

2014 Ammunition Hall of Fame Inductee
JAMES BARTON III



Mr. James Barton had a distinguished career in ammunition management for more than 36 years, providing outstanding support and dedicated service to all branches of the military and the United States of America. For most of his career, Mr. Barton's primary focus and commitment was in the ammunition surveillance area. He understood the critical importance of supporting the Warfighter through effective Ammunition Stockpile Reliability and Surveillance. His contributions to the ammunition community included superior mentorship, dedication, leadership, and organization and automated process improvements. Mr. Barton's many contributions are commendable, enduring and contribute positively to ammunition safety.

In 1972, Mr. Barton entered the U.S. Air Force, served four years, and received an honorable discharge in 1976. He began his career as a U.S. Army civilian in 1978 as a Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Surveillance (QASAS) intern at the Savanna Army Depot, Savanna, Ill. Following the completion of the training at Savanna, his first assignment was to Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa.. As a QASAS, Mr. Barton rotated through numerous ammunition assignments throughout many worldwide locations. Mr. Barton's first assignment overseas was in Germany to the 59th Ordnance Brigade where he gained extensive hands-on experience with various missile programs such as the Nike, Hawk, Sparrow, Falcon and others. While in Germany he was also assigned to the 15th Ordnance Battalion. From 1983 to 1987 he worked at the Armament Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM). Mr. Barton was always looking to contribute to the ammunition community and challenged himself to learn the spectrum of ammunition commodity groups to gain broad based knowledge in all aspects of ordnance management.

He was assigned with the Southern European Task Force in Italy from 1987 to 1990. The SETAF received new missions for regional tactical operations during part of his assignment and he played a key role in ensuring operations were conducted safely and to standard. From 1990 to 1992, he was assigned with the 60th Ordnance Group in Germany and was responsible for successfully performing surveillance operations. Mr. Barton returned to the United States in 1992. For the next ten years his duty stations would include Letterkenny Army Depot and Iowa Army Ammunition Plant where he managed and was responsible for all surveillance activities.

Mr. Barton returned to Germany and was assigned to the 21st Theater Support Command from 2002 to 2006. He was responsible for explosive safety and Ammunition Management Inspections (AMI) throughout the 21st footprint, including Belgium, Italy and Germany. He was recognized and responsible for automating the AMI checklist and reporting process which improved the quality and timeliness of the report to the units.

In 2003, while still employed by the 21st Theater Support Command, Mr. Barton was deployed to Bosnia for a North Atlantic Treaty Organization mission that required him to evaluate and assist with the consolidation of 200 plus ammunition storage sites to nine. He was recognized by a certificate of appreciation from the Italian Brigadier General for his attention to detail and proficiency in preparing his findings to assist with this mission.

In 2006, Mr. Barton was assigned to Crane Army Ammunition Activity (CAAA) in Crane, Indiana. As chief of the Ammunition Surveillance Division, he assumed supervisory management and control of a key division responsible for: stockpile assessment of over 500,000 short tons of ammunition, safety, and surveillance support for receipt, storage, shipping and demilitarization operations. Mr. Barton performed these duties until 2008. Under his guidance numerous continuous improvement events were conducted. From these events, Mr. Barton was instrumental in developing the Surveillance, Monitoring and Control System. This system provides improved coordination, communication and real time visibility of ammunition movement in and out of the surveillance workshop by reducing the inspection backlog by 51% and increasing the number of lots successfully and safely function tested by 34%. The SMCS continues to be successfully utilized at CAAA. Mr. Barton played a significant role in the enhancements to the CAAA Ammunition Operations Center (AOC), a command and control center that directs movement of ammunition and resources. Through better visibility of crew and conveyance movement the AOC reduced the commercial detention charges from \$60,000 to zero dollars annually for CAAA. The AOC was recognized as an Army Material Command (AMC) Best Practice and with Mr. Barton's efforts and input it continues to be utilized throughout the Joint Munitions Command (JMC) enterprise.

In 2008, as a result of Mr. Barton's exemplary performance as Chief of Ammunition Surveillance Division, he was selected as Deputy Director, Depot Operations at CAAA. As Deputy Director, Mr. Barton added stability to the organization and was very instrumental in the successful restructuring of the Directorate. The Directorate realized significant improvements following the restructuring and also from the guidance of Mr. Barton. The recommendations and process changes improved the on time posting of receipts from 91.7% to 99.9%, a trend which continues today. During his tenure as Deputy Director, the Directorate experienced 1.203 million work hours without a lost time accident, especially commendable considering operations involve the movement of heavy equipment, and receipt/issue of over 408K short tons of ammunition. It was evident Mr. Barton established a culture of safety that is still practiced by Crane Army leaders and the crews.

Mr. Barton dedicated countless hours to mentor and develop personnel in the ammunition community to ensure the best logistics and surveillance support to the Warfighter. He demonstrated exceptional managerial, technical proficiency skills, and integrity; always going the extra mile to ensure mission readiness. He constantly strived to improve safety, create a harmonious work environment and developed automated systems to make the ammunition surveillance program more efficient and effective. His technical skills, professionalism, and unselfish dedication were greatly appreciated and recognized throughout the ammunition community which made Mr. Barton a recognized and trusted source of information. After retirement from Federal service in 2010, Mr. Barton continued his service to the ammunition

community and the war fighter when he accepted a contractor position in support of the 7th Special Forces Group at Eglin Air Force Base, Fl. The ammunition community experienced an irreplaceable loss when Mr. Barton passed away on August 6, 2011.