US Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame Nomination

NOMINEE DATA

NOMINEE'S NAME: Mr. James Q. Wheeler

RANK/GRADE: GS-15, DA Civilian

TITLE AT RETIREMENT: Mr. James Q. Wheeler

DATE/PLACE OF BIRTH: 1 July 1950

DATE RETIRED: N/A

DATE DECEASED: 5 February 2007

HOME ADDRESS: Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

LAST DUTY POSITION: Director, U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center

SIGNIFICANT CITATIONS/AWARDS:

Citations:

Department of Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award (2)
Joint Logistics Commanders Certificate of Merit
Association of the United States Army Citation for Exceptional Service in Support of National Defense – presented by Vice Chief of Staff of the Army
NDIA Citation for Exceptional Service in Support of National Defense
Ammunition Manager of the Year, 1995
John L. Byrd, Jr. Memorial Award for Demilitarization, 1999
Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe Award, 2005
John L. Bryd, Jr. Excellence in Demilitarization, May 2007 (posthumously)
AMC Outstanding Installation Value Engineering Program Award, 2007, (posthumously)
Army Superior Unit Award – All U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command installations were awarded the ASUA for periods from 26 Dec 2004 – 27 Dec 2006.

Honors:

Building Dedication, Defense Ammunition Center, Classroom Building 4 named the James Q. Wheeler Training Facility
Joint Munitions Command Conference Center dedicated and renamed the James Q. Wheeler Conference Center

SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENTS/POSITIONS:

1979 - 1980	QASAS Internship, Savannah Army Depot, Conventional Ammunition, Missile/Chemical and Nuclear weapons Branches, Defense Ammunition Center, Savanna, IL
1980 - 1982	QASAS, Savanna Army Depot, Savanna, IL
1982 - 1984	Planner/Estimator, Savanna Army Depot, Savanna, IL
1984 - 1985	General Foreman, Savanna Army Depot, Savanna, IL
1985 - 1986	Director, Defense Ammunition Directorate, U.S. Army Armament Munitions and Chemical Command, Rock Island, IL
1986 - 1987	Logistics Management Specialist, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Alexandria, VA
1987 - 1989	Director, Logistics Review and Assistance Office, Defense Ammunition Center, Savanna Army Depot, Savanna, IL
1989 - 1993	Executive Director of the Joint Ordnance Commanders' Group/Chief of Joint Activities Office, U.S. Army Armament Munitions and Chemical Command, Rock Island, IL
1993 - 1998	Director, Technology Directorate, U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center, McAlester, OK
1998 - 2007	Director, Defense Ammunition Center and of the U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety, Defense Ammunition Center, McAlester, OK
2002 - 2003	Temporary Duty, G/3/5/7 Deputy for Operations, Joint Munitions Command, Rock Island, IL

EDUCATION:

Civilian

1972	BA, Southwest Missouri State University
	Defense Ammunition Center, QASAS Training
	Coursework, William Jewell College, Liberty Missouri
	Coursework, University of Missouri
2005	MS, East Central University, Oklahoma

LIST OF POSSIBLE SOURCES FOR FURTHER INFO ABOUT NOMINEE:

Joint Munitions Command History Office, ROCK-AMSJM-HI@conus.army.mil

MAJOR CONTRUBITIONS TO U.S. ARMY ORDNANCE:

Mr. James Q. Wheeler served a distinguished career of 28 years as a U.S. Department of Army Civilian. Mr. Wheeler unexpectedly passed away on February 5, 2007, ending his tenure as the Director of the U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center (DAC), February 1,1998 - February 4, 2007. His leadership and contributions to the field of ordnance throughout his career and while at the Defense Ammunition Center are significant and worthy of induction to the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame. Mr. Wheeler's contributions to the U.S. Army Materiel Command, U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command, U.S. Army Joint Munitions and Lethality Life

Cycle Management Command, entire ammunition community, and Ordnance Corps are lasting and positively affect the future of ammunition safety. Posthumously, he has been continuously honored and awarded for his contributions to the ammunition mission and explosives safety. Mr. Wheeler dedicated his life and career to the Army. In his memory and in honor of his service, this nomination speaks to his numerous accomplishments, selfless service and contributions to the ammunition and ordnance field. Mr. Wheeler's contributions have been honored and noted by all levels of Army senior leadership and his loss has been deeply felt in the ammunition community. General Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command spoke highly of Mr. Wheeler's achievements and stated, "In order to run a complex organization, you must surround yourself with the best and Jim was one of the best. Jim was an exemplary leader, teacher and mentor."

Mr. Wheeler graduated from Southwest Missouri State University in 1972. He began his career in federal service in 1979 as a Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance) (QASAS) intern at the Savanna Army Depot, Savanna, IL, former home of the Defense Ammunition Center. As an intern and then professional member of the QASAS Career Program, Mr. Wheeler gained critical skills, knowledge and technique that carried him throughout his career into various levels of ammunition management. He was trained to inspect, test and evaluate ammunition to determine degrees of serviceability and rates of deterioration. He learned and practiced all aspects of safe ammunition storage, handling, transportation, use and disposal. He learned all aspects of transportation of ammunition materiel and explosives, including propriety of stowage, blocking, bracing, and suitability of transport equipment. He assured these disciplines were properly exercised and that ammunition maintenance programs were conducted in a safe and proper manner. As a QASAS he provided sound advice and assistance to U.S. troop units during combat and training operations, including range operations, malfunction investigations, field storage requirements, supply/resupply rate computations, and restrictions on ammunition use. Mr. Wheeler ensured chemical surety and performance of surety officer functions and provided technical advice and assistance in the development of ammunition support doctrine and in studies undertaken to resolve ammunition logistics problems.

Mr. Wheeler rotated through QASAS assignments at the depot. He frequently served as Branch and Division Chief. As a QASAS he was in charge of centrally controlled function test program and pre-renovation tests. In this role he reviewed and prepared technical data, analyzed budget and manpower requirements, prepared cost estimates, wrote Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and identified and requisitioned supplies. He also requisitioned equipment, scheduled tests, accomplished tests, recommended condition codes and functional code assignments. Shortly into his career, Mr. Wheeler became the General Foreman at Savanna Army Depot where he managed all depot ammunition life cycle operations. During this period, he gained extensive hands-on experience in budgeting, logistics, planning, ammunition safety and serviceability, testing, equipment, and operations in depots, plants, AF bomb dumps, Navy coastals, and Marine Corps and Army Ammunition Supply Points. This experience would be invaluable as he accepted more challenging assignments in the ammunition field.

Mr. Wheeler challenged himself and branched into roles that required knowledge of the entire ammunition commodity and industrial base structure. After Savanna Army Depot, Mr.

Wheeler worked in the Armament Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM) Defense Ammunition Directorate (1985-86); U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) Deputy Chief of Staff for Conventional Ammunition (1986-87); Defense Ammunition Center (DAC) Director for Logistics Review and Assistance Office (1987-89); the Executive Director of the Joint Ordnance Commanders Group (JOCG)/Chief, AMCCOM Joint Activities Office (1989-93); Associate Director for Technology at DAC (1993-98); HQ, JMC as the Deputy for Operations G3/7 (2002-03); and then as the Director of the Defense Ammunition Center (1998-2007).

Mr. Wheeler accepted an assignment at the U.S. Army Materiel Command in Alexandria, VA from 1986-1987. As a Staff Action Officer he worked on demilitarization, maintenance and supply operations for conventional ammunition. He developed major command policy and regulations pertaining to the above subjects. He served at the AMC contact for demil, ammunition peculiar equipment, depot operations, maintenance, ongoing studies, storage, and training. At AMC he applied life cycle management as applicable to ammunition.

As the Executive Director, JOCG and Chief of the Joint Activities Office, AMCCOM from 1989 to 1993, Mr. Wheeler reported directly to the Commanding General as advisor on Joint Service matters. Mr. Wheeler served as the decision package manager for the Single Manager for Conventional Ammunition (SMCA) and non-SMCA conventional ammunition missions performed by the Army. He provided technical, policy, personnel and financial advice to JOCG principals. He oversaw daily operations of 22 subgroups which developed DOD SMCA programs, policies, and procedures; and joint coordinated research, development, test and evaluation (RDTE) programs. Mr. Wheeler chaired the JOCG Executive Committee which represents senior conventional ammunition development, acquisition, and logistics base managers in dealing with the challenge of the Joint Service ammunition missions. He represented the Army's position on many joint studies and panels throughout his time in this position and served on the Command Senior Program Budget Advisory Committee and the AMCCOM Corporate Board.

In the capacity of Chief of Demilitarization Technology at the Defense Ammunition Center (DAC), Mr. Wheeler lead efforts to support demilitarization, environmental policy, and development areas for munitions users with the Services, government agencies, industry, and academia. Specific projects he worked on included the Joint Service Large Rocket Motor Demilitarization (JSLRMD) program which transitioned plans and designs into prototypes, demonstrated and validated the technology, and established a master plan for the JSLRMD program. He also executed the Munitions Inventory Disposition Action System (MIDAS) program and supported other special DOD/ Defense Nuclear Agency projects. He chaired the JOCG Demil Subgroup, the ADPA Demil Section, the Demil Users Group and the Annual JOCG/ADPA global demil symposium and exhibition. He managed a total of 40 demilitarization programs. He participated in numerous other joint panels related to demil and the environment. As Chairman of the JOCG Munitions Demil/Disposal group he prepared numerous reports including the *1995 Joint Demil Study for Congress*.

One of Mr. Wheeler's most prominent roles began 1 February 1998 when he was appointed Director of the Defense Ammunition Center (DAC). The Defense Ammunition Center heritage traces back to1971 at Savanna Army Depot, Savanna, IL, where DAC

predecessor commands were located. Since its inception the School/Center has provided a broad range of services to military and civilian personnel. Mr. Wheeler was familiar to the organization and had been connected to it throughout his career in every capacity he held. Before his assignment as Director, Mr. Wheeler had the distinct responsibility of executing the BRAC mandated relocation of DAC from Savanna Army Depot in Illinois to the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, OK. Mr. Wheeler's direction was critical to the success of the organization as it relocated while continuing operations.

As the DAC Director, Mr. Wheeler was responsible for executing DAC's mission to support the joint ammunition community worldwide with engineering, training, safety, technology development/transition, and technical assistance. Mr. Wheeler managed execution of the QASAS and Ammunition Management (AM) Programs that provide over 1,000 civilian careerists to the field worldwide. DAC is responsible for providing critical ammunition related training to more than 35,000 military and civilian students annually. Mr. Wheeler skillfully managed his workforce of 200 civilians to conduct DAC's mission to provide the military Services ammunition training, demilitarization technology, explosives safety, engineering, career management, and technical assistance through logistics support. Mr. Wheeler ensured all facets of DAC's missions were executed to include: civilian ammunition training through its Ammunition School; explosives safety support to the Department of the Army (DA) through its Technical Center for Explosives Safety; logistics engineering support; assistance to all DA installations in areas of supply, maintenance, transportation; he managed two DA career programs for ammunition expertise (1) QASAS through its Ammunition Civilian Career Management Office and (2) Ammunition Managers through its Ammunition Management Career Program Office ; and managed demilitarization R&D initiatives for the Army's conventional ammunition and Joint Service large rocket motors.

In 1998 Mr. Wheeler represented the Army in a meeting with the Republic of China. He and a group of DoD representatives shared ammunition safety and demilitarization information with Senior Chinese military officials. During this five day trip Mr. Wheeler briefed several representatives and organizations from the Chinese Ministry of Defense regarding ammunition storage, transportation, safety, and emerging demil and disposal technologies developed by the U.S. government, industry and academia.

Mr. Wheeler also had extensive involvement with the establishment of the Republic of Korea Demilitarization Facility (DEFAC) conventional ammunition demilitarization resource recovery and recycling. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed April 1999 between USFK and ROK MND (Ministry for National Defense) calling for demilitarization of excess/obsolete US munitions. DAC

Mr. Wheeler also played a significant role in the development and fielding of MIDAS (Munitions Items Disposition Action System). MIDAS is an ongoing program managed by the U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center (DAC) in McAlester, OK with programmatic support provided by Argonne National Laboratory since 1993. The mission of MIDAS is to provide a central source of the most accurate information on the structure and composition data for conventional and missile munitions. MIDAS supports demil planning; resource reuse, recovery and recycling; DEMIL technology R&D applications; and environmental permitting and impact

assessments. The Defense Ammunition Center Technology Directorate shall establish and maintain the MIDAS Program. This program is designated to provide the most accurate information available to DOD and governmental activities involved in recycling, recovery, reuse and disposal of unwanted munitions. All conventional explosive ordnance, whether it remains usable or has been designated for disposal, will be characterized and included into the MIDAS Database. To date over 11 countries and 43 states access and use the MIDAS system.

After September 11th 2001, DAC developed AMMO HELP at the guidance of Mr. Jim Wheeler. AMMOHELP is an informational database that allows Soldiers and civilians to ask questions on any aspect of ammunition and explosives management, operations, and use. Questions are submitted via phone, e-mail or through the AMMOHELP website. AMMOHELP increased responsiveness to DAC customers. Mr. Wheeler established the AMMOHELP line to enable DAC to centralize ammunition related questions. AMMOHELP has continued to be a tool used to support Warfighters, leaders across the Services, and received a citation for Exceptional Service at the 2003 Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting. The help line has generated and answered over 3,800 questions since inception in 2002. His initiatives to improve support to the Warfighter and civilians in the Global War on Terror did not stop here.

Mr. Wheeler is also a major proponent and force behind the development and fielding of the Automated Tactical Ammunition Classification System (ATACS). The ATACS has saved the government millions of dollars by sorting and classifying 50,000 rounds/per hour of mixed small arms ammunition on site in theater. Between its deployment in 2004 and January 2008 the machine had processed five million rounds in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. A second ATACS machine was installed at Fort Irwin, CA in 2006 and has processed around 2 million small caliber rounds. A third machine was being created and integrated into the Desert Optimized Equipment Workshop to provide a transportable, self contained workshop for fielding in Southwest Asia.

Mr. Wheeler was the force behind increasing visibility and emphasis on the quality career programs by gaining higher senior authority to represent the program. At the advice of Wheeler, AMC Commanding General, General Benjamin S. Griffin became the proponent for several key Army career programs to include the Career Program Functional Chief for Quality & Reliability Assurance (CP15); and Quality Assurance Specialist (CP20); and Ammunition Management (CP33). General Griffin is taking a very active role in the transformation of the Army Materiel Command and its human capital. Because of General Griffin's support the ammunition community will benefit from increased support in the field via Ammunition Logistics Assistance Representatives who are currently deployed across the U.S. and in theater. The needed emphasis upon the program will help attract, recruit, retain, and train the future QASAS workforce.

Under Mr. Wheeler's leadership the Defense Ammunition Center was awarded the Army Superior Unit Award by Brigadier General James E. Rogers, Commanding General, on December 13, 2007 for its meritorious performance of its mission from December 26, 2004 until December 27, 2006. In the award Brigadier General Rogers and General Griffin recognized DAC's efforts in creating distance learning and web based training programs to train Soldiers CONUS and OCONUS, QASAS deployments to the SWA theater to provide ammunition safety checks and training, support provided to the Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) to perform

license checks for ammunition storage sites in Iraq, and to assess theater Ammunition Supply Points and Holding Areas in theater.

In his position of DAC Director, Mr. Wheeler has also served as one of the Army's key spokesman for the ammunition demilitarization program. He repeatedly expressed and explained the challenges faced by the growing obsolete stockpile of conventional ammunition. He helped leadership understand the seriousness of the military's demilitarization stockpile and the impact on future operations. As funding for demilitarization shrank, stocks of unwanted bombs, rockets and missiles grew and will continue to grow as obsolete/unserviceable lots of ammunition are retired. Wheeler stressed the need for increased funding and illustrated the impact of a 30% decrease which would create larger piles of obsolete items that the military would have to contend with at a later date. He stated the, "size of the stockpile is about the same as all the ammunition that we shipped to the Gulf War. It is a drain on our pipeline. It's a vulnerability to our force protection and a constant strain on our resources. It's a challenge that isn't going to go away."

Mr. Wheeler facilitated partnerships with academia to help solve pollution problems. Working with a Oklahoma State University research team, DAC developed a functional prototype that uses sunlight and a proprietary catalyst to detoxify water containing dissolved explosives created during the manufacture of TNT and when salvaging obsolete or unserviceable munitions. The device has been demonstrated and provides a simple, low cost, effective way to deal with a global environmental challenge and it has the propensity to save the Army millions of dollars. The technology comes at a critical time for the Army because American and other nations face severe environmental challenges do to the decommissioning of huge stockpiles of excess, obsolete and unserviceable ammunition.

Mr. Wheeler had the vision and foresight to recognize the value of DAC becoming ISO 9001-2000 certified as an organization. Mr. Wheeler recognized the need to have DAC committed to high quality customer support through documented processes and procedures, providing technically sound products, and responsive to worldwide customer needs.

In 2002-03, Mr. Wheeler served a special assignment as Deputy for Operations G3/5/7, HQ Joint Munitions Command (JMC). The assignment was to lead transformation and munitions efforts while executing current munitions readiness operations. His efforts resulted in a successful stand-up of the JMC G3/5/7 while continuously improving logistics support to the war fighter. Mr. Wheeler was a significant player in establishing and supporting the SWA Ammunition Reset Team sent to Kuwait in 2003 to assess ammunition reset challenges and recommend solutions. One significant contribution of this team was the identification of Army challenges in dealing with large amounts of captured enemy ammunition. Mr. Wheeler was a strong advocate for developing and implementing solutions to ammunition logistics and explosives safety challenges occurring within the SWA theater. Mr. Wheeler also led planning, hosting, and conduct of the 1st and 2nd Field Commander's Ammunition Logistics Seminars. This unique forum brought Army military and civilian leaders together to discuss and solve ammunition logistics and explosives safety challenges in the SWA theater.

February 5th, 2007 was a sad day for all who knew Mr. James Q. Wheeler. His death came as a shock to everyone, including his family, and everyone who knew him felt the sadness of loss. Ammunition leaders recognized that the Army had lost a valuable employee. To honor his career and service a building dedication was held at DAC in June 2008 where Building 4 was officially dedicated and named the James Q. Wheeler Training Facility. The building will continue to be the primary center used for training QASAS and Ammunition Management interns, military and civilian employees. General Griffin said that it was befitting that "he be memorialized through the dedication of this building as the James Q. Wheeler Training Facility, so that all who pass through these doors will understand what it means to be an ammunition professional." In May of 2008 the Joint Munitions Command renamed a conference facility in honor of Mr. Wheeler. At the ceremony his work and achievements were described as visionary. General Rogers stated that the JMC was "now known as the explosive safety expert of the world. That's all testament to what Jim did for us."

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO ORDNANCE

Mr. Wheeler was a man who could be relied upon to adapt to change and accept new opportunities and challenges across the ammunition industry. The Army and Services trusted Mr. Wheeler's experience, expertise and ability to make sound decisions and directions for ordnance material. Mr. Wheeler ensured Soldiers' and civilians' safety by improving the quality of ammunition. He pushed to increase demilitarization funding and defined the challenges that would be faced should obsolete stockpiles be left unattended. He was innovative and critical to the development of modern demilitarization technology. Mr. Wheeler managed and developed programs that directly supported Soldiers and civilians in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism. His work on the ATACS ammunition classification sorting system has saved the government millions.

Mr. Wheeler was recognized by the worldwide ammunition community for his leadership and vision. He was an outstanding ammunition expert, who continually sought to improve the capability of our ammunition logistics systems to get high quality ammunition to the warfighter where ever and whenever it is needed. But more then anything else, he was dedicated to the men and women who choose ammunition as a career.

His experience and expertise guided all corners of the munitions life cycle and logistical supply operations. Mr. Wheeler's significant contributions to the Ordnance Corps remain important in 2008 and prove he is deserving of induction into this years class of Hall of Fame inductees. The ammunition community continues to build on his work to optimize ammunition stockpile reliability and safety. His lasting contributions have improved and developed the Army Ordnance Corps and our nation. His contributions to the Ordnance Corps crossed all lines to include hands on work with ammunition, quality, safety, training, environmental concerns, industrial preparedness, education, ammunition depot management, organizational management, strategic planning, research and development, and personnel management.

PHOTOGRAPH: