

The United States Army

Warrant Officer

Overall Briefing Classification is
UNCLASSIFIED

Agenda

- History of the Warrant Officer (WO)
- Modern Warrant Officers
- Warrant Officers ('WO') and Commissioned Officers ('O')
- Questions

History of the Warrant

- 'Warrants' can be traced to Napoleon's Army, where he used Warrants as communications links between the commissioned officers and the Soldiers-

History of the Warrant Officer

- The first recorded Military Warrants served in the British Navy-
- They were the senior sailor aboard a naval vessel-
- They were given a Royal Warrant to separate them from a regular sailor, but did not violate the class system, allowing the separation of nobility to continue-

History of the Warrant Officer

- The **U.S. Army Warrant Officer** can be traced back to 1896-
- **Warrant Officers** were originally utilized as headquarters clerks-
- During World War I, the specialty position of Field Clerk is the predecessor of the U.S. Army **Warrant Officer**-

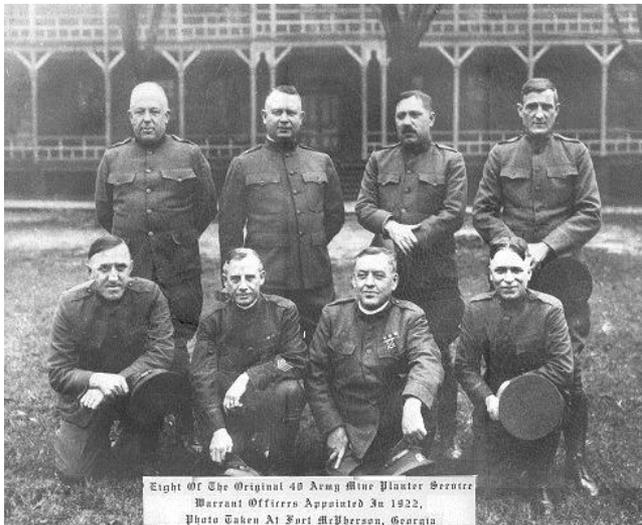


History of the Warrant Officer

- The official birthday of the **U.S. Army Warrant Officer Corps** is 09 July 1918-
- Before 09 July 1918, **Warrant Officers** were not military officers, but considered civilian positions-
- After review by the Judge Advocate General, it was determined **Warrant Officers** held military status (effective 09 July 1918)-

War Department Bulletin 43

- An act of congress in 1918 created the Army Mine Planter Service as part of the Coast Artillery Corps-
- A total of 40 **Warrant Officers** were authorized to serve on each mine planting vessel-
- The branch color of brown was established during this time, as Mine Planter Service personnel wore strips of burlap sack as their insignia of rank-



Eight of the original 40 Army Mine Planter **Warrant Officers** Appointed in 1922 and pictured at Fort McPherson, Georgia

National Defense Act of 1920

- The National Defense Act of 1920 provided for Warrant Officers to serve in clerical, administrative, and band leader positions-
- On 12 May 1921, a distinctive insignia was approved for **Warrant Officers**-



Where We Are Today

- The increasingly joint nature of operations with the Department of Defense and the expanded use of the most senior **Warrant Officers** in joint operations validated the need to standardize CW5 rank insignia among all the services that employ them.
- The effective date for wear of the new CW5 insignia and branch-specific insignia and colors was 09 July 2004 to coincide with the 86th anniversary of the **Warrant Officer Corps**.



Aviation



Air Defense
Artillery



Field
Artillery



Signal Corps



Adjutant General
Corps



Military
Intelligence



Judge Advocate
General



Ordnance
Corps



Special
Forces



Quartermaster
Corps



Transportation
Corps



Medical Service
Corps



Veterinary
Corps



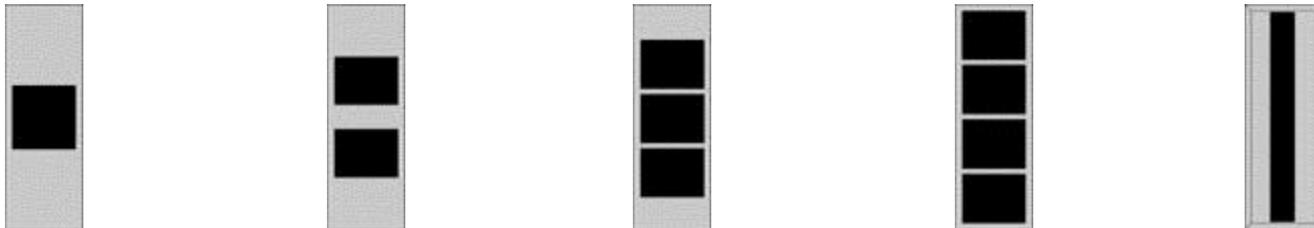
Corps of
Engineers



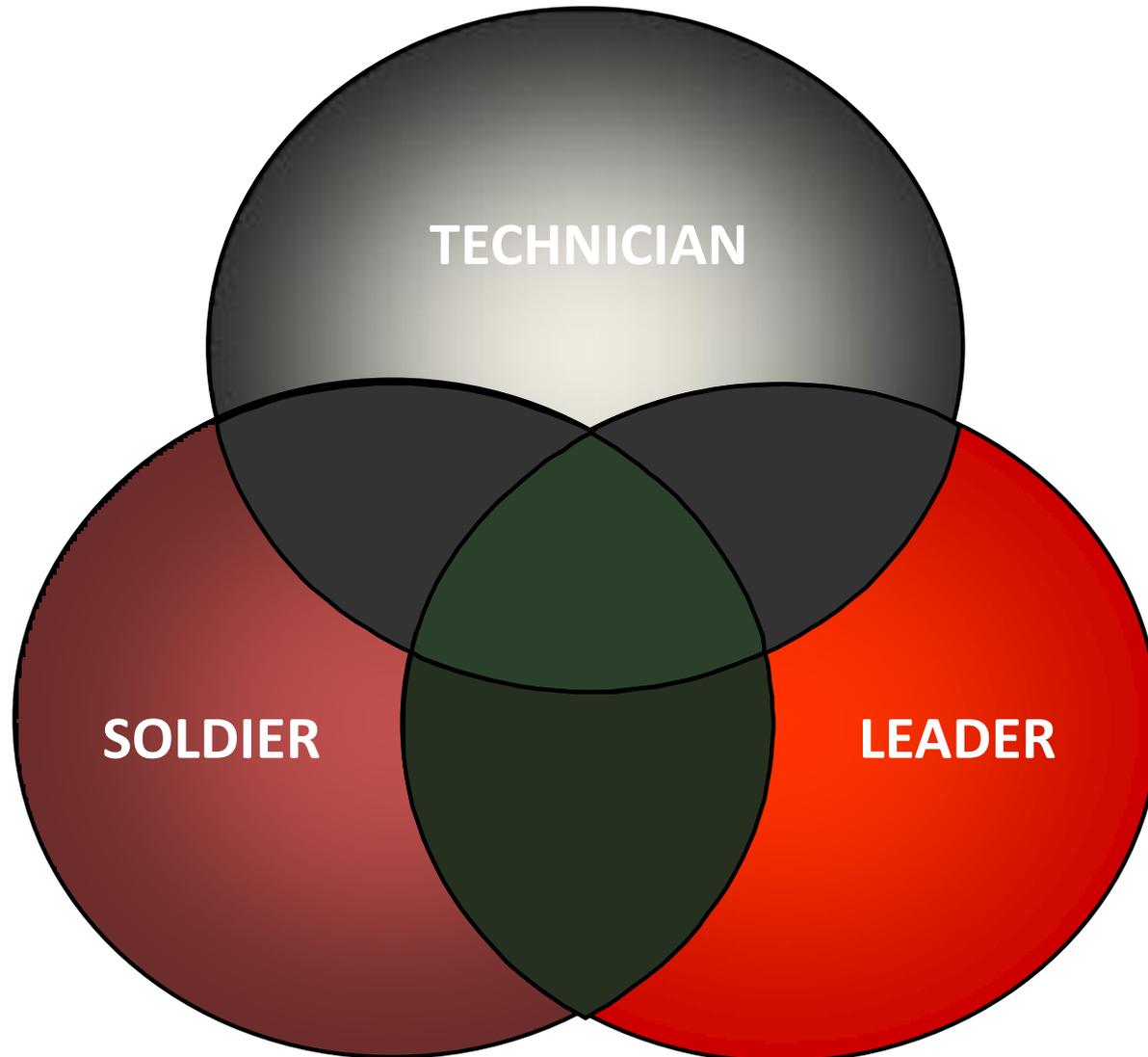
Military
Police

Today's Warrant Officer Insignia

- As a result of a study to improve the **Warrant Officer** insignia of grade to make it easier to identify the grade, new insignia was approved by the Chief of Staff Army on 10 June 1970 with an effective date for wear of 01 July 1972.
- Based on anticipated change in legislation to authorized warrant grade, new insignia for CW5 was also approved by the Chief of Staff in 1970, (09 July 2004 was effective date for wear).
- The design of today's **Warrant Officer** insignia is as follows:



What is a Warrant Officer?



What is a Warrant Officer?

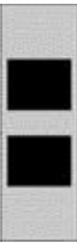
- The **Army Warrant Officer** is a self-aware and adaptive technical expert, combat leader, trainer, and advisor. Through progressive levels of expertise in assignments, training, and education, the WO administers, manages, maintains, operates, and integrates Army systems and equipment across the full spectrum of Army operations.
- **Warrant Officers** are innovative integrators of emerging technologies, dynamic teachers, confident war fighters, and developers of specialized teams of Soldiers. They support a wide range of Army missions throughout their career.
- **Warrant Officers** refine their technical expertise and develop their leadership and management skills through tiered progressive assignment and education.
- The **following are** specific characteristics and responsibilities of the separate, successive **Warrant Officer** grades:



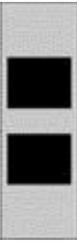
Warrant Officer 1 (WO1)



- WO1 - **basic level**, technically and tactically focused officers who perform the primary duties of technical leader, trainer, operator, manager, maintainer, sustainer, and advisor.
- Experienced NCOs are encouraged to apply to the warrant officer program.
- W01 – CW2 - Years in grade two (2)-



Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CW2)



- CW2s are **intermediate level** technical and tactical experts who perform the primary duties of technical leader, trainer, operator, manager, maintainer, sustainer, and advisor.
- CW2- CW3 – three (3) - six (6)– and required Military Education Requirements -



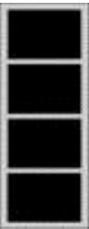
Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3)



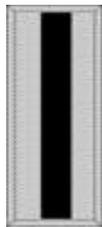
- CW3s are **advanced level** technical and tactical experts who perform the primary duties of technical leader, trainer, operator, manager, maintainer, sustainer, integrator, and advisor.
- CW3-CW4 – four (4) - six (6) and required Military Educational Requirements-



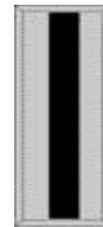
Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CW4)



- CW4s are **senior level** technical and tactical experts who perform the primary duties of technical leader, manager, maintainer, sustainer, integrator and advisor.
- CW4-CW5 – four (4) - five (5) years and required Military Educational Requirements-



Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5)



- **Master technicians** possessing unrivaled technical skills, seasoned leadership capabilities, and razor sharp instincts.
- Serving as trusted advisors to the Army's most senior commanders, their expertise is crucial to the operation of key battlefield systems.
- Demonstrating a 'results-driven' approach to leadership.
- Inspire teamwork throughout the ranks, ensuring the most effective and efficient completion of every mission.
- Highly respected for their advanced technical proficiency and unwavering command, they help drive the U.S. Army toward victory.
- Those who advance to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5) play a vital role in enhancing the Army's success throughout the world.

How are Warrant Officers Assigned?

- **Warrant Officer** assignments are primarily focused by technical specialty and:
 - WO1-CW2 are typically assigned at the Operational Level (Company level)
 - CW3s are typically assigned at BN, Company, and below
 - CW4s are typically assigned to BDE, BN and below
 - CW5s are typically assigned to BDE and above
 - *Note: there are always exceptions*
- At each echelon, the **Warrant Officer** advises his/her commander on WO issues and their technical area of expertise.
- **Warrant Officers** provide mentorship, leader development and counsel to Soldiers, NCOs, Junior Officers to Senior Branch Officers, and General Officers.

How Are Warrant Officers *Different* From 'O' - Grade Officers?

- The **Warrant Officer's** main responsibility is as 'single-specialty' officers whose career track is oriented towards progressing within their career field rather than focusing on increased levels of command and staff duty positions.
- The '**base**' of *expertise* gets '**broader**' the higher in the **Warrant Officer rank structure**. As **Warrant Officers** begin to function at the higher levels, they become "systems-of-systems" experts, rather than specific equipment experts. As such, they must have a firm grasp of the joint and multinational environments and know how to integrate systems they manage into complex operating environments.
- The '**base**' of *responsibility* gets '**broader**' the higher in the O-grade structure.

How are Warrant Officers *Similar* to 'O' Grade Officers?

- **Warrant Officers** provide direction, guidance, resources, assistance, and supervision necessary for subordinates to perform their duties.
- **Warrant Officers** can be assigned as commanders with the collective or organizational responsibility of the command and its mission.
- **Warrant Officers** perform any other branch-related duties assigned.
- **Self Development:** Each Officer has a responsibility for professional development, (individual study, reading, research and interpersonal skills development and assessment are critical parts of leader development).

What is a Warrant Officer?

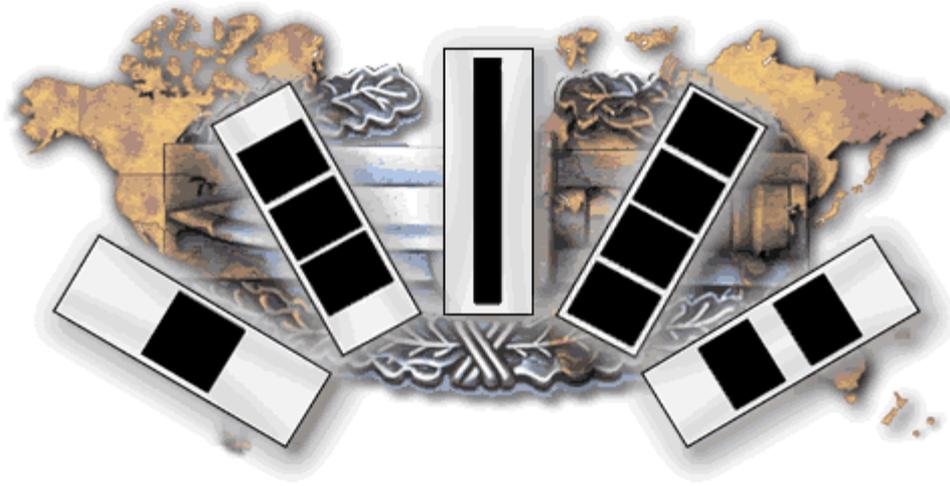
- Further clarification of the role of a **Warrant Officer** is found in FM 6-22:
 - “**Warrant Officers** possess a high degree of **specialization** in a particular field in contrast to the more general assignment pattern of other commissioned officers.
 - **Warrant Officers** command aircraft, maritime vessels, special units, and task organized operational elements. In a wide variety of units and headquarters specialties, warrants provide quality advice, counsel, and solutions to support their unit or organization. They operate, maintain, administer, and manage the Army’s equipment, support activities, and technical systems.
 - **Warrant Officers** are competent and confident warriors, innovative integrators of emerging technologies, dynamic teachers, and developers of specialized teams of Soldiers. Their extensive professional experience and technical knowledge qualifies **Warrant Officers** as invaluable role models and mentors for Officers and NCOs.”

What is a Warrant Officer?

- **Warrant Officers** represent continuity in a command
 - As 'O'-grade officers focus on the 'bigger' picture of command, **Warrant Officers** provide the 'historical' continuity and experience in their specialty to their commands –
- **Warrant Officers** are commissioned officers, just like 'O'-Grade Officers
 - (Although limited): **Warrant Officers** have the same opportunity for command as company grade officers—
- **Warrant Officers** represent the definitive subject matter expert on Army Systems
 - The **Warrant Officer** remains focused primarily on their specialty providing historical, current, valuable and in-depth data and information to their commands-

The Warrant Officer

- The **Army Warrant Officer Corps** is comprised of over 24,550 men and women in the active Army, Reserve and National Guard components.
- **Warrant Officers** are the technical experts that manage and maintain increasingly complex battlefield systems.
- **Warrant Officers** provide a level of expertise and continuity to Commands which enhances the total Army's ability to defend the United States and her allies' national interests.



QUESTIONS?