Officers who are technically and tactically competent in Unified Land Operations within a Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational (JIIM) environment. This phase will have six individual modules consisting of Logistical Operations, Garrison Operations, Battlefield Operations, EOD Operations, Technical 89E Tasks, and a Capstone event. This specific EOD training will prepare the 89E Captains to be better able to serve as staff officers on Battalion, Brigade, and Division staffs, and Command Company sized units.

The first pilot of this course is scheduled for class group 15-006.
During the past 12 years of conflict, a significant portion of the Army’s maintenance has been conducted by contractors and civilian agencies and units have been utilizing theatre provided equipment (TPE) in lieu of their own. Now, during times of increased fiscal challenges and with the availability of personnel to conduct their own maintenance, many units are challenged by getting ‘back to how it was’ and executing maintenance operations. Furthermore, the recent revisions of AR and DA PAM 750-1 mandate a Commander’s Maintenance Discipline Program, similar to the now familiar Commander’s Supply Discipline Program, in order to ensure that units are in compliance with Army standards, ready to deploy with the equipment they have on hand as opposed to TPE, and being good stewards of government funds and resources.

In response to these challenges, the Ordnance School Personnel Development Office (PDO) has developed an online Command Maintenance Discipline Program (CMDP) Knowledge Center. This website, organized across twelve maintenance areas of focus, is intended to serve as a “one-stop shop” for digital maintenance products, regulations, updates, and tactics techniques and procedures (TTPs). Additionally, many ready-made SOPs, briefing templates, and training resources are available, including both doctrine-focused solutions and best practices from across the force, along with resources for key leaders in Army maintenance including commanders, support operations (SPO) officers, and motor sergeants. The site also serves as a portal for reach-back support, as it links users to discussion boards and allows them to contact the Ordnance School directly to address challenges that occur in the field.

The site is designed to be not only a source of information, but also an online repository for solutions developed in the field. AKO users can submit their own ideas and digital products for widespread use and contribute not only to their own organization’s success, but the Army’s as a whole. The site also includes links to numerous other logistics or maintenance-focused resources, including the Command Supply Discipline Program (CSDP), The Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME), and numerous resources for SAMS-E and GCSS-A. Finally, the CMDP page has a monthly focus area that’s designed with maintenance leaders in mind. Our focus areas include insights leaders from the Ordnance School, new materials, and links to outside resources.

Check out the CMDP Knowledge Center at https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/693941 or simply navigate on your web browser from http://www.goordinance.army.mil/ and click on the Command Maintenance Discipline Program link. Please send any feedback to usarmy.lee.tradoc.mbx.leeeaoc-89-91-officer-career-manager@mail.mil.
ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 9TH, 2014 a unique group of Active Duty and Retired 948D/E Warrant Officers came together at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. The gathering served for several reasons; primarily to “catch up” and walk down memory lane regarding their combined 374 years of Active Federal Service / 239 years of Ordnance Warrant Officer Service but also to network (A Key Warrant Officer skill-set) and discuss the Ordnance Corps and our Army. The event was coordinated by CW5 David Cassity (USAOS WO PDO) given the large group of retired Ordnance 948 Warrant Officers still serving in the Redstone Arsenal area in the Defense Acquisition community. Also invited was BG Edward Daly, the 37th Chief of Ordnance and the current Army Material Command (AMC) Chief of Staff.
Once the group was settled, BG Daly fostered an environment of open discussion and camaraderie reconnecting with some of the Warrant Officers he served with in previous assignments. BG Daly also discussed current Ordnance Warrant Officer training initiatives and challenges for our Cohort and Army. One main topic of discussion, BG Daly shared the success of an initiative to increase Ordnance Warrant Officer PME Technical Training. This PME training initiative began while he served as the Chief of Ordnance but was pushed across the goal line and will become a reality in FY15 spearheaded by the current Ordnance Regimental Command Team, BG John F. Haley (38th Chief of Ordnance) and Regimental Chief Warrant Officer, CW5 Terry Hetrick. BG Daly discussed how this training will affect the acquisition process and future training received by Ordnance Warrant Officers. As the Army reduces Contractor Logistics Support (CLS) of our current and future weapon systems, it is imperative that Ordnance Warrant Officers step up to the task of filling the CLS void provided by the increased technical training and reaffirm our status as Subject Matter Experts to the Command Teams we serve.

Given the informal nature of this event, an agenda did not exist beyond everyone becoming reacquainted by discussing their current role/program in the Acquisition workforce and their endeavors in the local community. As expected, numerous war stories were shared which occurred over the combined 374 years of service to our Army and Nation. BG Daly closed with recognizing the immense contribution of our retired Ordnance Warrant Officers; many serving locally in organizations such as PEO M&S, AMCOM, CECOM, and the Missile Defense Agency and how their continued support of coaching, teaching, and mentoring our active Warrant Officers is paying dividends and appreciated.

The Warrant Officers in attendance send an enormous “Thank You” to BG Daly for taking time from his schedule to meet and discuss various topics on this day.
On September 17, 1862, a terrific explosion rocked the Allegheny Arsenal. Specifically, it was a series of three explosions, each one about five minutes apart, just after two o’clock in the afternoon. Casualties were high; mostly women. This disaster aptly illustrates the dangerous nature of work at an Ordnance Department arsenal during the Civil War; North or South. Throughout the war, explosions, like this one, were not uncommon events due to the dangerous nature of work conducted. This one, in particular, was the worst industrial accident in the Civil War.

Women bore the brunt of these calamities. At each disaster, the predominate majority of killed and injured were women, usually young and immigrant. There are several theories why women comprised the majority of the workforce; including, the ability to work calmly on tedious jobs for long periods of time, the nature of the work necessitating small, nimble fingers in the Cylinder and Choking room of the process, the fact that they were likely related to men working at the arsenal, the demand for labor during the war gave them the opportunity to earn some money for the family, or that it was an alternative to young men who would normally fill those position, since they were pulled into military service. Likely, all these reasons, and others, supported the need of such a concentrated female workforce.

Tedious and Dangerous Work

In the Civil War, more than two million soldiers fought in the Union and Confederate armies. In order to supply their needs, the Union Ordnance Department operated 28 arsenals, armories, and foundries, with an increase in civilian employees from 1,000 at the start of the war to more than 9,000 by war’s end. The Confederate Ordnance Department operated more than 22 arsenals.

One of the most dangerous jobs was the preparation of paper cartridges for rifles and muskets. It was a labor-intensive process, in which the steps were broken down in order that each person had a specialized task in the process. It started in the Cylinder Room, where specially treated linen or paper was cut and folded into precise, predetermined sizes. At the Washington Arsenal, for example, the cylinder was fabricated to hold precisely fifty grains of powder, in support of cartridge production for the .54-caliber Sharps rifle. Next, these cylinders were moved to the Filling Room. In it, wood, brass, or copper tubes (called ‘chargers’) were used to fill the open-ended cartridge with the pre-determined amount of powder. Once filled, they were placed on-end in a box designed to hold the still-opened cartridges. Finally, they were sent to the Choking Room. There, lead bullets were inserted into the cartridge with the bullet-point facing up. Next, thread was used to tie off the paper cartridge, completing its assembly.

Once assembled, the cartridges were taken to the Packing Room and prepared for storage and shipment. Packing involved a two-step process. First, ten cartridges would be wrapped in a single waterproof-lined bundle, along with a dozen percussion caps. Secondly, each bundle would be placed into a newly constructed ammunition box, either lying down or on end, to create a snug fit. Each ammunition box held 1000 rounds of ammunition, or 100 bundles. After the box was screwed shut and given a water-repellant coating, it was transported from the laboratory building.
to the arsenal’s magazine, awaiting shipment to the field.

This fabrication process occurred in a single building on the arsenal, usually filled with men and women working together in tight quarters. The hazards were shared by all. Black powder creates a very fine and volatile dust (similar to flour) which can ignite easily. Boys were often employed to sweep the floors to prevent the accumulation of dust. During a twelve-hour shift, a skilled crew could assemble 21,000 cartridges a day.

**Allegheny Arsenal**

During the Civil War, the Allegheny Arsenal focused its production on the fabrication of ammunition for the Union Army. In 1862, it produced .54 and .71 caliber small arms ammunition and field artillery ammunition for 10-pounder and 12-pounder Parrott rifles. The arsenal was commanded by Colonel John Symington, who graduated from West Point in 1815. Under him, two Second Lieutenants, John R. Edie and Jasper Myers, who recently graduated from West Point in 1861 and 1862, respectively.

On the day of the explosion, 186 arsenal employees were working in the laboratory; 156 were women. Consequently, it is little wonder that of the 78 civilians killed that day, 71 were women or teenage girls, as young as fourteen or fifteen years old. The day after the explosion Symington wrote to the Chief of Ordnance, Brigadier General James W. Ripley, to report what had happened. He described an explosion of approximately 125,000 cartridges of .71 and .54 caliber small arms ammunition, and 175 rounds of field artillery ammunition.

Immediately following the disaster, a Coroner’s Jury was established to investigate. Over the course of the next week, beginning on September 19th, the jury met five times for either an all-day or half-day deliberation. The conclusions of the panel were presented on Saturday, September 27th. It had called over twenty witnesses, primarily civilian employees at the arsenal, but also included Colonel Symington and Lieutenants Edie and Myers.

The cause of the explosion was never fully determined; there was plenty of speculation, usually focusing on either the negligence of individuals or the characteristics of the physical environment near the laboratory (roads, barrels, etc…). Several of the witnesses spoke of the extent...
powder dust present on the floors and grounds in-and-around the laboratory. Young teenage boys were employed at the arsenal to sweep the dust out of the buildings, to prevent its accumulation. Witnesses testified that either the boys were sloppy in their duties, or merely swept the remains into the roadway. Some testified that the road was black with powder dust. In addition, the Superintendent of the laboratory, Alexander McBride, complained about the poor quality of the barrels used by Dupont & Company to transport the powder to the arsenal, and that several of the individuals he hired to ‘police’ the area failed in their duties to ensure the safety of the area.

A lot of attention turned to the newly installed macadam road servicing the laboratory. The road had been installed only two months prior to the explosion. With the high concentration of stones in the new road, many witnesses spoke of seeing sparks or flame emerge from the roadbed, some spoke of flames which looked like burning powder that had been mixed with dirt. Speculation focused on a spark that may have been struck by a horseshoe striking the powder-drenched road or a nail from someone’s shoe.

While the final report could not determine the actual cause of the explosion, it did put blame upon those who were supposed to supervise the arsenal and ensure its safety. Five of the seven jurors found Symington, Edie, and Myers guilty of gross negligence in their supervision of the arsenal. All the jurors, however, found McBride and his assistant, James Thorp, guilty of gross negligence. This judgment must have been especially hard for McBride, since his daughter, Kate, died in the explosion.

On November 1st, Ripley relieved Symington of command, and replaced him with Major Robert Henry Kirkwood Whitley. In December, Lieutenant Edie transferred to a staff position with the Army of the Potomac, eventually joining General George G. Meade’s staff. Lieutenant Myers transferred in January 1863 to become the Chief of Ordnance for the Union Army’s Department of Virginia and North Carolina. Despite a clearing of responsibility for the explosion in subsequent Army proceedings, Symington retired from the Army in June 1863 and died less than a year later. McBride remained employed at the arsenal.

Brown’s Island Laboratory

“There is little ammunition of any kind, or powder stored at the arsenals in the South. I doubt where there are a million rounds of small-arm cartridges in the Confederacy. Lead, there is none in store. Of powder, the chief store is that captured at Norfolk; tho’ there is a small quantity at each of the Southern arsenals, say 60,000 lbs. in all, chiefly old cannon powder. The stock of percussion caps cannot exceed one-fourth of a million.”

Richmond was the industrial heart of the Confederacy. The Tredegar Ironworks was the center of production for fortification and field artillery. The Confederate States Armory became the home to the construction of small arms for the South. To supply the necessary ammunition, the Confederate States Laboratory served the need. Early in the war, it was located in the city of Richmond, but soon it moved to its permanent location on Brown’s Island as a safety precaution due to the hazardous nature of the work. In addition, this location near Tredegar Ironworks and the Amory facilitated the production and transportation process. Superintendent of the laboratory, Captain Wesley N. Smith, established the laboratory in 1861, and hired and trained its staff. It was a difficult task...
due to the shortage of experienced labor. Smith instilled a strong adherence to safety precautions in its daily operations. Confederate Chief of Ordnance, General Josiah Gorgas, insisted on this in the Confederate Ordnance Department.

On Friday, March 13th, 1863, eighteen year old Mary Ryan was working in the laboratory along with 80-100 civilians in the 70 foot building. It was more crowded than usual awaiting the construction of another building on Brown’s Island. Ryan and many of the other women lived in the working-class Oregon Hill neighborhood, less than a mile away. Many of them possibly related to men working nearby at the Tredegar Ironworks or Confederate States Armory.

On that day, in addition to the assembly of ammunition cartridges, the employees were also disassembling defective small arms and artillery ammunition, including friction primers used in field artillery. Late in the morning, between 11 and 12 o’clock, Ryan was trying to get friction primers out of a box. Sometimes they stuck to the box due to the waterproof varnish applied to them during its previous fabrication which had not dried when placed in the box initially. As she had occasionally done before, despite admonitions to be careful from supervisors and co-workers, she slammed the box against the table to get the primers out. On the third slam, the primers ignited setting off the explosion. Due to the disassembly operations occurring, likely, there was an abundance of powder dust in the air and on the floor. In the room that exploded, 200,000 musket caps, 2,000 to 3,000 friction primers, and about 10 or 11 pounds of gunpowder ignited.

The explosion destroyed the laboratory building and caused approximately 70 casualties, of which approximately 45 died, either in the explosion or from their wounds. Only three men were killed; Reverend John H. Woodcock (63 years old, room supervisor), James Curry (13 years old), and Samuel Chappell (16 years old) who died five days later. The rest were young women. Following the explosion, Gorgas issued new safety regulations to prevent another occurrence; separate rooms for each process, safety clothing, and a limitation upon the number of people in the room. The laboratory was quickly reconstructed on Brown’s Island and continued operation until the Confederate evacuation of Richmond on April 2nd, 1865.

Not only was it the worst industrial accident of the Confederacy, the explosion at the laboratory directly affected the 1863 offensive by the Confederacy’s Army of Northern Virginia led by Robert E. Lee, culminating in the Battle of Gettysburg. In Gorgas’ effective design of decentralized production operations for the Confederate Army, regional armies were supplied by regionally based munitions production. Brown’s Island laboratory had supplied the ammunition needs for Lee’s Army.

To compensate for the loss of munitions due to the disaster, Lee’s army was supplied by munitions from Charleston. However, despite the prescribed uniform standards in munitions production, different materials had to be used at the various locations due to shortages, which changed the characteristics of the munitions. For the artillery units in the Army of Northern Virginia who had perfected their skill with the munitions provided from Richmond, this change severely affected their accuracy at a crucial moment in the war. On the third day of Gettysburg, the artillery barrage on the Union Army on Cemetery Ridge was supposed to devastate the line, enabling the charging southerners the ability to take the high ground and throw back the Union Army. However, the fuzes supplied by Charleston took longer to ignite than the ones from Richmond. Consequently, most of the artillery shells exploded past the Union front line and struck the supply wagons, field staff, and headquarters in the rear. The devastating barrage Lee had ordered failed. It was a central part to his operational plan that day. The Union troops remained and were able to stop Pickett’s Charge. It is impossible to predict what would have happened if the barrage had succeeded and had decimated the Union front line, but it is safe to say that the course of the Civil War would have been significantly altered.
shifts, Monday through Saturday. In a 100-foot long laboratory of mixed construction, 100 women, predominately Irish immigrants, fabricated small arms cartridges for the Army of the Potomac.

On Friday, June 17th, 1864, Superintendant, and chief pyrotechnist, Tomas Brown was drying a pan of fireworks, ‘red stars’, on a pan 35 feet from the laboratory building. He had done this many times before. The Fourth of July was approaching and with it, a surge in demand for fireworks to celebrate the holiday.

Just before noon, witnesses described how they saw shots of flame shooting in various directions from the vicinity of Brown’s pan. One of those ignited ‘red stars’ shot into the laboratory and ignited the conflagration. In the Choking Room, the ‘red star’ ignited the powder on the workbench, which shot down the table, blinding the women. In a fleeting moment, 14,000 cartridges in some two dozen, half-filled ammunition boxes exploded, lifting the ceiling off the building. In the next few minutes, panic-stricken women fled the flames as best they could. Hampering their exit, long skirts merely helped spread the flame.

By one o’clock, the private fire companies responding to the explosion had extinguished the flames. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, General Henry Halleck, and Chief of Ordnance Brigadier General George Ramsey watched as remains were laid out on the arsenal grounds for identification. Twenty-one women died in the fire, many burned beyond recognition.

Later that day, Stanton ordered an immediate inquest into the disaster. He established an investigating panel comprising Major General Silas Casey, Colonel William Maynadier of the Ordnance Department, and Colonel Richard D. Cutts. Late in the afternoon, the panel questioned the leadership staff at the arsenal, including Brown, and determined that the errant ‘red star’ had ignited the conflagration, revealing Brown’s negligence. In addition, Major James Benton, arsenal commander, also ordered a coroner’s inquest to investigate. In addition to the same witnesses as the Casey Board, Coroner Thomas Woodward called several of the laborers and members of the victim’s families to provide testimony. The jury quickly came to the same conclusion as the Casey Board.

Despite the carnage of the Civil War, the deaths of these women affected the government and the city of Washington D.C. Stanton ordered the government to pay the funeral expenses for the victims, something that had not happened in other arsenal disasters during the war. On Sunday, June 19th, the funeral service was held on the arsenal grounds. Attending the ceremony as the ‘chief mourner’ was President Lincoln and Stanton. It was the first funeral service the President had attended since his son was killed in 1862; only the third ceremony during his tenure as President.

Impressively, the laborers at the arsenal organized all the funeral ceremonies and other responsibilities associated with burying the victims. They arranged for two ministers to preside over
the ceremony, one catholic and one protestant. As well, it designated the funeral procession route to Congressional Cemetery and managed the participation of the various labor organizations contributing their effort or money to the ceremony. It was quickly decided that a monument should be erected to the victims at Congressional Cemetery. By next summer, a 25 foot monument was dedicated. Designed by Lot Flannery, it has the names of the twenty-one victims inscribed.

These three explosions received the most attention during the Civil War; yet, they were not the only explosions that occurred. In 1862 at Jackson, Mississippi, in 1864 at Augusta, Georgia, in 1862 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1864 at Waterbury, Connecticut, and at other locations in the North and South, working at an arsenal proved to be a very dangerous job…especially for women.

**Sources**

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**endnotes**

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2. Initial report by Josiah Gorgas to the Confederate Congress on May 7, 1861, on the state of the ordnance supplies to the Confederacy.
Ball Auditorium
World War I TREASURE

By Claire Samuelson, Director, OT&HC
There is a priceless gem stoutly sitting in Ball Auditorium. Ordnance Training & Heritage Center (OT&HC) artifact CCN 75338 has been witness to numerous retirements, town halls and various other ceremonies since finding a place of honor in Ball two years ago. However, the history of this 2.95” 1900 British Pack Mountain Howitzer goes back much longer than that—all the way to the Battle of Gallipoli.

The howitzer was built by Vickers, LTD of London England and has the serial number 4674. It is made of forged and machined steel with cast bronze parts and fittings. The gun itself weighs about 230 pounds while the gun and carriage are about 830 pounds; the range is 5,000 yards. It was designed to be broken down into four loads (wheels, gun, trail and cradle) for mule transport.

This howitzer was employed at the Dardanelles in 1915 when the killing fields of World War I expanded to the Gallipoli peninsula. World War I was the first global conflict with the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire against the Allied Forces of Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Japan and [later in the war] the United States. The Gallipoli Campaign occurred from April 1915 through January 1916. The Allies’ intent was to knock Turkey, allied with Germany, out of the war so they launched a naval attack against the small Turkish force. Nine months of fighting ensued, and it became clear to the Allies that retreat was their only option. The campaign was one the greatest victories for the Ottoman Empire and a staggering 250,000 casualties for the Allies, including 46,000 dead.1

This howitzer saw heavy action during those nine months. Its history between the time of the Allied withdrawal and 1931 is unknown. What is known is that in 1931 Colonel George Burling Jarrett brought the howitzer to the United States for his own private collection. Jarrett was the first official Director of the Ordnance Museum; he was the strongest advocate
for the museum during the scrap drives early in World War II. Although many pieces were lost during those drives, Jarrett’s enthusiasm and dedication assured the survival of this collection during the post World War II years.

According to the Historical Project Jacket paperwork at the OT&HC Jarrett turned the howitzer over to Colonel Charles McKnight in 1950 for display on his lawn. In 1965 Brigadier General David W. Hiester wrote to McKnight on behalf of Jarrett, who was then the Ordnance Museum Curator, requesting the consideration of donating the howitzer to the museum’s collection. McKnight replied that he would be pleased to donate the item and wrote in his letter of 20 January 1965, “This piece has been kept cosmolined and painted, but despite this attempt at maintenance, the interior of the tube is rusted and the breech-block is frozen.” There were other issues as well, including split spokes and general necessary refurbishment due to the elements. It was officially donated 27 January 1965 and put on exhibit in the Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. In 2000 money became available for the refurbishment of the howitzer and in August of that year it received a preservation / conservation overhaul.

When Base Realignment and Closure mandated consolidated of the Ordnance Center and School, the howitzer took another journey here to Fort Lee, Virginia. Far from the battlefields of WWI and much more than a lawn ornament, the 1900 British Pack Mountain Howitzer now watches over Ball Auditorium with strength and dignity.

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1 Pbs.org/greatwar/maps/maps_gallipoli
2 Letter between GEN Hiester and COL (R) McKnight, 20 JAN 1965, OT&HC HPJ CCN 75338.
Force 2025 and Beyond is a holistic and comprehensive undertaking that will develop Landpower concepts and capabilities for the Joint Force and integration into Doctrine, Organizations, Training, Material, Leadership, Personnel, Facilities and Policy (DOTMLPF-P).

As part of this holistic and comprehensive undertaking, the Ordnance Corps will deliver its concepts and capabilities through our core competencies, maintenance, ammunition, explosive ordnance disposal, and explosive safety to win in a complex world. In developing these concepts and capabilities, the Ordnance Corps is using the lens of the Army Operating Concept, Mission Command and the Army Warfighting Challenges.

The Army Operating Concept—Win in a Complex World, is the start point for developing Force 2025 and Beyond (F2025B). The Army Operating Concept (AOC) does not give a definitive answer to the problem of future conflict, rather it describes how the Army employs concepts and capabilities to prevent conflict, shape the security environment, and win wars. These concepts and capabilities are utilized through Mission Command. Mission Command is the execution of authority and direction by the commander using mission orders to enable disciplined initiative within the commander’s intent to empower agile and adaptive leaders in the conduct of unified land operations. During unified land operations, agile and adaptive leaders will face the Army Warfighting Challenges (AWFC). AWFC are enduring first order problems which solutions will improve the combat effectiveness of the current and future challenges. Using AOC, Mission Command, and the AWFC the Ordnance Corps is currently identifying its current and future challenges for the core competencies.

This coming May, the Ordnance Corps will be hosting the Ordnance 2025 (OD2025) Strategic Planning Symposium (SPS), where Senior Ordnance Leaders will discuss the current and future challenges of maintenance, ammunition, explosive ordnance disposal, explosive safety and leadership development. “The intent of the Strategic Planning Symposium, is to gather insights on the challenges that face the ordnance Corps that will result in the OD Strategic Vision to Ordnance 2025” (BG Haley, Chief Of Ordnance). The insights and potential solutions gathered from the OD2025 SPS will shape the Ordnance Strategic Vision (OSV), which will be the road map towards the Ordnance Corps essential role in F2025B.

The Ordnance Corps is the maintainer of our Army and the provider of its lethality; as we move forward we must understand the challenges of our core competencies to win in a complex world.

—BG Jack Haley
In addition to giving permanent recognition to those personnel who have made significant contributions to the Ordnance mission of the US Army, it preserves a substantial amount of historical information about the Ordnance Corps and its distinguished contributors. All are encouraged to visit the Ordnance Corps website to learn more about these remarkable Hall of Fame members, whose vast accomplishments range from technological advancements, to long and successful careers in service to the Ordnance Corps and its Soldiers, to acts of true valor and heroism.

Through close scrutiny by the Hall of Fame selection board, individuals are chosen solely on their significant contributions to the Ordnance Corps. Attainment of high rank or position is not necessarily indicative of a significant contribution to Ordnance. Likewise, rank, sex, ethnicity, and/or religion are not discriminators.

This year, we are proud to induct 12 new members into the Hall of Fame. They join the ranks of some of the greatest Americans in our history. The 2015 inductees from the historical category are Major General (retired) Christian Patte, Chief Warrant Officer Four (retired) Karl H. Saul, and Department of the Army Civilian (retired) Ralph F. Campoli. The 2015 inductees from the contemporary category are Colonel (retired) Kevin D. Lutz, Colonel (retired) H.W. (Bill) Suchting III, Chief Warrant Officer Five (retired) Patrick M. Endicott, Chief Warrant Officer Five (retired) Robert M. Vachon, Chief Warrant Officer Five (retired) Ralph E. Williams III, Command Sergeant Major (retired) Joseph R. Allen, Command Sergeant Major (retired) Edward T. Brooks Jr., Command Sergeant Major (retired) Mark S. Gerecht, and Department of the Army Civilian (retired) John W. Masengarb. The Ordnance School will honor these extraordinary new members at the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, scheduled to take place on the Ordnance Corp’s birthday, 14 May 2015, at Fort Lee, Virginia.
MAJOR GENERAL
Christine Patte

MG Christian Patte was born in Geneva, Switzerland on Oct. 25th, 1935. He immigrated to the United States in 1944 and obtained U.S. citizenship in 1950. MG Patte began his 33-year Army career by attending Ordnance Officer Basic Course at Aberdeen Proving Ground in August 1956.

Following a career of ever-increasing leadership responsibility, including service in Vietnam and battalion command, MG Patte was selected as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, Headquarters, United States Army, Europe, and Seventh Army, Heidelberg, Germany in 1984. He supervised the operations of all logistical activities of U.S. Army Forces in Europe, with direct control over the 200th Theater Materiel Management Center. The scope of his oversight included logistics units and activities in Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, and the BENELUX countries. He supervised the development and coordination of theater and strategic logistical plans and studies for NATO countries and the U.S.

From 1986 until his retirement in 1989, MG Patte served as Director of Logistics and Security Assistance for US Central Command (J4/J7) and was responsible for engineering, transportation, acquisition, supply, maintenance, services, prepositioning, host-nation support, and war planning. His responsibilities included directing a $1.7 billion yearly security assistance program, supervising offices and teams in 13 Middle-East and African countries, and an internal staff of 115 and 800 field personnel. He also programmed and budgeted, testified before US Congress, and negotiated support agreements and prepositioning equipment and materiel programs with foreign governments.

Following retirement in 1989, MG Patte served until 1996 as the Director of Logistics on the International Staff at Headquarters, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Brussels, Belgium.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FOUR
Karl H. Saul

CW4 Karl Saul was born in Remscheid, Germany on August 21st, 1941. He received his primary education and technical training as a Machinist in the German school system. After graduation, he immigrated to the United States. Once he received his ‘green card’, he became eligible for the draft and subsequently was drafted in the Army on February 21st, 1961. Following duty at the U.S. Army Ordnance School at Aberdeen Proving Ground, he received a direct appointment as a Warrant Officer 1, Allied Trades Technician in 1967.

In 1981, CW4 Saul returned to the Ordnance School as Chief of Warrant Officer Training in the Directorate of Training and Doctrine. In this position, he took the lead in developing and implementing the new Warrant Officer Candidate Course. Due to his efforts, the Ordnance Corps began training Warrant Officer Candidates in 1982, six months after Brigadier General Jackson Rozier Jr., Commandant of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School, approved the plan.

Two years later, CW4 Saul represented the Ordnance Corps in the Army’s ‘Total Warrant Officer Study’ as a subject matter expert on warrant officer training. His ideas profoundly influenced the future training and education of warrant officers as the Army Chief of Staff approved the TWOS recommendation to make pre-appointment candidate training mandatory for all Army warrant officers.

CW4 Saul culminated his 27-year career with his assignment to the Ordnance School in 1986 as the Chief of the Warrant Officer Proponent section in the Office of the Chief of Ordnance. He trained and mentored the Ordnance Corps warrant officer cadre at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Redstone Arsenal, and Army units around the world.

MR. Ralph F. Campoli

Ralph F. Campoli is a world-renowned design expert in the field of ordnance ammunition. His innovative engineering contributions during his 38-year army career at Picatinny Arsenal have enabled the United States Army to stand tall as the gold standard benchmark for lethality of tank-fired ammunition. His novel design concepts in kinetic energy and chemical energy projectiles have revolutionized tank firepower, providing our fighting forces with unmatched lethality.

In the late 1970s, test projectiles for a new 120mm tank weapon system experienced a variety of accuracy and structural failures. Mr. Campoli was requested to serve as a design con-
sultant. He recommended a crucial change in seal design, developed an obdurator and seal system, and was instrumental in designing a sabot system that supports an extremely long penetrator. During Operation Desert Storm, the M829A1, 120mm round was nicknamed the “Silver Bullet” for its capability to defeat enemy tanks at extended engagement ranges.

He exercised international influence with our strategic partners. He directly assisted the Republic of Korea to become self-sufficient in developing kinetic energy ammunition for their existing 90mm tank weapons inventory. His technical guidance and ability to work cross-culturally helped Korean military planners avoid up-gunning their tank fleet to 105mm, saving the country millions of dollars and ensuring the capability of force containment on the peninsula.

Mr. Campoli’s design contributions have stood the test of time. In armaments circles, he is often referred to as the “Godfather of Modern Tank Kinetic Energy Ammunition” and was intimately involved in development of such US Army rounds as the M735, M774, M797, M832, M833, M900, M829, M829A1, M829A2, and the M830A1.

**CONTEMPORARY INDUCTEES**

**COLONEL Kevin D. Lutz**

Colonel Kevin Lutz was born on June 29th, 1961 in Lansing, Michigan. He attended Ordnance Officer Basic Course and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Basic Course in 1984.

From 1984 to 1997, Colonel Lutz served in a myriad of Ordnance Officer career developmental positions. In 1997, Colonel Lutz was assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency as the Joint Counterterrorism/Explosive Ordnance Disposal Subject Matter Expert. His assessments on terrorist groups and their ability to employ weapons and explosive devices were widely disseminated and sought after by military, law enforcement, and federal government agencies.

In June of 2001, Colonel Lutz took command of the 63rd Ordnance Battalion (EOD) and deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan in 2002 for Operation Enduring Freedom. Colonel Lutz aggressively educated combat commanders at every level on the hazards of unexploded ordnance and worked to integrate EOD personnel into every combat mission. From this point forward, Colonel Lutz established himself as an expert on the tactics, techniques, and procedures for dealing with Improvised Explosive Devices.

Colonel Lutz culminated his Army career by twice commanding the Combined Joint Task Force – Troy at Camp Victory, Iraq, from 2005 to 2006 and 2008 to 2009. His leadership pulled together all of the disparate elements of the Counter IED world in intelligence, operations, and technical and tactical exploitation, and fused them together into a functional operational concept. Combined Joint Task Force Troy’s C-IED efforts throughout the joint area of operations undoubtedly saved countless lives and served as the basis for future C-IED operations and doctrine within the Department of Defense.

**COLONEL Henry W. (Bill) Suchting III**

Colonel Henry W. (Bill) Suchting III graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1975 and began his 28-year Army career.

He achieved battalion command in 1992 when he was assigned to the 194th Separate Armored Brigade. This support battalion maintained over 6000 Soldiers with an annual budget of over $10 million dollars. By reducing repair timelines, despite the deployment of troops to support operations in the Middle East, Haiti and Cuba, he increased equipment readiness rates of the brigade and maintained that improvement over his two year span of command.

Following his assignments as the Director of Logistics at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and as the G-4 for the 4th Infantry Division, he became the Commander of the Letterkenny Army Depot in 1998. In addition to being responsible for the rebuild and overhaul of combat and tactical weapon systems, he relentlessly explored business opportunities resulting in a 25% increase in workload, while leveraging opportunities during a time of decreasing operating personnel and resources.

In 2000, Colonel Suchting became the G-4 for III Corps at Fort Hood, Texas. While reducing deployment timelines by managing a program to acquire or repair over 3,000 transportable MILVAN containers, he organized an effort for III Corps to lead the Army into the Single Stock Fund.

Colonel Suchting culminated his career as the Executive Officer to the Commander of U.S. Army Materiel Command in 2001. He advised the commander on logistics and acquisition topics of
interest and directed the activities of the office of the commander to include scheduling, briefings, correspondence, and travel.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE
Patrick M. Endicott

CWO Five Patrick Endicott was born in Puyallup, Washington on February 25th, 1943 and enlisted in the Army in 1963 as a Power Generator Specialist. His initial assignments include; generator operator mechanic, instructor, and construction equipment repairman at Caribou, ME, Fort Belvoir VA, and Fort Lewis WA, before his appointment to Warrant Officer in 1969.

Over the course of the next 25 years, CW5 Endicott honed his leadership and skills across the country and around the world, serving in operations in Vietnam, Bosnia, and the Middle East.

In 1996, he was assigned to the 577th Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri as the Supervisor Training Specialist/Chief, Professional Development Branch, U.S. Army Engineer School. He built a winning cohesive team of fourteen civilian and military instructional staff, fostering continuous improvement and innovations resulting in ten courses of instruction; including non-commissioned officer and Warrant Officer Basic and Advanced courses, in addition to the maintenance training for the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced courses.

In 1999, Chief Endicott’s 39-year Army career culminated in his assignment to the U.S. Army Evaluation Center in Alexandria Virginia, where he served as Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Warrant Officer. He developed, coordinated, and implemented testing and evaluation for nine of thirty-seven initiatives assessed during the Joint Contingency Forces Advanced Warfighting Experiment held at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He concluded his assignment as the Executive Officer for the Close Combat Directorate whose mission was to plan and conduct independent evaluations of advanced concepts for Weapons and Munitions programs for Infantry, Engineer, and Armor in support of the Army materiel acquisition process.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE
Robert M. Vachon

CW5 Robert M. Vachon was born October 5, 1954, in Manchester, New Hampshire. He entered the Army in 1973, completed basic and advanced individual training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. In 1976, Vachon was assigned as the Motor Sergeant with the 1st Battalion 73rd Field Artillery, Fort Bragg, North Carolina until his selection to the 1st Ordnance Warrant Officer Candidate Course at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland in February 1983. Vachon was selected as the 1st Candidate Company Commander and graduated from the Warrant Officer Candidate Course on September 14, 1983.

Over the next 20 years as a warrant officer with multiple assignments in Germany and the U.S., Vachon participated in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia in 1992, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti in 1994, Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Joint Guard in Bosnia in 1996 and 1997. CW5 Vachon culminated his career as the 3rd Army Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) C4 Automotive Maintenance Readiness Officer responsible for maintaining high operational readiness rates within U.S. Central command during the ground phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. During this period, he worked closely with the CFLCC C4 cell in identifying the necessary repair parts for ground equipment and the development of Class IX push packages for the ground phase into Baghdad, as well as spear-heading several maintenance initiatives that contributed to the exceptional readiness rates of non-combat ground fleets for Division and above sized units.

CW5 Vachon retired in December 2004 after more than 31 years of service, but continues to contribute to the Army and Ordnance Corps, most recently as the as the Program Manager for the Chief of Staff, Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) Program.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE
Ralph E. Williams III

Chief Warrant Officer Five Ralph Williams III was born on March 5th, 1958 at Warren, Ohio. He entered the Army
in 1976 as a Tank Turret Mechanic. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. During his tenure as an enlisted soldier, he progressed to the rank of Sergeant First Class, prior to his appointment to Warrant Officer One in October 1986.

In 2003, while assigned to the 703rd Main Support Battalion, he deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom and organized a Logistical Release Point that supported the entire 3rd Infantry Division and a Brigade Combat Team from the 101st Airborne Division. As a result of his efforts, CW5 Williams supported more than 22,000 Soldiers with the distribution of over 6 million meals, 2.5 million gallons of water, and 300 short tons of repair parts.

Following an assignment with the Weapons/Metalworking Services Department at the Ordnance School at Aberdeen Proving Ground, CW5 Williams culminated his Army career as Chief of the Warrant Officer Professional Development Division from 2008 to 2010, where he was responsible for the planning, directing, and execution of Professional Military Education for more than 1,500 Warrant Officers in the 913A, 914A, and 915A/E career management fields. During this time, he helped in the relocation of the Ordnance School from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland to Fort Lee, Virginia into the new state of the art facility for the Ordnance School.

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
Joseph R. Allen

CSM Joseph Allen entered the United States Army in July 1975, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where he attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training. Upon completion, he was assigned as a light wheel vehicle mechanic in the 5th Signal Command, Worms, Germany.

During CSM Allen’s 37 years of service, his state-side assignments included multiple tours with the 82nd Airborne Division and XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Virtually all of his assignments have been with Soldiers serving in tactical organizations, many of which have deployed in support of direct combat. CSM Allen has served in many of the major operations of the past thirty years; Grenada, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and multiple deployments to Iraq.

In 2010, CSM Allen was requested by General Lloyd Austin and CSM Joe Allen had the immense responsibility to develop Iraqi Forces to take on necessary roles to protect Iraqi National Security, to wind down the U.S. military mission, and to bring our Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Marines home safely.

According to General Austin, “I’ve never known a more courageous and selfless individual in my 36-plus years in uniform.” At CSM Allen’s retirement ceremony on March 30th, 2012, General Austin, the current Vice-Chief of Staff of the Army, stated; “I’ve never worked with a more qualified non-commissioned officer. He was more than just a command sergeant major, my right hand. He was, and is, a true friend.”

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
Edward T. Brooks, Jr.

Command Sergeant Major Edward Brooks Jr. has distinguished himself by selflessly serving his country for over 31 years. He joined the Army on June 30th, 1980 and progressed through the enlisted ranks of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps. During his career, he served on two combat tours, several hazardous duty deployments and held numerous key assignments and leadership positions, culminating as the Chief, Enlisted Career Manager, Personnel Development Office, Office Chief of Ordnance.

In 2005, CSM Brooks served as the Command Sergeant Major for the 3rd Sustainment Brigade Command and led six battalions of over 6,000 Soldiers as the unit transformed through modularity. CSM Brooks was a tactician whose concern for his Soldiers could be seen throughout his formation as he oversaw the training and personal readiness of his Soldiers as they prepared for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. During his tenure he orchestrated 10 flawless deployment, redeployment and change of responsibility ceremonies and was sought out by other Senior NCO’s for guidance.

While assigned as the Chief, Enlisted Career Manager Personnel Development Office, Office Chief of Ordnance from 2007 to 2011, he diligently managed 35 Military Occupational Specialties consisting of over 108,000 Soldiers in the Active Army, National Guard and Reserve. He conducted critical research and analysis and advised the Chief of Ordnance and Reg-
ternal Command Sergeant Major on personnel policies and doctrine which enabled the Chief of Ordnance, Senior Leaders at the Department of the Army, Human Resources Command, Training and Doctrine Command, and Force Management Support Agency to make timely, intelligent, well informed decisions impacting the future of the Army and Ordnance Corps.

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
Mark S. Gerecht

CSM Mark Gerecht was born on May 27th, 1963 in Miami, Florida and joined the Army through the delayed entry program on December 24th, 1980. He began basic training as Private First Class at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on June 9th 1981. He graduated as an Honor Graduate and was assigned to Fort Stewart, Georgia as a Field Artilleryman. In 1986, then-SSG Gerecht, reenlisted in the Military Occupational Specialty of 55G, Nuclear Weapons Specialist and was assigned to the 64th Ordnance Company in Fischbach, Germany.

Upon graduation from the Sergeants Major Academy in 2002, he was assigned as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major for the 6th Ordnance Battalion. His ability to develop strong teams resulted in his battalion being selected to brief both the Sergeant Major of the Army and Sergeant Major of the Army for South Korea. CSM Gerecht insisted that all briefings would be conducted by junior enlisted Soldiers as they were the individuals that made things happen. The briefings were later identified as the highlight of the tours.

In 2004, CSM Gerecht culminated his 27-year Army career as the Garrison Command Sergeant Major position at Redstone Arsenal. He assisted the Garrison Commander in supporting a community of 138 organizations and a customer base of approximately 250,000 personnel. He coordinated working relationships with Congressional aides, the offices of Senator Shelby and Sessions, and 2 local mayor’s offices, and began the preparations for the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Committee decisions and its impact upon Redstone Arsenal.

MR. John W. Masengarb

Mr. John Masengarb served as a valuable leader within the ammunition community from 1964-1996 during a time of great change for the ammunition mission. He was actively involved in all facets of the ammunition business within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of the Army, Army Materiel Command, and the predecessor commands to the Joint Munitions Command by providing expertise on the joint nature of conventional ammunition business. Serving over 40 years of federal service, Mr. Masengarb remains a knowledgeable spokesman and advocate for various facets of the ammunition mission.

Mr. Masengarb’s dedication and contribution to the ammunition mission can be traced throughout his career. After finishing his Accounting degree at Augustana University in Rock Island, Illinois, he began his career within the ammunition sector in 1964 at U.S. Army Weapons Command (WECOM) at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. While serving as a Sergeant in the Illinois National Guard, his first position at the Arsenal was as an Accountant for the Procurement Appropriation, Finance and Accounting Division.

In 1988, he was promoted to GS-15 as the Deputy Director of the Defense Ammunition Directorate in the U.S Army Ammunition Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM). He was responsible for day-to-day operations at the National Inventory Control Point and National Maintenance Point. He ensured the organization processed requisitions on time, ensured stock availability, and reviewed and balanced procurement programs. This role was critical to executing the entire ammunition mission. Through his leadership the command improved product delivery, quality, on-time performance, and customer response. In 2009, Mr. Masengarb was awarded the Paul Greenberg Award for lifetime contributions to the ammunition industrial base.

The Ordnance School is accepting 2017 Ordnance Hall of Fame nominations!

Anyone may nominate a person that has made a positive significant contribution to the Ordnance Corps. Ordnance Regulation 870-3, Ordnance Hall of Fame, complete with eligibility requirements, nomination form and examples can be found on the Ordnance Corps website at http://www.goordnance.army.mil/hof/hall_of_fame.html.
CompTIA Computer Technology Industry Association A+ Certification

The 94F Course started a pilot program to certify Students in Computer Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) A+ Certification. This training will enhance the troubleshooting and fault isolation capabilities of Soldiers performing field level repair of computer based electronic and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear detection equipment. The training strategy for the 94F Course must evolve to meet the technical demands of today’s emerging technology. It is essential that the 94F Soldier have an understanding of computer systems and networking fundamentals to ensure unit commanders are able to fully maximize all facets of their special electronic devices and equipment.

CompTIA A+ Certified 94F Computer/Detection System Repairers will give the Field Commanders leverage to achieve maximum system operational capabilities by reducing diagnostic and troubleshooting down time. Upon being awarded the 94F MOS, Soldiers will enter their career field as a Computer/Detection System Repairer. The CompTIA A+ Computer Certification is what industries require their technicians to acquire.

94F10 Soldiers having A+ certification will be a benefit to the overall electronic maintenance concept. The knowledge gained while preparing for the certification will enhance the 94F when understanding faults presented in computer-based electronic systems.

A+ certification would enhance the 94F10 when troubleshooting the Blue Force Tracker (BFT), Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicle (NBCRV), Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2), Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T), Rocket/Airfield/Mortar Warning System (RAM-WARN), Nett Warrior, and various C2 systems (CPOF, BCS3, BFT TOC Kits). All of these systems are computer-based and many of them have Networking capabilities.

The concepts learned during training develop the ability to distinguish between hardware and software faults. This is an important concept when performing field level troubleshooting on the above mentioned systems.

Feedback received from Electronic Maintenance Warrant Officers. The feed-
back provided information about issues 94F Soldiers are experiencing relating to Automation Systems. They also provided benefits there would be to the field in having these 94F10 level Soldiers certified in CompTIA A+.

CW2 Holcomb, Support Operation Maintenance Officer (3rd Special Forces Group, Airborne), stated “I think that providing our Soldiers the opportunity to gain the A+ certification is a huge benefit that enhances a capability within the SF command. As you know, most vendors these days make most their equipment and components proprietary. I have been lucky for the most part here to explain to most vendors that if they allow us to gain the capability (cable, software, parts) to either upgrade/fix their equipment, that we would be able to take a lot of responsibility off their shoulders. Besides, majority of our equipment that is issued as some teams are doing their load out for deployment. That said most vendors down range do not leave the major FOBs so I try to capitalize on that opportunity and explain that our equipment does not come off the battlefield for repair or service.”

CW3 Crespo, Senior Electronics Maintenance Officer (Maintenance Readiness Branch), stated “Providing this certification to our 94Fs is a great initiative. However, something that we tend to forget is that we are still struggling with the inability of working on a workstation (desktop or laptop). For instance, as a former S6, part of our responsibility was to manage that the lifecycle program. This obviously consisted of replacing old systems with “updated” computers. Along with this, we were obligated to take the fully functional workstations off the network and Active Directory (AD). With this said, all the new computers were under warranty and our 94Fs were limited to the amount of work they were authorized to do. The S6 was still compelled to call in a work request through DELL, or whatever other manufacturer the piece of equipment pertained to.”

If there is a possibility of getting our Students certified through a manufacturer (primarily DELL and HP) then the 94F Course would be taking an even longer step in developing a well-rounded 94F. Repairers would provide Electronic Maintenance Shops an added capability that is greatly needed across any unit. Repairers will not only be able to troubleshoot and replace parts but they will also be able to order repair parts at no cost to the unit, if the computer is still under warranty.

Technology will continue to emerge and be the leading factor of success for future conflicts. If our Soldiers are able to gain this certification then they can enable our Battalion Commanders by providing this capability to the War fighter on the battlefield. While deployed, we contact teams to repair, upgrade, install/de-install various C4ISR platforms and communication packages on FOSOV and non-standard vehicles, run cables, and possibly help and assist in setting up networks if it is a new location. As 94F Soldiers, we provide support for anything electronic. The equipment our Soldiers might see may not even be Army procured. We support all of SOCOM while forward. Having a basic understanding of computer/electronic technology continues to put us on the leading edge of the battlefield providing world class support.

Producing 94F10 Soldiers that have A+ certification will provide a foundation for inserting these technically skilled Soldiers into the maintenance of electronic systems that are currently procured without sustainability plans.

I conducted After Action Reviews and facilitated discussions with SMEs, instructors, and students taking the certification to align material to improve examination success rates. There were a few areas that were identified that should be implemented in the Module D Annex that would benefit the 94F Students prior to completing the CompTIA A+ examination. Lesson in mail transfer protocol instructions should be taught. Practical exercises dealing with command prompt instructions and customer oriented scenarios rather than direct questions. The difference between RS422 and RS232 need to be discussed.

There are a few areas that I think will improve the training for CompTIA A+ preparation. Placing the computer-based annexes at the beginning of the course will provide more time for coverage. Developing a virtual box will help with command prompt exercises. Students should be allowed to sign out an A+ book to take to their quarters to help with self-studies. The course should add more security and networking questions.

CompTIA decided to help soldiers transition from the military into IT careers. The CompTIA website stated “Inspired by the courage and dedication shown by our American troops, CompTIA created the Troops to Tech Careers program to provide opportunities and resources for veterans interested in the rapidly growing IT field. Troops to Tech Careers are designed to ease the transition from military to civilian life by providing a pathway to a successful career in IT. It is our mission to ensure that returning veterans and their spouses who have an interest in an IT career can receive the education, credentialing and job placement resources to be successful in this growing field.” CompTIA A+ Certification will not only help 94F Soldiers become better repairers. It will also help these technical Soldiers transition into a technical career after the Army.
2LTs Fagedes, Cook, Kerwood and Ahl prepare to CASEVAC a casualty during a convoy at BOLDFTX.

— picture taken by 2LT Emily Thompson
Ft. Lee, VA— For Ordnance second lieutenants (2LTS), Ordnance Basic Officer Leadership Course (OD BOLC) at Ft. Lee, VA is the first stop. In the halls of the Army Logistics University (ALU), seasoned officers, NCOs and civilians begin to bridge the gap for newly commissioned officers.

At BOLC, Ordnance 2LTS are mixed in classes of 30-35 people. With all three components (active, guard and reserve) mixed together, this provides the variety of people that the new 2LTS can expect to find in the force.

Many 2LTS have received their duty station/assignment, while some 2LTS are headed straight for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) School. Either way, the curriculum that ALU provides these new officers is the same. While some of the new officers came through Officer Candidate School (OCS), most of the students are directly from Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). For both sets of students, it is the first time they have been exposed to Ordnance concepts.

The initial part of BOLC is the “skeleton” of the course. Students get a refresher on tactics, taught by Infantry NCOs. The tactics training consists of marksmanship, convoy operations and refreshers
on Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS). The first week in the classroom involves learning the “Army way of writing” as well as the proper way to conduct a brief. This first month is concluded with an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT).

In the weeks to follow, 2LTs learn how to manage a maintenance shop, the Army supply system, ammunition and become certified on the Blue Force Tracker. Programs such as Integrated Logistics Analysis Program (ILAP) and a 40-hour course on Global Combat Support System—Army (GCSS-Army) are also introduced.

For new (and seasoned) soldiers, this is a lot to learn. But echoed throughout the course is the understanding that the instructors are 100% invested in the current and continued success of the students. For those eager to truly understand the concepts and the programs that Ordnance officers manage on a daily basis, the tools and mentorship needed for success are provided.

The few National Guard 2LTs who have already been drilling with their unit are able to provide insight and clarity for the students headed to the reserve component. They share their experience with working under tighter timelines and fewer resources, and this enhances the learning experience for other reserve 2LTs in the class.

It’s not all work. Located near Richmond, VA and Washington D.C, Ft. Lee provides ample opportunities for 2LTs to explore an area of the country that they may not have had the opportunity to visit. In addition to off duty activities, OD BOLC also hosts a dining-in. This gives 2LTs a clear picture of what to expect when they attend their unit’s formal functions.

Ordnance BOLC continues to provide the force with capable and confident new officers. These 2LTs are prepared to begin their careers as “warrior logisticians.”
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