

2015 Ammunition Hall of Fame Inductee

EDWARD FORD



Mr. Edward (Ed) Ford's career in the Army ammunition field exemplifies the leadership, innovation, vision, superior performance, and mentorship that defines excellence and earns his place in the Ammunition Hall Fame, Class of 2015.

Mr. Ford dedicated his career to providing the highest quality manufactured ordnance systems and ammunition to U.S. service men and women, as well as demonstrating exemplary planning and management of programs and budgets. Furthermore, he fostered a culture of learning for the next generation of ammunition specialists to serve our military's current and emerging ammunition needs.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Ed completed active Army duty in 1956. Destined to become a legend within the ammunition field, he earned an Accounting degree from Upsala College utilizing the GI bill, while working with a manufacturer of small arms reloading presses, spending time in the office and machine shop to learn both "sides" of the business. It was there he discovered his passion for production engineering improvement, both from a business and tactical perspective, which eventually led to his first job at Picatinny Arsenal, NJ in 1961.

During his nearly 30-year tenure at Picatinny, he held a variety of positions with Project Managers, Program Executive Offices, and Command elements. Each position showcased and refined his understanding and ability to innovate within the ammunition field, with particular passion and excellence for creating a direct and tangible link between Research, Development, Test, & Evaluation to production and logistics aspects of projects which directly supported Soldiers. Further complementing his abilities, and supported by Army wide competition, Project Management leadership nominated him to attend the Army Comptrollership School at Syracuse University from which he graduated in 1972 while also earning his MBA.

Mr. Ford's most noteworthy accomplishments include exemplary support to 2nd Generation Improved Conventional Munitions (ICM) program developments (from a controlled fragmentation grenade through munitions for 40mms, Improved 81mm Mortars, 105mm, 155mm, 8", 16" ICMs) and the Scatterable Mine Program including Gravel Mines, Button Bomblets, 155mm Area Denial Artillery Munition, and 155mm Remote Anti-Armor Munition Systems. Additionally, he provided critical support to all CBU 24/29, and ADU 252 Cluster Bomb programs for the Air Force, Navy, and Marines Aircraft.

At Picatinny, Mr. Ford was promoted quickly, assuming highly visible roles, and in 1965 was asked to join the first office formed in the Army for ammunition project management – the Project Manager for Selected Ammunition (PMSA). Specifically, his efforts were key in supporting the U.S. Army Ammunition Procurement & Supply Agency (USAAPSA), as it was

about to embark on a massive modernization of its entire ammunition production base. For this effort, he became the Army's Command-level action officer, responsible for planning, budgeting, and coordinating efforts among government and industry partners, preparing and coordinating required documentation, and hand carrying requests from USAAPSA to the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Installations & Logistics to defend project approvals.

While on the PMSA Staff, he became the PM's action officer supporting an unprecedented annual program for capital investment of \$150 million in 2nd Generation Improved Munitions, which included a range of the ICM and Scatterable Mines described above. In this role, he was responsible for advanced production engineering, production base planning, budgeting, and defense of the production base, and FYDP ramp-up for delivery of items to the Southeast Asia Theater.

Of note, his efforts directly supported the initial planning of the Scatterable Mine Program in the Barrier Program considerations for Vietnam. To do so, Secretary of Defense McNamara's Special Assistant for Ammunition named Ed to a classified joint service planning team as the Army's action officer for facility planning. At that time, his efforts with PMSA were believed to be the largest single investment in the ammunition production base in the post-World War II/Korean War era and the Army's \$150 million final package plan had Secretary McNamara's personal signature approval.

In the same time frame, the Army authorized programs to be developed under the Expedited Nonstandard Urgent Requirements for Equipment (ENSURE) program. Ed coordinated two ammunition programs under ENSURE to establish initial production facilities and expedite production start-up to best support Soldiers and Sailors engaged in the Vietnam conflict: the 16" ICM Projectile for refurbishment of the Battleship New Jersey and the 40mm experimental XM576 shot round for ground troop engagements.

Mr. Ford coordinated planning needed to build the first ammunition production line for the XM576. This round filled a gap for troops utilizing the M79 grenade launcher that had only the High Explosive M406 round to carry in its chamber in heavy jungle conditions. The M406 did not arm for 30 meters to protect the gunner from fragmentation "spit back," which provided no protection against close-in targets. The XM576 round provided capability from the muzzle to about 30 meters, allowing Soldiers to load the M79 with either the H.E. or Shot ammunition for engaging either close-in or further-out targets. Ed obtained approval for the XM576 production facility in less than one week by hand carrying required documents through the entire Command process, including briefing then COL George S. Patton, Jr., who was the Deputy Division Chief at the Department of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics.

In addition to such efforts as the ENSURE program, Mr. Ford was one of two key members of the 8", XM509E1 Artillery Projectile Malfunction Investigation team, which involved a "short round" test firing during Full Scale Engineering Development. The investigation was to determine a program fix that would be recommended to the Secretary of the Army. This effort encompassed a \$37 million first-year buy approved in the Army's Procurement budget. Mr. Ford briefed the General Officer Steering Committee for Ammunition on all non-engineering issues, presenting two alternative programs lasting either 14 or 44 months

to resolve the issue. This was one of the Army's most significant current ammunition issues and Mr. Ford's efforts provided much support which resulted in the shorter 14 month program being approved. This decision saved large amounts of Army Procurement dollars over the Future Year Defense Plan and, more significantly, reduced major impacts to production start on Army facilities.

While serving his country as an acclaimed ammunitions strategist and innovator were rewarding, Ed knew he wanted to contribute even more to his industry by giving back through educating the next generation of ammunition specialists. He led an intern program with East Stroudsburg University, creating a dynamic environment that creatively wove systemic theories behind military leadership, logistics, and schedule control systems with the business world, as well as sharing his extensive production experience. He also committed his time as an adjunct instructor for the Florida Institute of Technology's graduate program, which held class on-base at Picatinny. In all, he has formally trained more than 500 current and future ammunition and ordnance managers.

Over the course of his illustrious career, he has earned many distinguished honors, including the Commander's Medal for Civilian Service and the Army Civilian Meritorious Service Medal. Also throughout his career, he has had the support of his wife of nearly 60 years, Elizabeth. With her encouragement, combined with his passion, Ed earned a reputation as a man whose fervor for supporting Soldiers drove his innovations, as well as his ability to get projects approved with unprecedented speed. His legacy will be his ongoing quest to improve ammunition capabilities and production in order to provide the best equipment to Soldiers who dedicate their lives to our nation. As a 2015 Hall of Fame inductee, he has truly made a lasting, positive impact on the ammunition lifecycle and to the men and women of our services who have benefited from his abilities and innovations.