

2016 Ammunition Hall of Fame Inductee

ROBERT REISMAN



Mr. Robert Reisman had a decorated government service career. He began his career fresh out of the Newark College of Engineering as an Engineer on tank ammunition. Through his career, he worked his way up to Chief of ARDEC Precision Munitions Directorate; and eventually retired as the head of the Army's Science and Technology group, working for the Army's Secretary of Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology. After retiring from government service, Mr. Reisman became the General Dynamics, Ordnance and Tactical Systems Vice President for Advance Technology and Development.

Those who knew Mr. Reisman would agree that his most endearing qualities were his endless optimism his drive, and his vision for tomorrow's armament systems. His career touched every stage throughout the acquisition life-cycle and spanned across many armament products, from tank ammunition, prior to and during the Armament Enhancement Initiative (AEI) days of the Cold War; to the Army's champion for the operational use of smart or precision munitions. Remarkably, his creative and visionary finger print can still be seen on all Picatinny Arsenal acquisition strategies – from cradle to grave – whether it is precision munitions or conventional armaments/munitions. Bob's positive attitude, creativity, and acute knowledge for developing advance technologies aided him in leading the Army's Science and Technology strategy and development in the mid-1990s for lethality, soldier, vehicles, aviation, and C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance). Many of these advancements were used with much success in recent conflicts. His endless drive to develop and field precision munitions led to the victorious use of Search and Destroy Armor (SADARM) in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Excalibur in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). His crusade to convey the force multiplier and cost benefits of fielding smart munitions vs. conventional ammunition has transformed how all Services project power.

Mr. Reisman's infectious personality has had lasting impact on many of today's leaders at Picatinny, the Army, and our armaments industrial partners. His innovative manner helped shape the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit that is ARDEC culture and his openness to explore new ideas has led to the adoption of integrated teams. More importantly, his foresight to see the benefit of the government partnering with industry in order to overcome the many complexities of building and fielding smart and precision munitions was transcendent. Those efforts tore down the adversarial environment and formed an everlasting bond within the armaments community, industry and government.

Through the efforts of the many engineers and leaders which he had influenced during his career; the Army has successfully achieved the use of smart/precision munitions to bring home our Soldiers from conflict. Mr. Reisman passed away in 2002, however, his spirit and work ethics continues to influence succeeding generations of armament engineers; a mission left to the many people he mentored and profoundly influenced.