

2015 Ammunition Hall of Fame Inductee **MICHAEL DEVINE**



Mr. Michael Devine's career spanned 36 years and ranged from success as a bench scientist working on liquid and solid propellants and small arms ammunition through leadership as ACAT-1D Project Management, Deputy PEO and ARDEC Director levels. Early in his career, Mr. Devine worked on a team that used modern instrumentation to determine that the jamming of the M-16 rifle was caused by components of propellant in ball ammunition. Reducing the amount of calcium carbonate in the 5.56 mm ammunition produced much better weapon reliability. Mr. Devine received a patent for a technique of encapsulating certain small arms propellant ingredients so that they were not affected during the early stages of propellant combustion, again, further improving ammunition/weapon interface. Mr. Devine spearheaded neutron radiographic study of liquid propellant combustion in 20mm size regenerative LP guns. He was also engaged in the earliest attempts at developing caseless small arms ammunition, producing results that are still relevant today as this effort continues.

After success in the ARDEC Executive Development program and a stint in Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) as Staff Associate to the DUSD Tactical Warfare, Mr. Devine was promoted to be a charter member of PEO Armaments as this new acquisition organizational paradigm was in its infancy. In this role he exercised technical oversight of a range of ammunition and weapons projects. When the Sense and Destroy Armor program (SADARM) was forced to do an early downselect between two contractor primes with differing technical approaches, Mr. Devine played a pivotal role in merging the designs, taking the best aspects of both, as well as an acquisition strategy that included formation of a Joint Venture relationship between the contractor primes. Later when Congress moved to terminate the program due to poor test performance, Mr. Devine was assigned to the PM Office to attempt a reversal. A new strategy was developed and congressional language enabled one last attempt at fixing the problems and a demonstration at Yuma Proving Grounds. In a space of several months the contractor/government team performed in spectacular fashion, with the round demonstrating 125% of its requirement in field tests and given the approval to proceed to Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP). This was a revolutionary performance for artillery ammunition, and Mr. Devine was recognized as playing a key leadership role. While this was a very significant advancement, the key personnel and many of the technology lessons learned also laid the ground work for what became the Excalibur round, the highly successful next generation of smart fire and forget ammunition. SADARM performed in superior fashion in Gulf War 1, and Excalibur continues to perform successfully in various engagements.

Another significant accomplishment of the PM Office during his leadership tenure was resolution of the 795 base ignition problem.

Mr. Devine was promoted to the position of SES Deputy PEO Ground Combat Support Systems (GCSS) in 1997. This office managed numerous ammunition and weapon programs, and was the precursor to PEO Ammo. After 2 ½ years of successful performance as DPEO, Mr.

Devine moved into the position of (SES) ARDEC Technical Director, and subsequently overall Director when the one star commander position was eliminated. Mr. Devine retired from federal service in 2004 after a successful 5 year tenure as Director. This period was marked by numerous type classifications and fieldings, and national quality awards and Army Large Lab of the Year recognition.

Mr. Devine holds two patents, has made numerous technical presentations, received awards and recognition including two Army R&D Achievement Awards, the Army Meritorious and Exceptional Civilian Service Awards, the Order of Saint Barbara, Association of the United States Army Citation for Exceptional Service in Support of National Defense, and the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Firepower Award for Management.

Mr. Devine has BS in Physics from St. Joseph University, MS in Physics from Drexel University and additional graduate work in Physics from Stevens Institute of Technology. Key training experiences include the Executive Level Program Management Course at the Defense Systems Management College, the Contemporary Executive Development Course at George Washington University, the Senior Executive Fellows program at the JFK School of Government, Harvard University, and National Security Studies at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University.