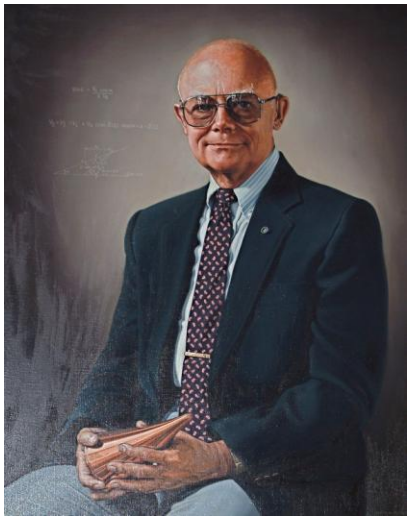
2012 Ammunition Hall of Fame Inductee
DR. ROBERT J. EICHELBERGER



Dr. Robert J. Eichelberger is the former Director of the Ballistics Research Laboratory (BRL) located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland. In various positions Dr. Eichelberger worked at BRL from 1955-1986. He was the principal authority on modern shape charge theory, and is known worldwide as the "father of the modern day shaped charge." His leadership in the design of shaped charge warheads resulted in a large number of fielded warheads including the original TOW (Tube launched, Optically Wired) missile and the Light Assault Weapon (LAW).

Dr. Eichelberger was fundamental in the development of detonation physics and he made significant contributions to our understanding of the military significance of hypervelocity impact. Eichelberger was also an authority on the design of protection systems against shaped charge threats. Armor research conducted under his leadership was instrumental to the survivability of the M1 Abrams tank. His team conducted research and development of special access program technologies that are still used today.

Dr. Eichelberger led tank-fired ammunition through the research and development cycle from armor piercing to armor piercing and fin-stabilized discarding sabot (APFSDS), solving numerous technical challenges to result in the most lethal tank ammunition in the world.

Dr. Eichelberger was an early and strong proponent for laboratory investments in the development and use of supercomputers to model and solve phenomenological problems in material and structural response in high-rate ballistic environments. "R.J. Eichelberger created a new enthusiasm, lecturing on the importance of modeling continuum-mechanical processes. By 1965, the codes were computing on a frequent basis using essential fluid properties. By 1975, the BRL was using hydrocodes with elastic/plastic properties and everyone in the warhead business found it necessary and appropriate to use these techniques to some extent." [Ballisticians in War and Peace, Volume III, pg. 217]. BRL named their CRAY-2 supercomputer (the most powerful computer in the world at that time) "Bob" in his honor.

Eichelberger held membership in nine professional associations and received 11 major civilian awards, including the Exceptional Civilian Service Award (1971), the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service (1983), the Crozier Prize (1984), and the Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership (1985).

Under Dr. Eichelberger's leadership as Director of BRL, the laboratory received Army Laboratory of the Year award seven times, the American Defense Preparedness Association Distinguished Service Citation, and the Daedalian Award for Outstanding Achievement. Dr. Eichelberger was inducted into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame in 1987 and passed away in 2009.