

2014 Ammunition Hall of Fame Inductee
WILLIAM MELTON



Mr. William P. Melton holds a Bachelors of Science Degree from University of Missouri, and a Mechanical Engineering degree from Texas A&M University. Mr. Melton entered federal service as a Mechanical Engineer at Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, NJ in 1972. After working a year in the position he transferred to the Program Manager, Munitions Production Base Modernization, position at the Arsenal as a Project Engineer. Among his various duties, he was responsible for constructing integrated project/contract schedules for development of prototype high speed 5.56mm ammunition equipment and acquisition of follow-on production equipment for the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant. He evaluated contractor progress and modified program schedules as necessary. Mr. Melton also managed

the redesign of LCAAP Building 1 rehabilitation project, by the Army Corps of Engineers, for the Small Caliber Ammunitions Modernization Program.

Mr. Melton relocated to Independence, Missouri where he worked at the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant from 1975 through 2000 as Chief, Engineer and Operations Division. He managed projects for modernization of small caliber ammunition production facilities, plant infrastructure, and conversion for new and improved product lines. Bill reviewed and approved all drawings for real property facilities and modifications that exceeded over \$200 million worth of projects. With the decline in production in the early 1990s, he led the program to reduce the production foot print into a series of three buildings to decrease overhead costs yet, still maintain production and readiness.

His technical evaluation of the contractor's cost and pricing data resulted in reduced overhead cost. He managed Research & Development (R&D) and Manufacturing Methods and Technology (MMT) projects for development of new small caliber products, product improvements, and manufacturing process/equipment improvements. Some key projects included SAW M855/M856 ammunition development, M856 Match, M1A1 Blank, M118LR, and green ammunition (\$25 million).

When Lake City was registered as an environmental Super Fund site, Bill was instrumental in leading the abatement process. Through his efforts, he established professional relationships with the Federal EPA office and state Department of Natural Resources regulators. These steps clearly set the foundation for the successful abatement and regulation process that still endures today. Through this, Bill was also intimately involved in notifying the local community and establishing a joint community member and government Restoration Advisory Board. Still today, this Board meets semi-annually to oversee the Installation Restoration Program and monitor the projects being worked and the overall progression of program.

In 2000, Mr. Melton was selected as the Deputy to the Commander and Operations Officer, where he served until retirement. During this time period, Bill flawlessly administered an Army industrial installation operating contract worth over \$200 million. He also acted as the Administrative Contracting Officer for all ammunition production and facilities management.

Because of his extensive background in small caliber ammunition, Bill was a major contributor in all planning concerning small caliber ammunition product quality, production delivery performance, capacity investment, and link operations issues from 2000-2003. After 11 September 2001, Mr. Melton played a key leadership role in defining the LCAAP modernization requirements to meet the war demand. Through his persistent efforts, and extensive background in small caliber ammunition, the funds were secured and the modernization process began. His efforts have truly left a legacy here at LCAAP and Joint Munitions Command. Due to Bill's tireless efforts and dedications, no Soldier on the battlefield has been without small arms ammunition. His efforts took the plant from a production rate of only 350 million cartridges a year to the capability to produce over 1.6 billion a year today. As the senior Department of the Army Civilian on the plant, he successfully hosted numerous dignitaries including local government, Department of Defense officials and senior Legislative leaders.

Mr. Melton's duty performance was characterized by high standards of professionalism. He demonstrated outstanding leadership ability, managerial skills and provided unmatched technical expertise. Bill constantly strived to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of plant and its operations through modernization projects, quality assurance programs and he maintained the highest standards, not only for himself, but also for his subordinates. Throughout his federal career, Mr. Melton received various awards and honors, including the; Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Association Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe Medal.