

# *Appendix B – A Brief History of Warrant Officers in The Judge Advocate General’s Corps*

By Mr. Fred Borch, Regimental Historian and Archivist

## 1. Introduction

Army warrant officers (WO) served alongside Army lawyers as early as the 1920s, but were not officially a part of the Judge Advocate General’s Department (JAGD) until World War II, when the JAGD received its first warrant officer authorizations.<sup>1</sup> Since that time, the JA WO has evolved from being an “administrative technician” who processed court-martial cases and handled clerical details to today’s “legal administrator” who is responsible for a wide variety of management duties in a staff judge advocate’s office, including the post-trial processing of courts-martial, budgeting and finance, information management and technology, library and files management, civilian and military personnel administration, and security.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Beginnings

The WO rank originated hundreds of years ago in the British Navy, where men who had the special technical skills needed to sail a ship or fire naval ordnance were rewarded with a royal warrant that differentiated them from other sailors.<sup>3</sup>

While the early U.S. Navy was heavily influenced by British naval practice---and consequently had WOs in its ranks from the time that service was first established during the American Revolution---the U.S. Army did not explore the need for a special rank for technicians until 1896 when, to cope with increasing paperwork and administrative duties, the War Department created the position of “headquarters clerk.” In 1916, an Act of Congress moved

---

<sup>1</sup> On June 28, 1948, Congress changed the name of the JAG Department to the JAG Corps. *The Army Lawyer: A History of the Judge Advocate General’s Corps* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1975), 198.

<sup>2</sup> For a description of the “officer characteristics” and “unique skills” required of WOs in today’s JAGC, see DA PAM 600-3, Commissioned Officer Professional Development and Career Management, 11 December 2007, para. 39-2b.(2).

<sup>3</sup> For a general history of warrant officers in the Army, see Appendix A. See also, History of the Army Warrant Officer Corps, <http://usawocc.army.mil/History> (accessed 23 October 2009).

these civilian clerks out of civil service status and made them part of the Army, but without any rank.

Army historians consider these World War I headquarters clerks (or “field clerks,” as they soon became known) to be the forerunner of the Army WO, since they were similar to commissioned officers. Additionally, as these clerks began deploying to France as part of the American Expeditionary Force, the Army decided that, as they would be working in a war zone, these field clerks should wear a uniform. The result was that, in July 1917, the Army not only gave field clerks a uniform, but also authorized special collar insignia for them (crossed quill pens on a disc).

But, while field clerks are the forerunner of today’s WO, the fact is that the first soldier to wear the rank of WO was not a field clerk, but an individual serving in the Army Mine Planter Service. As Appendix A explains, this occurred in July 1918, when Congress established that service in the Coast Artillery Corps and further directed that soldiers serving as masters, mates, chief engineers and assistant engineers would now hold the rank of WO.

After World War I, the Army’s leadership decided it was time for all field clerks and other soldiers with special technical skills to be WOs like those in the Army Mine Planter Service. In June 1920, at the War Department’s urging, Congress enacted legislation that authorized the Army to appoint 1,120 WOs, who would serve as clerks, administrative specialists, or bandmasters. While they were officers---and now were entitled to salutes from enlisted personnel---these WOs received presidential warrants instead of presidential commissions.<sup>4</sup>

Initially, WOs wore enlisted men’s cap devices but a special cap ornament for their exclusive use was created in 1921. This is the famous “eagle rising” insignia, which depicts an eagle, grasping two arrows, and seated on a wreath. The first WOs to wear this cap badge were in the Tank Corps. Soon, however, WOs serving as band leaders, and working in the clerical and administrative fields, also wore this badge on their service caps. The eagle rising also became the collar insignia for Army WOs---except in the Mine Planter Service, where warrants continued to wear distinctive braid on their uniform sleeves.<sup>5</sup>

The official color---brown---of the WO also dates to this period. The color comes from the brown strands from burlap bags that the Mine Planter Service WOs wore as their insignia of rank.

---

<sup>4</sup> Interestingly, the Army did not abolish field clerks until 1926, when most were transferred to WO status.

<sup>5</sup> From 1921 to 1951, Mine Planter Service WOs wore an embroidered anchor or three-bladed ships propeller on their lower sleeves, along with two, three or four bands of cuff braid that indicated rank (two bands for Second Mate/Second Asst. Engineer, three bands for First Mate/Asst. Engineer, or four bands for Master/Chief Engineer). William K. Emerson, *Encyclopedia of United States Army Insignia and Uniforms* (Norman, Okla.: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1996), 389-93.

### 3. The First Warrant Officers in the Corps

#### *Institutional Recognition of a Need for WOs*

In June 1930, Judge Advocate General Maj. Gen. Edward A. Kreger asked subordinate legal offices to give their views on how the continuing problem of incompetent clerical staff in the Army might be solved. In the pre-World War II Army, many career enlisted personnel had little formal education and there was an acute shortage of men with good language skills. Additionally, few soldiers knew how to type or take shorthand---both increasingly critical in JAGD offices. Lt. Col. E. C. Abbot, the Second Corps Area staff judge advocate (SJA), replied to Kreger that “the present arrangement is indefensible, un-businesslike and unsatisfactory” but he offered no constructive solution.<sup>6</sup> Another subordinate SJA, however, suggested that “a special force” of both enlisted personnel and WOs be created so that every staff judge advocate would have competent “clerks and stenographers.”<sup>7</sup> But, although it was apparent that legal operations would benefit from the presence of WOs in the JAGD, this did not occur. The most likely reason is that the War Department’s Depression-era budgetary woes precluded the creation of WO positions in the JAGD.

Those soldiers fortunate enough to receive WO appointments in the 1920s and 1930s, however, generally fell into two categories. First, senior non-commissioned officers received appointments as a reward for many years of enlisted service. Second, a number of WO appointments also went to officers who had lost their commissions in the wake of demobilization and downsizing in the Army after World War I. For example, Lt. Col. Peter Koster, who served as a judge advocate in the Philippines in World War II, received an appointment as a WO in 1921---after he lost his officer’s commission. Given that Koster was discharged as a WO in 1942 to accept a JA commission, it is possible that he was working in the Philippine Department legal office as an administrative technician---but not as a member of the JAGD since WOs were not authorized in the JAGD until World War II. But, since Koster’s military personnel records are missing, there is no way to know what work he did while serving as a WO.<sup>8</sup>

#### *Congress authorizes WOs in the JAGD*

---

<sup>6</sup> Ltr, Lt. Col. E.C. Abbot, Office of the Judge Advocate, Second Corps Area, to The Judge Advocate General, 1 July 1930.

<sup>7</sup> Ltr, Lt. Col. H.A. Auer, Staff Judge Advocate, Office of the Division Judge Advocate, 1st Division, Ft. Hamilton, N.Y., to The Judge Advocate General, 30 Jun 1930.

<sup>8</sup> Although Koster’s military personnel file is missing, it is known that he served as an infantry officer during World War I and then served as a WO from 1921 until 1942. In February 1942, he was discharged to accept an appointment as a captain, JAGD, with duty at Headquarters, Philippine Division, Ft. William McKinley. Koster was taken prisoner when American forces surrendered in the Philippine on 6 May 1942. He died on 15 December 1944, when the Japanese troop ship in which he was being transported was attacked and sunk by American bombers. The Japanese had failed to mark this ship as a prisoner of war transport and consequently naval aviators attacking the vessel did not know their fellow Americans were aboard.

On 21 August 1941, Congress enacted Public Law 230. This new statute created two warrant officer grades--- Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) and Warrant Officer Junior Grade (WOJG) ---and authorized the Army to appoint WOs up to one percent of Regular Army enlisted strength.

Less than a month later, on 13 September 1941, the Army announced in Army Regulation (AR) 610-10 that WOs would now “be examined and appointed to classifications” in roughly 40 new occupational areas, including the JAGD. Paragraph 4.(13) states that these new JAGD WOs would be classified as “Administrative, Clerical (with typing and dictation optional).”

Soldiers who had at least one year enlisted service might apply to be JAGD WOs, and AR 610-10 required “corps area commanders” to make selections based on both a “preliminary examination” and a “final written examination.” The preliminary examination consisted of an interview by a board of officers who were to discern whether the applicant possessed the “moral character, general fitness, and educational and technical qualifications necessary to justify their further consideration.”

Those who passed this preliminary examination then took a written test. As the War Department explained in Circular No. 60, 2 March 1942, much was expected of those who wanted to be a JAGD WO, as the Army required the final examination to test on the following subjects:

- Manual for Courts-Martial, U.S. (1928), including current circulars and memoranda
- Articles of War
- Military Personnel
- Management and records
- Recruiting
- Wearing of the Uniform
- Efficiency Reports
- Designation of beneficiaries
- Awards
- Leaves, passes, delays, transfers, furloughs, details, assignments, traveling and separation from the service
- General provisions relating to pay
- Prisoners
- Organization of the Army
- General expenses for courts martial, courts of inquiry, military commissions and retirement boards
- Administration of posts, camps and stations

Interestingly, those enlisted applicants who chose typing or dictation as an “optional subject” for testing were also required to demonstrate that they could type at a speed of 40 words a minute and take dictation at a speed of 120 words a minute.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> Para. VIII, 29b(2) Clerical (Judge Advocate General’s Department), Scope for final examination in specific arms and services, Circular No. 60, War Department, 2 March 1942.

The men who applied for these new JAGD WO appointments---and had the best test scores---were the first JA warrants.<sup>10</sup>

### *World War II era WOs*

While no one yet knows the identity of the *first* JA WO, one of the earliest soldiers to receive a JAGD appointment was Robert Gerwig. Born on November 9, 1917, “Bob” Gerwig grew up in New York City and graduated from high school in 1936. He then worked as a stenotype reporter in New York City until enlisting at Ft. Totten, New York on 2 April 1942. Gerwig then served as a private, private first class, and corporal at Camp Stewart, Georgia.

On 9 October 1942, after passing a competitive examination, Gerwig was discharged to accept an appointment as a WO “Administrative Assistant, Legal (2601).” WOJG Gerwig then served as the “Assistant to the Post Judge Advocate” at Camp Stewart from December 1942 to May 1945. While at Stewart, Gerwig “processed summary, special and general court martial cases and handled pertinent clerical details.” He “checked filing of correspondence and other material, prepared periodic reports and scheduled new trials.”<sup>11</sup> Since Gerwig also knew shorthand, he was a valuable asset in an SJA office where typing and court reporting skills were in heavy demand.

In July 1945, Gerwig’s career as a legal WO took an unexpected turn. Now a CWO (he had been promoted in mid-1943), Gerwig had been serving in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA) at Third Army in Atlanta, Georgia when he was re-assigned to Army Forces Western Pacific. But Gerwig was not put in a JA billet. Rather, he was assigned to the office where war plans for the invasion of Japan were being drawn up. When the war ended in August 1945, however, the invasion plans were scrapped. Gerwig, however, because of his court reporting skills, was assigned to the task force that departed for Bagio, Philippines later that month. Gerwig subsequently served in Manila with Headquarters, Army Forces, Western Pacific and, on 3 September 1945, became a part of history when he transcribed the 10-minute surrender of Japanese Forces in the Philippine Islands. While newsreel operators, photographers and correspondents were in attendance to report on the event, Gerwig was the official reporter. He witnessed Japanese Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita and Adm. Denhici Okochi sign the Instrument of Surrender in which they agreed to “surrender unconditionally themselves and all the forces under their control.” As a souvenir of his participation in this historic event, CWO Gerwig later received an official copy of the surrender document, as well as photographs of the event.

CWO Gerwig returned to the United States in March 1946 and was honorably discharged.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> It follows that the “birthday” for WO Legal Administrators in the JAG Corps is 13 September 1941, because that is the date on which their appointment was first authorized by regulation. When the first soldier in fact was appointed as a JAGD WO, however, has yet to be determined.

<sup>11</sup> War Dept. AGO Form 100, “Separation Qualification Record,” Robert Gerwig, 8 May 1946, author’s files.

<sup>12</sup> In May 1946, Gerwig was hired as a civilian administrative assistant at the SJA office at U.S. Army Fourth Service Command, Atlanta, Ga. In the evening, he attended Atlanta Law School



*CWO Robert Gerwig, ca. 1945*

Another early JAGD WO was Leonard J. Farina, who served in the Department Judge Advocate's Office, Hawaiian Department from 1941 to 1945. According to an official history, Farina supervised enlisted personnel (some of whom were lawyers) as they accomplished a "voluminous amount of clerical work and administrative detail incident to the operation" of the legal office."<sup>13</sup> This proves that, from the beginning, JAGD WOs were considered not only to be "Administrative Assistants" who had a special expertise when it came to legal documents and related clerical work, but also were expected to supervise and train enlisted personnel working as legal clerks.

After the Hawaiian Department was re-organized and renamed in August 1943 (becoming the U.S. Army Forces in the Central Pacific Area), CWO Farina served in the "Executive Division of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate." In that division, Farina was involved in a variety of functions, including supervising the clerical work of the office, requisitioning office supplies and equipment, and providing for the "proper maintenance and

---

and earned his LL.B. in 1947. He passed the bar examination in 1949 and then continued his career as a civilian attorney in the SJA office at U.S. Third Army at Ft. McPherson. Bob Gerwig retired in 1983. Interv, author with Robert Gerwig, 28 Sep 2009, Historian's files.

<sup>13</sup> History of Judge Advocate's Office, U.S. Army Force Middle Pacific and Predecessor Commands, 7 December 1941 – 2 September 1945, n.d. (1946), author's files. This source states that Farina was serving as a WO in the JA office when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. Since AR 610-10 authorized JAGD WO appointments on September 13, 1941, it is possible that Farina had been appointed in accordance with this AR---although this seems unlikely given that (as explained above) the War Department did not publish testing requirements for JAGD WOs until March 1942.

safeguarding of office files and records.”<sup>14</sup> Since the Executive Division also was responsible for “enlarging” the legal library used by judge advocates, it seems likely that CWO Farina also was involved in “obtaining valuable law texts and instructional material from the Office of the Judge Advocate General.”<sup>15</sup> Apparently Farina was still serving in Hawaii as a JAGD CWO when the war ended in 1945.

Just how many JAGD WOs were appointed in World War II is still an open question. For example, the June 1943 Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) for the JAGD in Washington, D.C. authorized one WO. The TDA for the Assistant Judge Advocate General, U.S. Army Forces in the British Isles, also had one WO authorization and its successor organization, the Branch Office of the Judge Advocate General in the European Theater (ETO) (opened 18 July 1942) also had a WO assigned to it.

These TDAs notwithstanding, at least six JAGD warrant officers served in England and France from 1943 through 1945. WOJG Frank C. Wroblewski appears to have been the first, as he arrived for duty in the JAGD ETO branch office in Cheltenham, England, on 7 March 1943. Three weeks later, Wroblewski was joined by CWO Raymond A. Gooch, who arrived on 27 March 1943. Gooch, however, was the first to depart, as he signed out on 8 October 1943; Wroblewski followed him on 10 February 1944.

The third JA WO in the ETO branch office was CWO Ernest A. Dahmen, Jr., who served in the office from 15 November 1943 to 3 October 1945. While Wroblewski and Gooch served only in the United Kingdom, Dahman served in both England and France---since the JAGD ETO office moved to Paris after that city’s liberation in August 1944.

WOJG Julius C. Renninger also served in the JAGD ETO office. He arrived on 24 December 1943 and remained with the office until 31 October 1945. WOJG George W. Cherry served in the JAGD ETO office, too. He was assigned to it on 6 July 1944. He was later joined by WOJG Sidney B. Jacques, who arrived in the office on 14 January 1945. Renninger and Cherry presumably served in both Cheltenham, England and then in Paris, France; Jacques’ date of assignment to the legal office suggests that he probably served only in France.<sup>16</sup>

## 4. Warrant Officers in the Corps from the late 1940s through the Vietnam era

After World War II, as the Army Air Force broke away to become an independent organization and the Department of Defense was created, the Army re-organized its structure. Part of this reorganization included the Army WO since, beginning in 1948, the Army held a

---

<sup>14</sup> Id., 45.

<sup>15</sup> Id., 86.

<sup>16</sup> Branch Office of the Judge Advocate General with the U.S. Forces European Theater, *History of Branch Office of the Judge Advocate General with the U.S. Forces European Theater*, Vol. II, Appendix 18.

series of competitive examinations so that enlisted personnel could obtain appointments as WOs. By 1949, about 7,500 soldiers had been selected for appointments in more than 50 military occupation specialties, including “Administrative Technician.”

That same year, Congress passed the Career Compensation Act, which created two new pay rates for warrant officers, but retained the WOJG and CWO ranks. The result of this unusual legislation was that, like WOs in the Army generally, there were now two JAGC WO ranks but four pay grades: WOJG (W-1), WOJG (W-2), CWO (W-3), and CWO (W-4). Appointments in the Corps continued to be made by competitive examination.<sup>17</sup>

### *Developing a doctrine for JA WOs*

In the early 1950s, the JAG Corps began to develop doctrine governing the use of WOs. At the first Judge Advocate Conference, held in Charlottesville from 21-25 April 1952 at the newly established Judge Advocate General’s School (TJAGSA) attendees were informed that

The Warrant Officer, or Lieutenant serving in lieu thereof, is generally charged with supervision of the office, administrative and personnel matters affecting the section, and the immediate responsibility for the preparation and maintenance of records in General Courts-Martial cases. To be effective, he should not also be required or expected to do court reporting. If warrant officers are to be authorized as court reporters, they should be in addition to the present authorization.<sup>18</sup>

At this same 1952 conference, participating judge advocates also were told that a Corps-level office was now authorized one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, two majors, two captains, five enlisted men---and one warrant officer.<sup>19</sup>

Two years later, at the JAG Conference held in Charlottesville in 1954, LTC Arthur P. Ireland informed the attendees that “efficient records administration in a judge advocate office is best secured when you are blessed with the services of a competent legal administrative warrant or chief clerk.”<sup>20</sup>

### *Warrant Officers of Note in the 1940s and 1950s*

One of the earliest post-World War II WO appointments went to Worth Barker. After being drafted in World War II, Barker saw combat in Germany (he was wounded in action) and had attained the rank of master sergeant when he was discharged at the end of hostilities. He missed soldiering, however, and reenlisted in Alaska in 1946. Within a year, he had reached the highest enlisted rank---sergeant major.

At the time, there were only seven pay grades in the Army (the “super grades” of E-8 and

---

<sup>17</sup> War Department Circular 106, 1 Oct 1949, para XI. Warrant Officers.

<sup>18</sup> Proceedings of Army Judge Advocate Conference, 21-25 April 1952, Charlottesville, Va., 145.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 146.

<sup>20</sup> Proceedings of Army Judge Advocate Conference, 1954, 200.

E-9 were not created until 1958) and this meant that Barker had reached the top of the enlisted ranks with less than 10 years in uniform. Consequently, he interviewed for a WO administrative technician position in the OSJA, U.S. Army Alaska. After being selected for an appointment, Barker served as a JA WO in a variety of locations in the United States. He attained the rank of CWO4 but retired in 1971 as a lieutenant colonel because he held a commission as a Reserve Officer.<sup>21</sup>

TJAGSA certainly understood the value of the JA WO---and the Corps has assigned at least one WOs at the school since the mid-1950s. As might be expected, WOs in Charlottesville were instructors. For example, the *Army Times* reported in January 1955 that the school was beginning its first “electronic court reporting class” and that this six-week course of instruction would “give training in all phases of court-reporting.”<sup>22</sup> But an article published at about the same time in the Charlottesville *Daily Progress* gave additional information: the course was not taught “by the regular faculty” but by CWO James H. Donovan and CWO Dominic Cantino.<sup>23</sup> Other warrant officers who taught this court-reporting course in Charlottesville included CWOs Lee H. Baker, Earl S. Crawford, Charles M. McPherson, William F. Mayer, and Otho F. Price.

Another JA WO of note during this time period was CWO Robert E. Herrick, who authored *Blueprint to a Judge Advocate Office*. This five volume set of books, which consumed ten years of Herrick’s off-duty time, was published in hardcover in 1961. It was intended to assist JAs and WOs in running an OSJA. It contained numerous forms and other “how to” information, and had a “pocket” like the 1951 *Manual for Courts-Martial* for the insertion of any published updates. As Herrick explained in his introduction to the *Blueprint*, “the idea of what now comprises the five volume set was conceived by me in 1941. However, any publication by me or possibility of interesting proper persons or agencies in such a book on any activity had to wait until sufficient experience in military administration had been accumulated and a suitable ‘sample’ available.”

BG Laurin L. Williams, Chief, Management Division, The Comptroller of the Army, praised Herrick’s *Blueprint*. “There is no doubt,” wrote Williams, “as to the desirability of having such a guide for every element of the Army.” MG Ernest M. “Mike” Brannon, then serving as The Judge Advocate General, similarly praised Herrick’s work.

#### *Administrative Technician to Legal Administrative Technician*

As the Army moved into a new decade, it finally recognized that JAGC WOs were more than “administrative technicians” and, in April 1960, announced the creation of the MOS 713A Legal Administrative Technician.<sup>24</sup> This decision to create a “legal WO” was part of the larger Army view that a WO “is a highly skilled technician who is provided to fill those positions

---

<sup>21</sup> Scott T. Steuerwald, *Lore of the Judge Advocate Warrant Officer Corps*, n.d. typewritten manuscript, n.d. (1996), 4, Historian’s files.

<sup>22</sup> *Army Times*, 29 Jan 1955, 8

<sup>23</sup> *Daily Progress* (Charlottesville, Va.), Jan. 11, 1955, 18.

<sup>24</sup> Department of the Army Circular 611-7, 12 April 1960.

above the enlisted level which are too specialized in scope to ... utilize ... broadly-trained Commissioned Officers.” It follows that the 1960s era Legal Administrative Technician was supposed to possess a level of expertise in legal matters beyond that expected of an NCO. At the same time, this expertise was so specialized that it was not appropriate for a commissioned officer (with a generalist perspective) to perform it.

But what did this mean in practice? Given the central role of military justice (or “courts and board” as it was called in everyday parlance) in the JAG Corps of the 1960s and 1970s, it should come as no surprise that JA WOs made their biggest contribution in this area. With JA lieutenants and captains---and NCO legal clerks---focused almost exclusively on *preparing* for trial by courts-martial, WOs were chiefly concerned with *pre-trial* and *post-trial* details, especially the preparation of courts-martial convening orders (and amendments) and promulgation orders. In busy court-martial jurisdictions, where it was not unusual for a General Court Martial Convening Authority (GCMCA) to hold five or more general or special bad conduct discharge courts-martial a month, no record of trial left the OSJA without careful inspection by the Legal Administrative Technician. Additionally, since the JAGC WO often managed the OSJA budget, he also was often responsible for arranging for the appearance of witnesses for courts-martial (invitational travel orders, airline reservations, etc.)---for both trial and defense counsel.<sup>25</sup> Finally, the JAGC WO of the 1960s and 1970s also handled routine administrative matters (e.g. maintaining a duty roster for the after duty hours on-call JA, processing awards and Officer Efficiency Reports, etc.)

#### *JA WOs face a threat to their existence*

Despite their increasing importance in the JAGC, the Army was not convinced that the 713A MOS was necessary, especially as the need for WO rotary-wing aircraft pilots showed every sign of increasing. That explains, at least in part, why the Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel (DCSPER) formed a committee in 1965 to study the WO Corps. The goal was to eliminate or ‘civilianize’ certain WO MOSes, including the 713A Legal Administrative Technician.

The DCSPER study eventually recommended that 31 of 57 MOS 713A authorizations be converted to civilian positions. The JAG Corps countered, however, that such a course of action would mean that the Corps would not be able to support combat units (TO&E) in worldwide deployments, since civilians could not (or would not) deploy. Additionally, the Corps argued that if 713A WO positions were converted to civilian positions, these same positions might possibly be lost if (and when) the Army re-configured its civilian workforce. This explains why LTC Donald L. Shaneyfelt, Chief, Career Management Division, OTJAG, stressed in a 25 October 1965 memorandum that the “713A Warrant Officer *is vital to the functioning of a judge advocate office.*” (emphasis supplied) As Shaneyfelt explained, the JAGC WO was actually performing in accordance with Army doctrine for WOs generally, since the “technical-professional duties and activities of the 713A MOS satisfied the criteria for WOs set out in DA Circular 611-7, 12 April 1960, and Army Regulation 611-112.” Shaneyfelt urged in his memorandum that “MOS 713A be retained and that as a minimum 57 Warrant Officer positions be authorized.” DCSPER

---

<sup>25</sup> Since the U.S. Army Trial Defense Service did not yet exist, defense counsel were part of the OSJA and were completely dependent on OSJA resources and personnel.

agreed: the 713A MOS was retained and the Corps kept 57 authorized WO positions.

### *Warrant Officer education and training*

Given that those NCOs entering MOS 713A had prior experience with courts and boards, or had served as MOS 71D legal clerks or 71E court reporters, the JAGC did not have formal “basic” education for WO Legal Technicians in the 1960s. The TJAGSA Commandant's Annual Report for 1969-1970, however, records that a special extension course provided the first such training to Legal Technicians. This “Legal Administrative Technician Course” was held in Charlottesville in 1970.



***The first course for WO Legal Administrative Technicians was held in Charlottesville, Va., from 30 August to 11 September 1970.***

Back row, left to right: CW2 Roger C. Kane, Sr., SGM Wilfred H. Rheume, WO1 James K. Lyons, CW2 James R. Battig, CW2 Emerson M. Staup, Jr., CWO-2 Leon D. Kennedy, USCG, CW2 Alzie E. Ramsey, Jr., CW4 Ray H. Bradley, USAR.

Center row, left to right: CWO-2 Walter P. Kee, USCG, CW2 Melvin E. Greenwaldt, WO1 Melvin H. Finn, CW2 James J. Reca, CW4 Frank L. Hopson, CW2 David L. Ireland, CW2 Robert E. Jones, Jr., CW2 Thomas J. King, CW2 Byron L. Bailey.

Front row, left to right: CW2 David A. Gaffney, CW2 Earl D. Watts, CW2 Hollis Whitaker, CW2 James Warfield, CW2 Dieter P. Kohler, CW2 Charles L. West, CW2 George W. Stanley, WO1 Jackie E. Hall, CW2 Harry B. Travis, CW3 John E. Hunsucker, USAR.

### *Warrant Officers of Note in the 1960s and 1970s*

While the role of the JAGC WO in the 1960s was becoming more clearly defined-

--legal administrative technician, office manager, and even instructor---the way in which soldiers obtained JAGC warrant officer appointments was quite different from today. That is, while men and women selected for warrant officer appointments in the 21st century are drawn from the enlisted MOS 27D ranks, any soldier might apply for JAGD warrant in the 1950s and early 1960s. Cedric A. Woodruff, for example, who was appointed as a JAGC WO in 1962, had been a sergeant in the Transportation Corps; he had never held a legal MOS. But Woodruff had considerable legal experience, as he had been in charge of his unit's courts and boards while serving as an NCO in France and later in Alabama in the 1950s. As a result, when an Army circular announced that soldiers with legal experience might apply for an appointment as a JAGC WO, Woodruff did. After submitting his written application, he travelled to Ft. Bliss, Texas for an interview before a Board of Officers; at this time, there was no testing or competitive examination. Woodruff's application and interview were sufficient for the JAGC, and he was notified of this selection as a WO shortly thereafter.

From June 1962 until he retired in 1972, Woodruff served in a variety of assignments and locations, including four years at VII Corps, Stuttgart, Germany, and one year with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam. CW3 Woodruff's last assignment was as the Legal Administrator, OSJA, Ft. Benning, Georgia. Much of his time in this last assignment was taken up with the high profile court-martial of 1LT William L. Calley, who was being tried for the premeditated murder of more than 100 Vietnamese men, women, and children. Woodruff was responsible for assisting both the prosecution and defense in obtaining court-martial witnesses, including obtaining funding for travel. He had overall responsibility for all administrative matters involving the court-martial.<sup>26</sup>

---

<sup>26</sup> Interview with author, 20-21 February 2007, Historian's files.



***OSJA, 1st Infantry Division, Lai Khe, Vietnam, 1968. CWO Woodruff is second from the right (with watch hanging from front pocket).***

Another warrant officer of note was Melvin E. Greenwaldt, who received his appointment as an MOS 713A “Legal Admin Tech” in June 1966. Born in Ottertail County, Minnesota in April 1934, Greenwaldt enlisted in 1952, shortly after celebrating his 18th birthday. After completing basic and advanced individual training for infantrymen, however, then PVT Greenwaldt attended the 10th Infantry Division’s “Clerk Typist School” and the Adjutant General School’s stenography course.

Greenwaldt subsequently served two years in Korea, where he made rank quickly: he was a sergeant first class by June 1954. Then SFC Greenwaldt returned to the U.S. for a two year tour but then went back to Asia: Greenwaldt was in Thailand from July 1957 to September 1963---a total of 74 months.

After returning from Thailand, Greenwaldt qualified as a closed microphone court reporter (graduating from the U.S. Naval Justice School, Newport, R.I.) after six weeks of instruction. Two years later, he applied for an appointment as a Legal Administrative Technician

MOS 713A and was promoted to the rank of WO1 on 10 June 1966.

Greenwaldt then deployed to Vietnam for 12 months (August 1966 to August 1967). After a tour at Ft. Riley, Kans., where he was promoted to CW2, Greenwaldt returned for a second tour in Vietnam in October 1970. He was promoted to CW3 while serving as the Administrative Officer, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Army Vietnam.

Greenwaldt served his final tour of duty as a JAGC WO at Ft. Bliss, Texas, and retired in January 1973. While he had 21 years of active duty, what set Greenwaldt apart from his fellow soldiers was his more than 10 years overseas service, including 24 months in a combat zone.<sup>27</sup>



***CW3 Melvin E. Greenwaldt,  
Ft Bliss, Texas***

Finally, two other WOs worth mentioning are Alzie E. Ramsey, Jr., and Charles L. West. Both were trailblazers in that Ramsey, the first African-American MOS 71D E-9 in the Corps, made history a second time when he was appointed a CW2 on 16 April 1969---becoming the first black CW2 in the Corps. But Ramsey was not the first African-American WO, as then SP6 West pinned on WO1 bars on 10 April 1969---six days before Ramsey.<sup>28</sup>

Born in Georgetown, British Guyana<sup>29</sup> on 1 April 1939, Charles Lennox West studied business administration in Guyana before moving to the Bronx, N.Y. He was inducted (drafted) into the Army on 14 October 1959 and subsequently served as a clerk typist in Verdun, France, from 1960 to 1963. While in Europe, West reclassified into MOS 71D and then had a tour as a SP5 (E-5) legal clerk in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967.

On 9 April 1969, then SP6 (P) West was discharged to accept as appointment as a WO1 Legal Administrative Technician. His first assignment was at the OSJA, 3rd Infantry Division, Wurzburg, Germany, where he worked as “Legal Admin Tech” and “Claims Examiner.”<sup>30</sup> West next served in the OSJA, Ft. Belvoir, Va., and the 2nd Infantry Division (Korea). In this last assignment, he worked as “Administrative Officer for the SJA office.” In this job, West impressed his rater with his “organizational ability and sound knowledge of Army Regulations and procedures” and this “enabled him to handle the most complex problems with extraordinary ease.” But then CW2 West also worked as a paralegal, as “his knowledge of evidence, search and seizure and substantive crimes is equaled by few JAG attorneys” and this ability meant he

<sup>27</sup> DA Form 66, Officer Qualification Record, Melvin E. Greenwaldt, Historian’s files.

<sup>28</sup> West and Ramsey are both shown in the 1970 Administrative Technician class photo on p. 18.

<sup>29</sup> In 1966, British Guyana gained its independence and became the Republic of Guyana.

<sup>30</sup> DA Form 67-6, Officer Efficiency Report, West, Charles A., 5 September 1969, author’s files.

could “assist Division attorneys in all aspects of the law.”<sup>31</sup>

In October 1972, WO1 West reported to TJAGSA to assume duties as “Paralegal Training Officer.” In this position, West planned and coordinated “all resident legal paraprofessional instruction” and prepared and reviewed the annual MOS test and MOS study reference materials for legal clerks and court reporters. Amazingly, West spent the next 57 months---almost five years---in Charlottesville. He finished his tour at TJAGSA as the “Correspondence Course Officer” in the Department of Non-Resident Instruction. Among his many accomplishments, West conducted “a highly successful civil and criminal law paraprofessional course for 71 enlisted students.” This required him to develop a Program of Instruction and teach nine hours. CW3 West also taught legal office management to the JAs attending the Advanced Course (today’s Graduate Course) and SJAs and deputies attending the Management for Military Lawyers short-course.<sup>32</sup> West excelled at TJAGSA, and was promoted to CW3 prior to departing for Camp Zama, Japan in July 1977.

West served three years in Japan and was then reassigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, Colo. He had 15 years and two months as a JAGC WO Legal Administrative Technician when he retired as a CW4 in June 1984.

The first African-American CW2 in the Corps---but the second African American WO---was Alzie E. Ramsey, Jr. Born on a farm in Daniel, Virginia on March 1, 1930, “Al” Ramsey was drafted in 1951 and served two years as a “duty soldier” at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Although President Harry S. Truman had ordered the desegregation of the armed forces in 1948, the Army had moved slowly to implement Truman’s directive: PV1 Ramsey was a member of the all-black 7071st Area Service Unit, which existed solely to service the Engineer Center by cutting grass, cleaning buildings, and raking leaves.

Ramsey was not satisfied with being a duty soldier and, when he learned that there was a two-week long on-duty typing class, Ramsey enrolled. When he completed the training, he could type 30 words a minute. This was a significant achievement for an enlisted soldier in the 1950s because few men knew how to operate a typewriter, much less type at a reasonable speed. Ramsey’s typing ability got him into the 7071st Area Service Unit orderly room, where he received his first exposure to legal paperwork.

In 1953, then PV2 Ramsey re-enlisted for the steno course at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind., and subsequently qualified as a shorthand stenographer MOS 71H Personnel Specialist (Ramsey could take 110 words a minute). He reclassified into MOS 713 Legal Clerk while serving as a Specialist Five at Ft. Totten, N.Y. in 1958. After a variety of assignments, including overseas duty in Vietnam, Korea and Germany, Ramsey pinned on SGM rank at Ft. Lewis, Wash. on 17 January 1968. Slightly more than a year later, however, on April 16, 1969, he exchanged his stripes for the insignia of a Chief Warrant Officer Two, Legal Administrative Technician, MOS 713A.

---

<sup>31</sup> DA Form 67-6, Officer Efficiency Report, West, Charles A., 12 September 1972, author’s files.

<sup>32</sup> DA Form 67-6, Officer Efficiency Report, West, Charles A., 8 March 1974, author’s files.

Ramsey served in a number of important assignments as a legal administrator, including Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind., and Ft. Lee, Va. He also had overseas assignments in Heidelberg and Mannheim, Germany.

While all his officer efficiency reports laud his abilities as a legal administrative technician, then CW2 Ramsey made a particularly important contribution when he served in Charlottesville, Va. at the Judge Advocate General's School's Plans and Publications Department from 1971 to 1972. Ramsey single-handedly wrote the MOS 71D40 and MOS 71D50 Legal Clerk's MOS tests. He also was the "principal editor" of Department of the Army Pamphlet (DAPam) 27-16, *The Legal Clerk's Handbook*. Prior to its publication in 1972, legal clerks did not have a reference containing key legal documents. CW2 Ramsey drew on his "vast experience" in the legal administrative area in assembling and editing the new *Handbook* and devised "practical solutions which bridged the gap between the law and the practice of law." This resulted in a book that was used "for training new legal clerks at the Legal Clerk's Course at The Adjutant General's School ... and as a desk reference for legal clerks in the field."<sup>33</sup>

Ramsey retired as a CW4 in June 1984---with more than 30 years active duty.

## 5. Legal Administrators from the Post-Vietnam Era through the Cold War

### *WO Court Reporters?*

In 1977, MG Lawrence H. Williams, then serving as The Assistant Judge Advocate General, spearheaded an effort to create a WO court reporter program. The intent was to recruit MOS 71E qualified court reporters for appointment as WO court reporters; they would then supervise (and train) enlisted court reporters. It was to be a five year test program and, if successful, the JAGC would probably establish a two-track WO career path (WO court reporter and non-WO court reporter).

On March 14, 1977, a board convened in the OTJAG selected six court reporters for WO.<sup>34</sup> They were:

- SP6 Michael Lanoue, 9th Infantry Division, Ft. Lewis
- SP7 Christopher J. Rives, US Army Training Center, Ft. Dix
- SP6 Robert J. Perry, 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii
- SP6 Robert J. Iwanski, 4th Infantry Division, Ft. Carson
- SP6 Nila J. Morrison, US Army Training Center (Engineer), Ft. Leonard Wood
- SP7 Clinton L. Price, 1st Infantry Division (Forward), Germany

---

<sup>33</sup> DA Form 67-6, Officer Efficiency Report, Ramsey, Alzie E., Jr. 27 Sep 1972; Ltr, from MG George S. Prugh to COL John Jay Douglass, subj: Commendation for Outstanding Performance of Duty, 29 August 1972, Historians files.

<sup>34</sup> "JAGC Personnel Selection," *The Army Lawyer*, May 1977, 25.

Ultimately, this test program was not successful. First, the requirement for WOs to supervise enlisted court reporters was not demonstrated. Second, SJAs resisted the idea that WOs might be exclusively devoted to court reporting. Consequently, when a WO participating in the test program was assigned to an SJA office, that SJA required the WO to perform duties ordinarily required of WO legal technicians.



***Then SP6 Michael Lanoue was selected for a WO appointment in 1977. Then CW5 Lanoue served as Chief Warrant Officer of the Corps from 1992 to 1996 and as Honorary Warrant Officer of the Regiment from 2002 to 2007.***

Despite the ultimate failure of the 1977 WO court reporter test program, the program did usher in a new era in the history of JAGC WOs: for the first time, a female soldier was chosen to receive a WO appointment. She was SP6 Nila J. Morrison, who was serving as a court reporter at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. at the time of her appointment. Morrison left active duty as a CW2 and retired as a CW3, USAR in 1995.<sup>35</sup>

#### *Legal Administrative Technician to Legal Administrator*

Legal Administrative Technicians went through yet another transition in 1982, when the title of 713A MOS was changed from “Legal Administrative Technician” to “Legal

---

<sup>35</sup> Morrison married before retiring and changed her surname to Deviese. The second female to be selected to receive a WO appointment was Linda Powell. She retired as a CW4.

Administrator.” The intent of this name change was to have an MOS title that better reflected what a WO did in the Corps. A 14 May 1982 memorandum also explained that the Legal Administrator title was in use in the civilian sector, and consequently using the title for JA WO provided “ready recognition and understanding of an individual’s functions and duties by both military personnel and civilians in and out of government service.”<sup>36</sup>

#### *Another challenge to JA WO existence*

Despite the proven value of WOs in the Corps, the future of the Legal Administrator was again in doubt in 1985, when the ODSPER proposed that all WOs in MOS 713A be eliminated because their functions were duplicative of Chief Legal NCOs in MOS 71D50.<sup>37</sup> ODSPER reached this conclusion, at least in part, by comparing job descriptions and efficiency reports of Legal Administrators and Chief Legal NCOs.

MG Hugh R. Overholt, then serving as TJAG, responded to ODSPER’s proposal by insisting that those soldiers serving in MOS 71D50 were primarily focused on military justice and training other enlisted personnel to support military justice at battalion and brigade level. The Legal Administrator, explained MG Overholt in his memorandum, possesses “a wide variety of legal experience, administrative expertise, oral and written communicative skills and managerial potential obtained primarily through self-development.”<sup>38</sup> Two months later, in another memorandum, MG Overholt wrote:

Strongly nonconcur in the determination to enter MOS 713A for elimination. This reduction will have a drastic impact on the ability of the Judge Advocate General’s Corps to provide the kinds of timely and efficient legal services that Army commanders must have to be successful....SJA offices without Legal Administrators are less efficient and less productive, as attorneys are forced to perform administrative functions that their enlisted staff are not trained to accomplish. The ultimate billpayer for the decision to eliminate Legal Administrators from the warrant officer inventory will be commanders and soldiers in the field.<sup>39</sup>

MG Overholt’s view prevailed--MOS 713A was retained and the role of Legal Administrators in the Corps once again was preserved. But the ODSPER’s questions about the role of the WO in the Corps had forced the Corps not only to justify the need for Legal Administrators, but had resulted in TJAG approval of a new duty description for MOS 713A:

---

<sup>36</sup> Steurerwald, *supra* note 17, 7.

<sup>37</sup> DAPE-MP-TWOS message P2118000Z June 85, subj: Warrant Officer MOS Elimination, Historians files, TJAGLCS. This proposal to eliminate the Legal Administrator MOS grew out of a larger DA Total Warrant Officer Study that looked at the current and future role of all WOs in the Army. Memo, MG Bobby B. Porter, Chairman, Study Advisory Group, subj: Total Warrant Officer Study Advisory Group After Action Report, 29 Mar 1985.

<sup>38</sup> Memo, MG Hugh R. Overholt to ODSPER, subj: Duplication of NCO Functions, 2 Aug 1985, Historians files, TJAGLCS.

<sup>39</sup> Memo, MG Hugh R. Overholt to MG O’Lesky, subj: Elimination of MOS 713A – Legal Administrator, 2 Oct 1985, Historians files, TJAGLCS.

### **Duties of Legal Administrator**

Is Chief of Administration in an Army legal office. Manages subordinate personnel, facilities, and equipment required to support legal services provided at various organizational levels. Develops office policy and procedure implementing Army Management Systems. Researches, analyzes, and interprets complex legal administrative issues arising in all areas of law and provides an effective solution. Advises legal officers, commanders and staff and Chief Legal NCO/Chief Court Reporter, providing comprehensive technical assistance and procedural instruction and guidance. Authenticates legal documents. Determines requirements for and evaluates management compilations and statistical data to maximize legal support resources to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, management, and training. Develops fiscal requirements, executes program budget guidance, and authenticates funding obligations. Develops staffing and manpower utilization programs for legal services support. Plans for, develops, operates, and maintains automated legal systems. Analyzes legal operations to identify functional area where automated systems would enhance legal services.

May serve as a service school instructor. May serve as specialty manager. Performs other office-level duties essential to the mission of the unit to which assigned.<sup>40</sup>

### *WOs as “automators”*

In the 1980s, as word processing equipment and personal computers entered the workplace, Legal Administrators became increasingly concerned with automation and information technology (IT). By the mid-1990s, there were some very senior judge advocates who believed that JAGC WOs should focus their efforts almost exclusively on computers (hardware and software) and become the OSJA IT expert. This view---that WOs should be chiefly IT technicians---did not prevail. While automation continues to be part of the JAGC WO’s responsibility, it has not displaced the WO’s other traditional duties in the OSJA. This is chiefly because of an institutional recognition that Legal Administrators who are unduly focused on computers and networks are unable to perform other management functions in the OSJA---which must then be done by military attorneys in the office. Additionally, many units and installations now have centralized information technology operations (e.g. G-6 (Chief Information Officer)), Directorate of Information Management) that provides network support to all units at a particular geographic location, thus removing the need for each OSJA office to have its own IT operation.

### *Warrant officer education and training*

While education and training for JAGC WOs had been “on the job” (or “OJT” in soldier parlance) in the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, this changed in the 1980s. Prior to 1984, MOS 71Ds and Es selected for WO appointments simply traded their stripes for WO bars and reported

---

<sup>40</sup> Memo, MG Hugh J. Clausen for Director, Total Warrant Officer Study, subj: Retention of MOS 713A as Warrant Officer Function, 1 May 1985, Historians files, TJAGLCS.

for duty. In October 1984, however, all newly appointed JA WOs were required to attend a WO entry course or “WOEC” at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, or Fort Rucker, Alabama.<sup>41</sup> The first JA WO candidate to successfully complete the six-week entry course was Baxter Simpson, who graduated from the WOEC at Fort Sill in late 1984. The first JA WO candidate to finish at the top of his WOEC class was CW2 Thomas E. Chilton, who graduated and pinned on CW2 rank the same day---5 June 1985. Chilton was the distinguished honor graduate of class WOEC Class 85-14.

Starting in 1987, JA WO graduates of WOEC reported---still as candidates---to Fort Hood, Tex. They then did a three month “basic course” consisting of OJT at the 2nd Armored Division, 1st Cavalry Division and III Corps’ SJA offices. According to CW4 (retired) Linda Powell, the focus was on “the relationship between the SJA, DSJA, Chief Legal [Clerk] and Legal Administrator.” Each candidate, however, also was schooled in a variety of topics, including managing a law library, personnel security, and military personnel actions. Powell, who had a particular interest in automation, also ensured that the WO candidates received instruction on the new Zenith 286 personal computer and the Army’s newest software, Enable. At the end of three months, JA WO candidates received their WO1 bars in a ceremony presided over by the III Corps SJA.

The Fort Hood JA WO basic course ceased to exist in 1991, when the deployments and personnel turbulence resulting from Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm precluded continuation of this program of instruction.

Today, all JA WO selectees must successfully complete Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) at Ft. Rucker (WOEC changed its name to WOCS in the early 1990s). After receiving their WO1 bars at Fort Rucker, new JA WOs report to their new duty stations until it is time for them to report to The Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS) for the JAWO Basic Course (JAWOBC). This course, established at TJAGSA in 1996, initially was six weeks in duration and was capped with the annual Legal Administrator’s Course. The curriculum included two weeks of automation training and four weeks of office and personnel management. Senior JAGC WOs did the instructing, as well as selected JAs and civilian personnel. In 2002, the JAWOBC was reduced from six to four weeks. Today, the course focuses on leadership and officership, with a special focus on teaching skills needed to more effectively think through and solve issues. For example, there are classes on “critical thinking,” “project management,” “effective writing,” “time management,” and “leadership.” But the JAWOBC also includes instruction on contract, employment and labor law, civilian and military personnel management, the court-martial process, resource management and information security.<sup>42</sup>

In regards advanced education for JA WOs, legal administrators in the 1980s and 1990s attended the Adjutant General’s Corps Advanced Course for WOs at Ft. Benjamin Harrison. Not

---

<sup>41</sup> The first two locations closed in 1985.

<sup>42</sup> Calendar, 15th Judge Advocate Warrant Officer Basic Course, 27 May 2008 – 20 June 2008, Historians files.

until 1999 was a JAWO Advanced Course (JAWOAC) added at TJAGSA.<sup>43</sup> The course is four weeks in length and focuses on advanced topics in leadership, officership, operations management, project management, and other topics to help the students develop their ability to improve office operations.

While education for new JA WOs underwent a metamorphosis in the 1980s and 1990s, the Corps also began having an annual course for Legal Administrators. The first course---which was intended to be annual training for all Legal Administrators---was conducted in March 1988 at San Rafael, California. Ninety-five percent of the conference's program of instruction was on IT subjects---given the Corps' preoccupation with WOs as IT experts, this was perhaps understandable. There has been a Legal Administrator's course every year since 1988. The 1989 course was held in downtown Atlanta, Ga. at the Peachtree Plaza Hotel. Since 1990, the course has been held in Charlottesville.

By the end of the 20th century, legal administrators were receiving education and training in the following areas:

- Budget and resources (including government credit card use, purchase requests and the Defense Travel System);
- Civilian and military personnel actions;
- Building construction, maintenance and planning;
- Information technology;
- Reserve component issues;
- Property accountability;
- Records management;
- Security.

### *Legal Administrators of Note*

Two Legal Administrators of note in the last years of the 20th century were Charlie Poulton and Linda Powell.

Charles Poulton, who was appointed as a WO1 in 1981 and retired as a CW5 in 2003. Born on New Year's Day 1949 in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Poulton enlisted on April 14, 1969 and served a tour in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970.

In 1981, then SFC Poulton was serving as an MOS 71D legal clerk at 10th Special Forces Group, Ft. Devens, Mass. He was on the promotion list for MSG/E-8, but never sewed on those stripes since he opted instead to accept an appointment as a WO1 Legal Administrative Technician. Poulton had successfully completed the Special Forces (SF) qualification course---and now became the first and only SF qualified Legal Administrator in Corps history.

---

<sup>43</sup> There was, however, a one-time "WO Advanced Course" held in Charlottesville in 1995, but this experiment was not continued.

Poulton subsequently served at the Army Aviation Center, Ft. Rucker, Ala., 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii, XVIII Airborne Corps, Ft. Bragg, N.C. (including deploying to Saudi Arabia as part of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm), 6th Infantry Division, Alaska. Poulton also made history when, in November 1995, then CW4 Poulton became the first JA WO to serve as a company commander (2nd Warrant Officer Company, Ft. Rucker, Ala.).<sup>44</sup> Poulton finished his career as Operations Officer for the JA Officer Basic Course, Ft. Lee and Charlottesville, Va., and Legal Administrator, Army Special Operations Command, Ft. Bragg, N.C. Since he was SF-qualified, CW5 Poulton wore a green beret while in this last assignment.



***CW5 Charles Poulton  
served as Operations  
Officer, JAOBC, from  
1999 to 2002.***

Linda Powell was the lone female Legal Administrator for nearly five years in the 1980s. Born at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky in April 1953 (her father was a soldier), Powell enlisted as legal clerk MOS 71D in November 1976. After completing basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C., and legal clerk Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind., Powell served in a variety of assignments until she was selected for WO in July 1983.

After exchanging her SP6 “stripes” for WO1 bars, Powell completed a two week orientation course for new WOs at Ft. Rucker before joining the OSJA at the same location. A year later, in 1984, WO1 Powell was re-assigned to Heidelberg, Germany as the “automation officer” for the Corps in Europe.

In 1987, then CW2 Powell returned to the United States and joined the OSJA, 1st Cavalry Division, Ft. Hood, Texas. Two years later, she became the Legal Administrator at the OSJA, III Corps. In August 1991, then CW3 Powell moved to Washington, D.C. She worked first at the Litigation Center, and subsequently at U.S. Army Legal Services Agency. Powell finished her career at the Legal Automation Army-Wide System (LAAWS) office and retired as a CW4 in February 1999.

---

<sup>44</sup> Congress amended Title 10, U.S.C., Section 532 to allow the commissioning of WOs, which meant they could now serve as commanders. Poulton is apparently the only JAGC WO to serve as a commander. See also, Army Regulation 600-100, *Appointment of Commissioned and Warrant Officers in the Regular Army*, para. 2-10, 21 Nov 2006.

## Legal Administrators in the War on Terrorism

In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., legal administrators deployed with units to Afghanistan (starting in late 2001) and Iraq (starting in 2003).<sup>45</sup>



On 7 August 2003, then WO1 Donnell O. McIntosh, Jr., the Legal Administrator assigned to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 1st Armored Division, displayed conspicuous valor while reacting to a coordinated enemy ambush in Baghdad, Iraq. While part of a three-vehicle, seven soldier convoy participating in a resupply mission, McIntosh and the other members of the convoy witnessed the ambush of another Army unit. In the firefight that followed, McIntosh provided medical treatment to the wounded and laid down suppressive fire against the enemy attackers. For his gallantry under fire that day, McIntosh was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with “V” for Valor---becoming the first and only WO in Corps history to be decorated for combat heroism.

***CW3 (ret) Donnell O. McIntosh is the only WO in Army history to be decorated for combat heroism while serving as Legal Administrator.***

While the McIntosh story was good news for legal administrators, the reality of combat struck home for JAGC WOs two months later when, on 7 November 2003, CW5 Sharon T. Swartworth, the Chief Warrant Officer of the Corps, was killed in action. Then 44-year-old Swartworth was a passenger in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and was flying in the skies near Tikrit, Iraq, when the helicopter was shot down by a rocket propelled grenade. Swartworth was killed, along with the Sergeant Major of the Corps, SGM Cornell Gilmore. CW5 Swartworth was the first---and only---legal administrator in history to be killed in action. She had earlier made history as the first female CW5 in the history of the Corps and is today the most highly decorated WO legal administrator (posthumous Distinguished Service Medal).

---

<sup>45</sup> On 30 September 2003, the Legal Administrator MOS 550A changed to MOS 270A. This was not a substantive change, but simply a re-designation of the WO MOS to link it to the existing JA 27 series of occupational specialty numbering. The enlisted MOS 71D was similarly re-designated as MOS 27D.



*CW5 Sharon T. Swartworth, Iraq, November 2003*

While McIntosh and Swartworth were active component JA WOs, legal administrators in the Reserve and National Guard are making history as well. WO1 Deborah Rivera, the Legal Administrator assigned to the OSJA, 66th Regional Readiness Command (RRC), Ft. Buchanan, P.R. recently made history when she was appointed aide-de-camp to the Commander, 66th RRC. This is the first time a JA WO has been an aide-de-camp to a general officer.

## 6. Conclusion

The story of the WO in the Corps continues to unfold. From September 1941 until today, the men and women who have served as WOs in the Corps have demonstrated a commitment to the law that has made them a vital part of SJA operations at every post, camp and station. There is no doubt that this small group of professionals will continue to be an indispensable part of the JAG Corps in the 21st century.

## Legal Administrator History “Firsts” or Milestones

Date Warrant Officers first authorized in JAGC:	13 September 1941
First Warrant Officer in JAGC:	unknown
First female Warrant Officer: <sup>46</sup>	CW3 (ret) Nila J. Morrison (SP6 Morrison was selected in 1977, promoted 1 May 1978)
First Regimental Warrant Officer:	CW4 (ret) Joseph Ecozgue (1987)
First Honorary Regimental Warrant Officer:	CW4 (ret) Dennis T. McCormick (1990)
First CW5 in JAGC: <sup>47</sup>	CW5 (ret) Rosauro Lindogan (1995)
First female CW5 in JAGC:	CW5 Sharon T. Swartworth
First Warrant Officer decorated for gallantry:	CW3 (ret) Donnell McIntosh (Bronze Star Medal w/V, 7 Aug 2003)
Highest decorated Warrant Officer:	CW5 Sharon T. Swartworth (Distinguished Service Medal (posthumous), 13 Nov 2003)
WO with most AC time as a WO:	CW5 (ret) Rosauro Lindogan (1975-1998)
First Distinguished Graduate WOEC/WOCS	CW4 (ret) Thomas E. Chilton

---

<sup>46</sup> The second female soldier appointed as a WO was Linda L. Powell, who received her appointment as a WO1 on 11 July 1983. She retired as CW4 in February 1999.

<sup>47</sup> The second CW5 in the JAGC was Michael Lanoue.