

United States Warrant Officer History

The rank of warrant officer has a long history. Strong evidence suggests that Napoleon used warrant officers as communications links between his commissioned officers and the soldiers.

The military grade of "warrant officer" dates back two centuries before Columbus, during the fledgling years of the British Navy. At that time, nobles assumed command of the new Navy, adopting the Army ranks of Lieutenant and Captain. These royal blood officers often had no knowledge of life on board a ship, let alone how to navigate such a vessel or operate the guns. They often relied on the technical expertise and cooperation of a senior sailor who tended to the technical aspects of running the ship and operating the cannons. These sailors, sometimes referred to as 'Boat Mates' or 'Boswans Mates' became indispensable to less experienced officers and were subsequently rewarded with a Royal Warrant. This Royal Warrant was a special designation, designed to set them apart from other sailors, yet not violate the strict class system that was so prevalent during the time.

In the U.S. Navy, warrant officers have traditionally been technical specialists whose skills and knowledge were an essential part of the proper operation of the ship. The Navy has had warrant officers among its ranks, in some form or another, since its conception. For the U.S. Army, we can trace the lineage of the warrant officer back to 1896, specifically to the Headquarters Clerk (later designated the Army Field Clerk).

The Act of August 1916 authorized the Army Field Clerk (formerly Headquarters Clerk) and the Field Clerk, Quartermaster Corps (formerly Pay Clerk). Although initially considered civilians, the Judge Advocate General eventually determined that they held military status. The Act of July 1918 introduced the rank and grade of warrant officer. It established the Army Mine Planter Service in the Coast Artillery Corps and directed that warrant officers serve as masters, mates, chief engineers, and assistant engineers of each vessel. There were three varying levels of pay authorized.

In World War I, the Coast Artillery Corps was responsible for mine defenses in major ports. Vessels, ranging in size from small motorboats to 1,000-ton ocean-going ships, laid and maintained minefields. Conflict between soldiers and civilian employees who manned these vessels revealed the need to ensure that military personnel manned the vessels.

Officially, the birth date of the Army Warrant Officer Corps is 9 July 1918, when Congress established the Army Mine Planter Service as part of the Coast Artillery. This action assured that exclusively Army personnel manned the vessels. The Army opened a school to train their mariners at Fort Monroe, Virginia, commanded by an officer who had graduated from the Naval Academy.

What do Warrant Officers Do?

Warrant Officer career tracks are many. The large majority of Warrant Officers are aviators and fly the fixed and rotary wing platforms of the US Army. The story does not end there however, Warrant Officer fields of endeavor include Special Operations, Air Defense, Artillery, Ordnance, Military Police, Military Intelligence, Medical Service, Judge Advocate General, Signal, Quarter Master, Veterinary, Transportation, and Adjutant General. Commonly known as "quiet professionals", Warrant Officers provide the critical technical expertise required for mission success in the Army's highly technical systems while providing the long thread of continuity in the Army's operational units.

Headquarters United States Army Training and Doctrine Command

Warrant Officer Rank and Branch Insignia Exchange Ceremony 14 July 2004



Hosted By

Lieutenant General Anthony R. Jones
**Deputy Commanding General/
Chief of Staff**

United States Army
Training and Doctrine Command

DRAFT

Sequence of Events

Welcome

Arrival of Official Party

Personal Honors

Honors to the Nation

Invocation

Remarks by

**Lieutenant General Anthony R. Jones
Deputy Commanding General/
Chief of Staff,
United States Army Training and Doctrine
Command**

Posting of Warrant Officers

**Exchange of CW5 Rank Insignia
Exchange of Branch Insignia**

The Army Song

Conclusion/Congratulations

Warrant Officers

CW5 Ron Moring
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for
Operations and Training

CW5 George Gonsalves
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for
Operations and Training

CW5 Dave Morton
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for
Operations and Training

CW5 Deborah Henson*
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for
Operations and Training

CW5 Christopher Serio*
Office of the Deputy Commanding General
Army Reserve and National Guard

CW4 Roy Gambino
United States Army
Accessions Command

CW3 Coral Jones
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for
Personnel, Infrastructure, and Logistics

CW3 Kevin Bloxom
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for
Personnel, Infrastructure, and Logistics

CW3 Melanie Ladra
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for
Personnel, Infrastructure, and Logistics

CW3 George Wade
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

CW2 Donald Bolden
Futures Center Operations

*** Unable to attend due to mission requirements**

“The Army Song”

First to fight for the right, and to build the nation's might,
and THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG.

Proud of all we have done, fighting' till the battle's won,
And THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG.

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey! The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong!
For where e'er we go, you will always know
That THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG.