

*2012 Ammunition Hall of Fame Inductee*  
**JAMES Q. WHEELER**



Mr. James Q. Wheeler served a distinguished career of 28 years as a U.S. Department of Army Civilian. Mr. Wheeler passed away on February 5, 2007, ending his tenure as the Director of the U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center (DAC). Mr. Wheeler's contributions to the entire ammunition community are lasting and positively affect the future of ammunition safety.

Mr. Wheeler 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 DAC. Mr. Wheeler rotated through QASAS assignments at the depot and 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, Air Force bomb dumps, Navy coastals, and Marine Corps and Army Ammunition Supply Points

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 at Rock Island Arsenal, IL from 1985-1986. Mr. Wheeler accepted an assignment at the U.S. Army Materiel Command in Alexandria, VA from 1986-1987. He worked on demilitarization, maintenance and supply operations for conventional 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), McAlester, OK, Mr. Wheeler led 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.

Mr. Wheeler was appointed Director of DAC in 1998. 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.

Jim 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.

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 DAC with programmatic support provided by Argonne National Laboratory since 1993. To date over 11 countries and 43 states access and use the MIDAS system. After September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, DAC developed AMMOHELP at the guidance of 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.

Mr. Wheeler was 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. Mr. Wheeler was a significant player in establishing the SWA Ammunition Reset Team sent to Kuwait in 2003 to assess ammunition reset challenges and recommend solutions. Mr. Wheeler was posthumously inducted into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame in 2010.