

2015 Ammunition Hall of Fame Inductee
COLONEL (RET.) THOMAS TOBIN



Colonel (Ret.) Thomas Tobin had a long and successful career in the Army, contributing significantly to the ordnance and ammunition field. COL Tobin is currently a volunteer English teacher. Before entering the military, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Physics at the University of Akron in Ohio in 1965. He earned his Master of Science degree in Physics by 1968 from the same university. He earned a second Master of Science degree in Nuclear Physics from Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. Over the course of his military career he graduated from the Advance Project Management Program at University of Tennessee, the Industrial College of Armed Forces, Defense Language Institute with a Japanese language certificate, the Command General Staff College, and Naval War College. He completed specialized training in the Company Commanders Course, Ordnance Officer Advanced Course, and the Mechanical Maintenance Officer Course. COL Tobin contributed significantly to the advancement of the ammunition logistics and ordnance. The highlights of his career prove his dedication to the Army.

In the field of ammunition he was an expert in science and logistics. COL Tobin published 35 articles from 1969 to 2003 documenting numerous scientific technologies benefitting ammunition logistics, ordnance and strategies. His career experience spanned depot management to battlefield supply to Program Management. His background in physics allowed him the opportunity to understand the facets of research and development, while his journey in leadership positions enabled him to improve ammunition logistics.

He studied and wrote extensively on the mass transit of ammunition and Army materiel over ice surfaces, finding better ways for transport. He provided management strategy for depot level explosive operations, setting safety standards at a higher precedent. He emphasized and increased safety at the overseas Miseau Army Depot and Akizuki Army Depot during his command. COL Tobin was responsible for the maintenance, renovation, movement and acquisition of weapons, vehicles, and ammunition for troops. COL Tobin was critical to ammunition maintenance, stock management and storage. COL Tobin paid particular attention to receipt, storage, issue, surveillance and renovation of ammunition. Though his time at the depot was limited, he made significant improvements in depot operations and accountability. He quickly stepped in and solved problems of ammunition shipping practices and storage and would build upon these experiences later in his career.

As the Project Manager for Ammunition Logistics, he was directly responsible for modernizing and updating technical equipment and procedures for munitions. Keenly aware of all technological advancements to improve logistics, he was able to provide study, knowledge and solutions to ammunition logistic challenges. As Project Manager for Ammunition Logistics, COL Tobin implemented and managed the Safeload program to provide Soldier-ready solutions to minimize existing explosive hazards and risks. Safeload replaced the Quickload program to expand use in multiple theaters. Safeload solutions were divided into two distinct categories:

propagation control solutions and improvements to explosive safety technology. Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm ultimately tested the ability to quickly move huge quantities of ammunition from depots in the US to overseas storage locations. Safeload provided numerous solutions to include the improvement of storage racks, upgraded ammunition trucks and trailers, computerized site planning, firefighting, barrier technology and container storage initiatives.

In 14 years of command of companies, battalions, and brigades COL Tobin repeatedly recommended many officer enlisted military ordnance personnel for advanced ordnance evaluation and schools to improve the quality of their performance. He assisted in the aid to Allies and Soldiers from Germany, Japan and Thailand to improve US/Allied ordnance projects and logistics support on the international level.