

2013 Ammunition Hall of Fame Inductee
WILLIAM DEMASSI



Mr. DeMassi's career at Picatinny Arsenal began in 1962 in the Quality Assurance Directorate (QAD) in support of Project Manager, Selected Ammunition. Mr. DeMassi was responsible for all quality assurance associated with all direct and indirect fire small, medium and large caliber munitions and sub-munitions. Mr. DeMassi prepared product specifications, designed and approved both government and contractor furnished gages and test equipment. As part of his duties, Mr. DeMassi developed government test plans for

developmental testing, including both engineering and service tests. Using the test data derived from the conduct of these tests, Mr. DeMassi performed reliability analysis, statistical assessments, and associated preparation of final reliability assessment reports for the aforementioned munitions. The final reliability assessment report is used to provide the basis for Type Classification (TC) the Total Package Fielding (TPF) of these items. Further, Mr. DeMassi developed the first reliability growth curves for munitions applications by applying techniques developed by United States Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity (AMSAA).

In 1977, Mr. DeMassi transferred to Project Manager Cannon Artillery Weapons System (PM CAWS). At PM CAWS, Mr. DeMassi was assigned to the Joint Program Office (JPO) Laser Guided Projectile Program responsible for developing the Navy's 5 inch (DEADEYE) and Army's 155mm (Copperhead) Program. In this capacity, Mr. DeMassi played a central role in establishing quality, reliability, and safety requirements for first generation smart munitions. This pivotal work provided the quality and reliability baseline for future smart and precision guided systems. During development, Mr. DeMassi served as the Chairman of the Test Integration Working Group (TIWG). Due to the high cost of precision guided munitions and the limited assets available to support testing, Mr. DeMassi was responsible and instrumental in designing the tests and the test series to gain the highest volumes of high quality test data possible at the lowest cost. Lastly, while at PM CAWS, Mr. DeMassi served as the developer's representative, with the Operational Test Evaluation Agency (OTEA), AMSAA, and the user representative, to score reliability performance of the Copperhead Cannon Launched Guided Projectile (CLGP). During production on Copperhead, Mr. DeMassi was responsible for all product assurance, testing, and reliability. Mr. DeMassi served as Deputy Team Leader for the Department of the Army (DA) Cost Reduction Team. The DA Cost Reduction Team was established by the Office of the Secretary of the Army (SECARMY) and headed by Army Material Command (AMC). The DA Cost Reduction Team was instrumental in gaining a significant reduction in the unit production price of the Copperhead CLGP which facilitated a successful ten year production run of this important first generation smart weapon system. On Lot Acceptance Testing (LAT) for Copperhead, Mr. DeMassi developed a sequential LAT that significantly reduced the number of rounds required for LAT thereby significantly reducing cost. In order for sequential LAT to be effective, Mr. DeMassi had to develop an overall quality assurance program that consisted of process control, environmental stress screening, and

implementation of a soft recovery system to identify, assess, and eliminate subsystem, component, and manufacturing process failure modes. Mr. DeMassi led multiple teams for numerous multi-national demonstrations of Copperhead which resulted directly in significant Foreign Military Sales (FMS) for the program. Mr. DeMassi was the recipient of the Army Civilian Meritorious Service Award for his leadership and demonstrated expertise on the Copperhead CLGP Program.

From 1988 to 1989, Mr. DeMassi served in two capacities simultaneously as Chief of the Copperhead Division within PM, CAWS and as the Systems Engineering Lead on the Multi-national 155mm Autonomous Precision Guided Munition (APGM) Projectile.

In 1989, Mr. DeMassi transferred to Project Manager, Sense and Destroy Armor (SADARM) where he served head Chief of the Systems Engineering Division. In this capacity, Mr. DeMassi was responsible for all technical aspects of the SADARM munition with special focus on safety, performance, and reliability. Mr. DeMassi was responsible for all failure analysis and corrective actions taken on the SADARM program. In addition, as additional duties, Mr. DeMassi served as TWIG Chairman and as Chief of International Programs for SADARM. Mr. DeMassi was the recipient of the Army Civilian Meritorious Service Award for his leadership and demonstrated expertise on the SADARM Program.

In 2000, Mr. DeMassi was selected to be the Chief Engineer for Project Manager, Combat Ammunition System (PM CAS). In this capacity, Mr. DeMassi was responsible for all technical aspects of artillery and mortar conventional and precision guided munitions which included SADARM, Excalibur, and PGK. While at PM CAS, Mr. DeMassi mentored and was instrumental in the development of young engineers.

Throughout his career in federal service, Mr. DeMassi has developed and fostered solid working relationships with other Government agencies and organizations which greatly facilitated successful collaboration on these programs. Mr. DeMassi has had a profound positive impact on the readiness of the US Army and the welfare of Soldiers. His contributions bring great credit to him, the organizations he served, and the US Army. In recognition of his lifelong contributions, Mr. DeMassi is the recipient of the Order of Saint Barbara – the Patron Saint of the Field Artillery.