

## *2021 Ammunition Hall of Fame Inductee*

### **DAVID E. BROWN**



Mr. David E. Brown was drafted in 1949 shortly after graduating high school in Henderson, KY. He was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in Tokyo, Japan. In the summer of 1950, North Korea attacked South Korea and his unit was the Korean peninsula. His unit was rushed to Korea to help shore up the Pusan Perimeter. As a M2 Machine Gun Gunner, David saw firsthand the quality and availability of munitions in the early part of the War; mortars, recoilless rifle and small arms ammunition leftover from WWII that had corroded primers, rusty links, and fuzes that failed to function. After the war, David had an interest in ammunition quality and logistics.

After college, Mr. Brown was accepted into the Ammunition Inspector training program located in Savanna, IL. He excelled in special weapons training, this expertise would have a heavy influence on his future worldwide assignments. After graduating from the training program, Mr. Brown had assignments worldwide primarily in nuclear weapons as he progressed in his career, each assignment with greater responsibility. Over the next 35 years, he was assigned to Red River Army Depot, Texarkana, Texas; one-year hardship tour to Korea; Lexington Blue Grass Army Depot, Richmond, Kentucky; one-year tour in Pleiku and Da Nang Viet-nam, Savanna Army Depot, 59th Ordnance Brigade, Germany, Surety Officer 60th Ordnance Group Zweibrucken, Germany, Chief of Nuclear Weapons Department U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center and School (USADACS) Savanna, Illinois, Chief of the Ammunition School retiring in 1985.

During Mr. Brown's eight-year tenure as Chief of the Ammunition School, he managed the schools growth and expansion after the downsizing caused by drawdown at the end of the Vietnam War. As the senior Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Surveillance (QASAS) assigned AMC Ammunition Center, Mr. Brown oversaw the first multi-grade promotion screening panel for QASAS. It was then that the Basic Load Ammunition Stockpile Reliability Program (ASRP) training program was established. During the Reagan build-up of U.S. Forces, the school realized significant growth, students from all worldwide duty locations, others services, partner nations, and other federal agencies traveled to Savanna for specialized ammunition training. The number and size QASAS intern classes grew dramatically from one a year early in his tenure, to four a year with a class size between 20-30 students.

During his tenure, he was part of the team that created and established the Ammunition Management program (CP33). His team developed the curriculum and competencies required for the CP33 program. The first CP33 intern classes were recruited and trained while Mr. Brown was Chief of the ammunition school. Senior leaders at JMC today went through the training at Savanna.

To support the growth in students and instructors, Mr. Brown recruited an adult education specialist from academia to train, mentor, and certify instructors at USADACS. Mr. Brown created a systematic course certification process to ensure training was meeting the needs of the Army for trained ammunition professional. He created traveling instructors to take specialize training to the troops worldwide, reducing overall cost.

During Mr. Brown's final year of service, Mr. Brown was selected to be a member of Lieutenant General (Ret.) Harold Hardin's, AMC review of ammunition demilitarization and stockpile management (Hardin Review) covering 40 installations, which identified fragmented management of the ammunition commodity. As a result of the Hardin Review, Deputy Chief of Staff for Ammunition (DCS Ammo) created a QASAS positions within the Supply, Maintenance, and Transportation, along with all ammunition logistics functions (demil, maintenance, environmental, etc.) are transferred to the new Deputy Chief of Staff for Ammunition. The Armament Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM) at Rock Island Arsenal was charged with implementing the reforms identified in the report. During Mr. Brown's career, he received numerous performance and special act awards to included Meritorious and Superior Civilian Service Medals.

Mr. Brown never forgot the lesson of Korea and how the Soldier in the field depends on this command to provide him ammunition of the highest quality and reliability possible. He devoted his adult working life to that end. He retired earlier than he intended due to his wife's health. Mr. Brown returned to his hometown in Kentucky where volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, his church's food pantry, and providing tax service to the elderly in his community.