

Michael Lanoue

Chief Warrant Officer Five, U.S. Army, Retired

Michael Lanoue served as Chief Warrant Officer of the Corps from 1992 to 1996. He made history as the second judge advocate legal administrator to reach the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) and, in the late 1990s, was the only active duty CW5 in the Corps.

Born in Canada on February 2, 1948, "Mike" had recently graduated from Fairleigh Dickenson University (B.S., Business Management) when he received his draft notice in August 1970. He completed Basic and AIT at Fort Dix, New Jersey, before attending the Court Reporter School located at the Naval Justice School, Newport, R.I., from January to February 1971. After qualifying as a MOS 71E court reporter, Private (E-2) Lanoue deployed to Vietnam, where he served as a court reporter at the U.S. Army Engineer Command. When he returned to U.S. soil as a Specialist Five a year later, in January 1972, he reported to Fort Dix, N.J. He subsequently served there as a court reporter until 1976, when he was reassigned to the 9th Division, Fort Lewis, Washington.

In May 1977, then Specialist Six (E-6) Lanoue was the top selectee on the Order of Merit List for the Warrant Officer Court Reporter Program. This short-lived initiative had the goal of creating a select group of warrant officer court reporters who would supervise court reporting at Army installations. While stationed at Fort Ord, California in 1977, then WO1 Lanoue became the first judge advocate warrant in history to record and transcribe a court-martial record of trial.

After leaving Fort Ord in 1980, now Chief Warrant Officer Two (CW2) Lanoue (he had been promoted in May 1979) was assigned to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 21st Support Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany. This was the largest command in Europe at the time, with a lieutenant general as general court-martial convening authority and seven branch offices.

In July 1983, CW2 Lanoue was assigned to the U.S. Army Signal Center, Fort Gordon, Georgia. He left that Training and Doctrine Command installation in June 1987 to return to Fort Lewis, where he assumed duties as the Legal Administrator for I Corps.

In July 1990, Chief Warrant Officer Three Lanoue was assigned to the Litigation Center, U.S. Army Legal Services Agency. In early 1992, now Chief Warrant Officer Four (CW4) Lanoue was the project manager for the Center's move from the Nassif Building to new office space in Ballston.

In April 1992, CW4 Lanoue assumed duties as Chief Warrant Officer of the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He held this position until September 1996. During his tenure as the top legal administrator in the Corps, CW4 Lanoue persuaded Major General Michael J. Nardotti,

Jr., then serving as The Judge Advocate General, to move the Judge Advocate Warrant Officer Basic Course from Fort Hood, Texas to The Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia. During this time, CW4 Lanoue also became a member of the Warrant Officer Leader Development Decision Network. This was a group of warrant officers from all MOS proponents who were tasked with developing the Army's Warrant Officer Leader Development Plan and revising the Warrant Officer Education System. CW4 Lanoue's participation ensured that judge advocate warrants had a voice in the future of the warrant officer in the Army.

After completing his tenure as the Chief Warrant Officer of the Corps, now CW5 Lanoue (he was promoted on 1 December 1996) transferred to Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He served one year at that location before returning to the U.S. Army Legal Services Agency in October 1998.

CW5 Lanoue had more than twenty-eight years of active duty when he was placed on the retired list on 1 February 1999.