



THE COMMANDING GENERALS
OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY
MATERIEL COMMAND





General Frank S. Besson, Jr.
1 August 1962 - 10 March 1969

Frank S. Besson, Jr., was born on 30 May 1910 in Detroit, Michigan. He graduated second in his class from the United States Military Academy in 1932. In 1935, he received a Master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His early career was noted for the role he played in the development of portable military pipelines, steel airplane landing mats, and steel treadway bridges. He is credited with the studies which led to the Army's adoption of the Bailey Bridge which was used extensively in all theaters during World War II.

As Director of the Third Military Railway Service in Iran during 1944 and 1945, Besson was charged with ensuring the vital flow of war materials to the Russian forces through the Persian Corridor. While in this assignment, he was promoted to Brigadier General, becoming at 34, the youngest General Officer in the Army Ground Forces.

Toward the end of World War II, General Besson held a key position as Deputy Chief Transportation Officer of Army Forces in the Western Pacific, and when the collapse of Japan was imminent, was ordered to assume complete control of railroads in Japan. During the first year of occupation, General Besson directed the rehabilitation of the Japanese rail system, and moved more than 200,000 troops of the Eighth Army and 150,000 tons of supplies in the first two months. General Robert L. Eichelberger, Eighth Army Commander, commented that "his supervision of the operation of the entire Japanese rail system during the first year of our occupation was the greatest single factor in the results we attained."

Subsequent assignments included a tour in Europe as Assistant Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe, where General Besson formulated logistics plans and overall programs to meet the complex requirements of the fifteen nations of the NATO alliance. His efforts in instituting a system for "costing out" 5-year programs, thereby bringing Force goals into consonance with available resources, earned him the first Distinguished Service Medal to be awarded at SHAPE headquarters.

A life-long pioneer of many transportation innovations, General Besson stimulated both military and commercial adoption of containerization and improved water terminal practices. He introduced the roll-on/roll-off technique for the rapid loading and discharge of wheeled and tracked vehicles. He further refined these concepts upon assuming command of the Transportation Center and School at Fort Eustis, Virginia, in 1953. General Besson became Chief of Transportation for the U.S. Army in March 1958, a position he held until 2 April 1962, when he took charge of the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC).

As the first AMC Commander, General Besson was charged with consolidating six Army technical service organizations into a single command without disrupting effective materiel support for the Army. His success resulted in his receiving the Merit Award of the Armed Forces Management Association in 1963. On 27 May 1964, Besson became the 75th officer in the U.S. Army's 189-year history to wear the four stars of a full general. He was the first Army officer to achieve that rank as head of a logistical organization in peacetime. During his command of AMC, this mammoth logistical organization, with an annual budget exceeding \$14 billion and an inventory of \$21 billion, employed more than 160,000 civilian personnel in addition to its military complement of 14,000.

Also during his command, he recognized the emerging tactical importance of Army aviation, establishing the Army Aviation Depot Maintenance activity at Corpus Christi and was instrumental in securing approval for the Army to not only procure its own aircraft but also to do its own research, development, and engineering.

After retirement on 10 March 1969, General Besson was recalled to serve as Chairman of the Joint Logistics Review Board, reporting on worldwide logistic support to U.S. forces during the Vietnam conflict. He retired in 1970 after more than 37 years of commissioned service, 25 of them as a general officer.

In 1970, General Besson was appointed by President Nixon as a founding director and first CEO of the National Rail Passenger Corporation, the operators of AMTRAK. He was founder and Director of the Board of Services National Bank of Alexandria, Virginia, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Environmental Research Corporation of Fairfax County, Virginia.

During his career, he received many U.S. and foreign awards and decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Iranian Order of Homayoun Star, Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and the Republic of Korea's Order of the Military Merit, Second Class (Ulchi). He was inducted into the AMC Hall of Fame in 2012, the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in 1986, and was one of the members of the first class who were inducted into the Army Transportation Corps Hall of Fame in 1997. General Besson died on 15 July 1985.



General Ferdinand J. Chesarek
10 March 1969 - 31 October 1970

Ferdinand J. Chesarek was born in Calumet, Michigan, on 18 February 1914. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant, field artillery, in 1938. In November 1943, General Chesarek went to the European Theater of Operations to become Commanding Officer of the 28th Field Artillery Battalion, 8th Infantry Division. He participated in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns.

General Chesarek returned to the United States in July 1945 for detail to the War Department's General Staff in Washington, D.C., where he served as a legislative officer in the Logistics Division. From June 1948 to April 1950, General Chesarek attended Stanford University and received his master's degree in Business Administration. He returned to the Pentagon to serve as Assistant to the Chairman, Munitions Board, until February 1953 when he entered the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Virginia.

After graduation in July 1953, General Chesarek went to Korea to serve with the Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army. In May 1954, he took command of the 5th Artillery Group, which consisted of six United States and four Korean artillery battalions.

In January 1955, General Chesarek was assigned as Chief of the Military Personnel and Manpower Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, until August 1955 when he entered the National War College. Following graduation in June 1956, he served as Military Assistant and Executive Officer to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. In addition, he acted as International Conference Coordinator for the Secretary of Defense and participated in 12 major international conferences as a Defense Member of the U.S. delegation. During this assignment, he also attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University.

In August 1959, General Chesarek became the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Communications Zone, Europe. He went to Italy in July 1960 to be Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force. He returned to France in March 1961 for duty as Commanding General, 4th Logistical Command.

In October 1962, General Chesarek was assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, first as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (Materiel Readiness) and then, from August 1964, as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (Programs). General Chesarek was appointed Comptroller of the Army on 1 August 1966 and served in this assignment until 1 August 1967. He was designated the first occupant of the newly created position of Assistant Vice Chief of Staff from February 1967 to May 1968.

One of the highlights of General Chesarek's career was his tour of the United Kingdom in May 1968 as United States 1968 Kermit Roosevelt Lecturer, during which he addressed the students at many British military schools. On 8 July 1968, General Chesarek was appointed Senior U.S. Army Member of the Military Staff Committee of the United Nations, in addition to his primary duty as Assistant Vice Chief of Staff. On 10 March 1969, he was promoted to full general and became the second Commanding General of AMC where he served until retiring on 31 October 1970.

General Chesarek's awards include the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit, Air Medal, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal. He also received: the French Croix de Guerre with Palm and Star; Legion of Honor from the French Government; the Order of Ulchi from the Republic of Korea; the Order of Republic Medal by the Chief of Staff of the Italian Army. General Chesarek died on 20 November 1993.



General Henry A. Miley, Jr.
1 November 1970 - 5 February 1975

Henry A. Miley, Jr., was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on 14 February 1915. He graduated from historic Boston Latin School and began his military career at West Point. He graduated in June 1940 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps. His first station was at Fort Monroe, Virginia, where he was assigned to the 2nd Coast Artillery Regiment. In December 1941, he moved with the 57th Coast Artillery to Hawaii, to garrison the north shore of Oahu.

General Miley returned to the U.S. in late 1942 and, after a tour at the Anti-Aircraft School, was assigned to the 33rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group. He remained with this organization through its training phases at Fort Bliss, Texas, and Desert Training Center. In February 1944, his outfit moved to New Guinea, where it participated in the leap-frog operations, executed by the Army along the northern coast of that island.

In January 1945, General Miley was detailed to the Ordnance Corps and left New Guinea and Artillery for Manila and Ordnance. He remained there until September 1946 in command, successively of the 189th Ordnance Battalion and the Ordnance General Supply Depot.

Following World War II, General Miley served a year on the faculty of the Ordnance School at Aberdeen, Maryland, and in 1947 embarked on advanced education tour at Northwestern University. He received his Master's Degree in June 1949 and remained an additional year at Evanston, pursuing advanced studies in economics and statistics.

In 1950, General Miley was transferred to Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia, where he served as comptroller and then as Works Manager. After three years at Frankford, General Miley went to Heidelberg, Germany, for a three-year tour on the staff of the U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) Ordnance Officer.

General Miley returned to the United States in June 1956, attended the Army War College and, in 1957, moved to Washington, D.C., to become chief of tank-automotive procurement in the Office of the Chief of Ordnance.

In December 1961, he became Commander of the Advanced Weapons Support Command, Pirmasens, Germany. In March 1963, he was reassigned to Heidelberg, where he served as USAREUR Ordnance Officer. Returning to the United States in March 1964, General Miley was assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) as Deputy Director, Procurement and Production.

In August 1966, he was reassigned as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (Programs and Budget), where he was directly responsible for the successful establishment of a logistical base in Vietnam. He remained in this position until June 1969, when he was named Deputy Commanding General, AMC, and promoted to the rank of lieutenant general.

On 1 November 1970, he was promoted to the rank of full general and became the Commander of AMC. General Miley had the distinction of being the first Ordnance officer to attain the rank of 4-star general. Shortly after his retirement as Commander of AMC on 5 February 1975, General Miley was inducted into the Army Ordnance Hall of Fame. He died on 6 February 2010.



General John R. Deane, Jr.
12 February 1975 – 31 January 1977

John R. Deane, Jr., was born in San Francisco, California, on 8 June 1919. In 1937, he enlisted in the 16th Infantry. After one year, he entered the U.S. Military Academy. Upon graduation in 1942, he joined the 104th Infantry Division as a platoon leader and, by the end of the war, he had become a battalion commander.

He held the position of Intelligence Officer in Europe from 1945 to 1947 and then returned to Washington, D.C. to work in the Joint War Plans Division, Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA). In 1951, he became Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. From this post, he went to the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, in 1952. Upon graduation, he served as Chief of Plans in the Military Armistice Commission until 1954. Returning to the U.S. in late 1954, he attended the Armed Forces Staff College. Upon graduation, he became Chief of Programs and Budget in the Office of the Chief, Research and Development, HQDA.

From 1958-1959, he attended the National War College. He then became Assistant to the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Europe, Heidelberg, Germany. From February 1961 to June 1962, he was Commander of the 2nd Battle Group in Berlin. In December 1962, he returned to Washington as Assistant to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, where he served as Executive Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Deputy Director, Defense Research and Engineering). During this time, he attended the Harvard School of Business Administration, participating in the advanced management program. On 16 August 1965, he became the Assistant Division Commander, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

General Deane received the assignment of Chief of Staff, Field Forces in Vietnam in February 1966. In July 1966, he became Assistant Division Commander, 1st Infantry Division, Vietnam. In November 1966, he was assigned as the Commanding General, 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam.

From October 1967 to September 1968, General Deane served as Director of Doctrine in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, U.S. Army. From October 1968 to July 1970, he was the Commanding General of the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In July 1972, he was appointed the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, U.S. Army, where he served until August 1972, when he became the Deputy Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

In August 1973, General Deane assumed the role of Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development, and Acquisition, U.S. Army. He remained in that position until 12 February 1975 when he was promoted to full general and assumed command of the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC). It was under General Deane's command that AMC was redesignated as the U.S. Army Development and Readiness Command (DARCOM) on 23 January 1976. He relinquished command of DARCOM on 31 January 1977. He retired on 1 February 1977.



Lieutenant General George Sammet, Jr.
1 February 1977 - 17 May 1977

George Sammet, Jr., was born in Chicago, Illinois, on 18 September 1919. He graduated from University of Illinois in 1940 and received a reserve commission in the artillery through the ROTC program. Called to active duty in February 1942, he was assigned to the 359th Field Artillery Battalion of the 95th Infantry Division in July. Upon deactivation of the division in October 1945, he was released from active duty. He received a Regular Army commission in 1946.

Lieutenant General Sammet's involvement with materiel procurement began while he was assigned to the Turkish Artillery School as a director of instruction from 1955 - 1957. During this time, he initiated a study to determine the reasons for the multitude of problems encountered with the employment of military vehicles in that part of the world. As a result of this study, Sammet came to be recognized as an authority on military transportation. In 1957, he was given command of the 7th Artillery Battalion (1st Infantry Division), where he remained until July 1959.

In July 1959, Sammet began a series of assignments in the Army's Office, Chief of Research and Development that steadily increased in scope and complexity. In 1962, he was part of the planning group under General Frank S. Besson, Jr., who put the initial AMC command concept together.

Following a tour of Korea and additional assignments in the Army's Office, Chief of Research and Development, Sammet was promoted to brigadier general in August 1967. On 1 September 1967, he became Deputy Director of Development at the Army Materiel Command. He was promoted to major general in November 1970 after having serving in two assignments in Korea and another assignment in the Army's Office, Chief of Research and Development as Director of Plans and Programs. Shortly thereafter, on 1 January 1971, General Sammet was named the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Research and Development.

On 23 October 1973, General Sammet returned to AMC as the Deputy Commanding General for Materiel Acquisition. He was promoted to lieutenant general on 3 October 1975, at which time he became the Deputy Commanding General for Materiel Development. On 1 February 1977, General Sammet was named Commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command (formerly AMC), the post from which he retired on 17 May 1977.

During his career, he received several awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal (Valor), the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Ribbon with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart. He was also inducted into the Ordnance Hall of Fame in 1994. General Sammet died on 18 January 2012.



General John R. Guthrie
18 May 1977 - 30 August 1981

John Reiley Guthrie was born in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, on 20 December 1921. He graduated from Princeton University with an A.B. degree in 1942. An honor graduate of the Princeton ROTC, he was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant, Field Artillery Reserve, and immediately ordered to active duty. He was integrated into the Regular Army in July 1946, while on duty with the War Department General Staff. In October 1946, he was assigned to London, England, as Assistant to the Military Attaché, where he served for three years.

In November 1949, he returned to the United States and was assigned to the 39th Field Artillery Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Georgia. He served as Battery Commander and S-3 of the 39th at Fort Benning, Japan, and Korea, until June 1951 when he was assigned as S-3, 3rd Infantry Division Artillery. During this period, he participated in operations against guerrillas in the Wonsan area, the evacuation from Hungnam, the reoccupation of Seoul, and the spring Chinese offensive and United Nations counter-offensive.

Upon his return to the U.S., he commanded the 602nd Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Sill from February 1952 to May 1953. He was then assigned to the Staff and Faculty at the Artillery and Guided Missile School as a member of the Combat Developments Department. In March 1956, he was transferred to the Office of the Chief of Research and Development, Headquarters, Department of the Army, for duty with the Surface-to-Surface Missiles Division and later with the Missiles and Space Division. He was the Army Staff project officer for the launching of the U.S. and Free World's first artificial earth satellite, EXPLORER I, on 31 January 1958. In July 1958, he was assigned as the Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Army and was appointed Assistant Executive to the Secretary of the Army on 1 August 1959.

After serving in this position for a year, he attended the National War College and graduated in 1961. He was then assigned to the Staff, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, Camp Smith, Hawaii, serving as Deputy Chief, War Games Branch, and Group Operations Officer, from August 1961 to February 1964. In February 1964, he assumed command of the 25th Infantry Division Artillery, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, which he commanded until appointed Chief of Staff, 25th Infantry Division, in July 1964. In July 1965, he returned to the Continental United States and was assigned to the Requirements and Development Division, J-5 Directorate, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C.

In March 1966, he became Director of Developments, Office of the Chief of Research and Development, HQDA. He remained in that position until his reassignment to Korea, where he served as Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver) and Assistant Division Commander (Support), 2nd Infantry Division, actively engaged in counter-infiltration operations along the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

General Guthrie was named Deputy Director of Development and Engineering, AMC, in November 1968; became Director of Research, Development and Engineering in August 1969; and was selected as Deputy Commanding General for Materiel Acquisition, AMC, in April 1971.

In October 1973, General Guthrie returned overseas to become Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Pacific Command, Hawaii. In March 1975, he was promoted to lieutenant general and assigned as Commanding General, IX Corps and U.S. Army, Japan.

In May 1977, General Guthrie returned to AMC, which had been redesignated the U.S. Army Materiel Readiness and Development Command, as its Commanding General. He remained there until 30 August 1981.

General Guthrie was decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Command Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, Distinguished Service Award from Federally Employed Women, and the Minuteman Hall of Fame Award. He died on 25 May 2009.



General Donald R. Keith
31 August 1981 - 28 June 1984

Donald R. Keith was born 31 January 1927 in Ludington, Michigan. During World War II, he served as an enlisted Soldier in the Army before attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He graduated from the Academy in 1949 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery. He later attended Columbia University in New York City where he earned a Master of Arts in Science Teaching in 1958 before being assigned to the faculty of the Chemistry Department at West Point.

After graduating from West Point in 1949, General Keith served in various battery and battalion positions in the 517th FA Battalion in Wetzlar, Germany; as battery commander of the 36th FA Group Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Babenhausen, Germany; and as battery commander and S-3 in the 2d Guided Missile Battalion, White Sands, New Mexico. Later, he served in Eighth Army Operations in the Republic of Korea during the tense days of the Cuban missile crisis.

General Keith commanded artillery units at all levels, to include the 5th Battalion, 73d Field Artillery and the 36th Field Artillery Group, US Army Europe. He also served as the Executive Officer, Office of the Chief of Research and Development at the Pentagon, followed by a tour in Vietnam from 1971 to 1972 where he served as the Director, Research and Analysis Directorate, Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support in the US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. From 1972 through 1974, General Keith was in Washington, DC, in the Office of the Chief of Research and Development as the Director of Developments. He then became the Director of Weapon Systems in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition, also in the Pentagon, until October 1976.

From 9 October 1976 to 21 October 1977, General Keith served as the Chief of Field Artillery, Commandant of the Field Artillery School, and Commanding General of the Field Artillery Center and Fort Sill. Following his tour at Fort Sill, General Keith returned to Washington, DC, where he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition until August 1981, overseeing the largest modernization program ever undertaken by the Army: "The Big Five."

Upon promotion to General on 31 August 1981, he assumed command of the Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command in Alexandria, Virginia. He retired on 28 June 1984.

General Keith was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and numerous foreign awards and service ribbons. He died on 9 September 2004.



General Richard H. Thompson
29 June 1984 - 13 April 1987

Richard H. Thompson was born on 24 September 1926 in New York City, New York. He entered in the Army in November 1944 and advanced to the grade of staff sergeant before being commissioned a second lieutenant. He served first at Fort Hamilton and then was assigned to Japan, where he performed duties as the Army Exchange Officer at Kokura. He returned to the U.S. in March 1957 to take the Associate Infantry Company Officer Course at the U.S. Army Infantry School. Upon completion, he was assigned to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. In the two years he was stationed there, General Thompson attained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Science from the College of the Ozarks.

From September 1959 to May 1960, General Thompson attended the Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course at Fort Lee, Virginia, and from there was assigned to Korea, serving until August 1961 as S-4, 321st U.S. Army Security Agency Battalion at Camp Red Cloud. From Korea, he attended the U.S. Air Force Air University, Air Command and Staff College, and until August 1965 worked in multiple jobs as a staff officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (DCSLOG). He enrolled at the George Washington University at that time and graduated with a Master's Degree in Public Administration in June 1968. Prior to the completion of his tour at the Department of the Army, he also went on temporary duty to the Army Logistics Management Center at Fort Lee in April 1965 and completed the Army Supply Management Course.

He then attended the Armed Forces Staff College. From there he was reassigned to Frankfurt, Germany, in October 1966, where he commanded the 503d Supply and Transport Battalion, 3d Armored Division. He remained in Germany until August 1967 when he returned to Washington to attend the National War College. He was then assigned as a logistics systems officer with the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and then as Chief of the Tactical Support Systems Group.

In April 1970, General Thompson served as Commander of the U.S. Army Inventory Control Center in Vietnam. Returning from overseas, he was assigned as Commander of the Defense Logistics Service Center, Battle Creek, Michigan, until July 1973. From September 1972 to February 1973, he also served as Commander of the Defense Property Disposal Service, which he established and activated. In July 1973, he was reassigned to Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) as Director of Logistics Plans, Operations and Systems, DCSLOG. In 1975, he became the Director of Supply and Maintenance, DCSLOG.

In July 1977, General Thompson became the first Commander of the U.S. Army Troop Support and Aviation Materiel Readiness Command, an organization formed by the merger of two AMC major subordinate commands – the Aviation Systems Command and the Troop Support Command.

In August 1980, he was reassigned to HQDA as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. One year later, General Thompson was promoted to lieutenant general and became the Army DCSLOG. On 29 June 1984, General Thompson received his fourth star and began his assignment as Commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, a position he held until his retirement on 1 May 1987.

Awards and decorations which General Thompson has received include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star, the Joint Service Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, designation as an Army Logistician, the Brazilian Grand Master of the Order of Military Merit, the Spanish Grand Cross of the Order of Military Merit, and Korean Order of National Security Merit Tong-II Medal. He was inducted into the Quartermaster Hall of Fame in 1991.



General Louis C. Wagner, Jr.
13 April 1987 - 26 September 1989

Louis Carson Wagner, Jr., was born on 24 January 1932 in Jackson, Missouri. Upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1954, he was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant, armor, and awarded a Bachelor of Science degree. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from the University of Illinois. His military education includes completion of the United States Armor School, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and Naval War College. He also completed the Airborne and Ranger courses at the U.S. Army Infantry School.

Other key assignments included Commanding General of the U.S. Army Armor Center, Commandant, U.S. Army Armor School, Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans (Force Development), HQDA, Washington, D.C. From 31 July 1984 until assuming command of AMC, General Wagner served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C.

General Wagner served in a variety of progressive assignments preparatory to becoming the Commander of AMC. These included his initial assignment as Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, Company Commander and Assistant S-4, 11th Airborne Division (later redesignated the 24th Infantry Division), Fort Campbell, Kentucky and U.S. Army Europe, followed by assignment as a Troop Commander in the 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Knox, Kentucky. He instructed at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, for three years, then was assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

General Wagner served as a Test Officer and Chief, Armor Test Division at the U.S. Army Arctic Test Center, Fort Greeley, Alaska, for two years, followed by assignment as Commander of a light airborne armor battalion at Fort Riley, Kansas, and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After attending the Naval War College, he returned to Vietnam as an infantry and armor advisor.

He next became a staff officer in the Weapons Systems Analysis Directorate in the Office, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, followed by assignment as the Executive, Materiel Programs Directorate. He was then assigned as Deputy Director of Materiel Programs in the Office of the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, followed by assignment as the Executive, Materiel Programs Directorate. He then was assigned as Deputy Director of Materiel Programs in the Office of the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army and, subsequently, Special Assistant for the Army Materiel Acquisition Review Committee in the same office.

In November 1974, General Wagner became the Commander of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Armored Division in Germany. After promotion to general officer, he was assigned as the Deputy Director, Combat Support Systems, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff (Research, Development and Acquisition), U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.

He served as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command from 13 April 1987 to 26 September 1989.

During his Army career, General Wagner received the following awards and decorations: Distinguished Service Cross, two awards of the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, two awards of the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, two awards of the Air Medal, three awards of the Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, and various foreign decorations. General Wagner retired from the Army on 1 October 1989.



General William G. T. Tuttle, Jr.
27 September 1989 - 31 January 1992

William G.T. Tuttle, Jr., was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, on 26 November 1935. Upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1958, he was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant of infantry and awarded a B.S. degree in Engineering. He earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard University. His military education includes the Basic Officer Course at the Infantry School, the Transportation Basic and Advanced Officer Courses, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

Following graduate school, he commanded the 584th Transportation Detachment (Intelligence) and later served as the Transportation Plans Officer at HQ Eighth U.S. Army, Korea. In 1965, he joined the Department of Social Sciences at the U.S. Military Academy teaching economics and government. He also served a summer period as a strategic mobility analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Systems Analysis) and returned to West Point as an Assistant Professor of Social Sciences, where he directed the Economics of National Security Course. Upon completing his tour at West Point in June 1968, he was assigned respectively as Executive Officer of the 9th Supply and Transport Battalion and 9th Infantry Division Transportation Officer in Vietnam.

In July 1969, he attended the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia and in February 1970 was assigned to the Department of the Army, serving first as a Military Programs Staff Officer in the Directorate of Manpower and Forces of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, where he programmed the major portion of the Army's post-Vietnam reduction as well as the withdrawal of a division from Korea. In February 1971, he joined the Office of the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff as the logistics analyst in the Office of the Coordinator of Army Studies. In the latter part of this tour, he helped develop the concept for the Army's 1973 reorganization which created TRADOC and FORSCOM.

Assigned to Europe in 1972, he was Assistant Chief of Staff, Logistics, 3rd Armored Division, and later commanded that division's 503rd Supply and Transport Battalion. He then attended the War College and wrote a chapter the War College's text, *Army Command and Management*. He served consecutively as Chief of Logistics, Division Restructuring Study, and as Chief of Personnel and Logistics Systems Division in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Combat Developments, TRADOC. He returned to Europe and served as Commander, Division Support Command, 3rd Armored Division from October 1977 through July 1979. Promoted to brigadier general, he became the Commanding General, Eastern Area Military Traffic Management Command, until March 1981.

His next assignments included Deputy Commanding General for Logistics, TRADOC, and Commanding General, U.S. Army Logistics Center and Fort Lee; Director of Force Management, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, HQDA; Chief of the Policy and Programs Branch, Policy Division, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe; and Commanding General, U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Agency. His career culminated in his assignment as Commander, U.S. Army Materiel Command, from 27 September 1989 to 31 January 1992.

Awards and decorations which he has received include the Distinguished Service Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, the Bronze Star Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. He also received the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Gold Cross of Honor of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Senior Parachutist Badge and the Ranger Tab. In 1987, the City of Portsmouth, Virginia chose him as one of its "Notables." General Tuttle was selected in 1991 to be the Army's 45th Kermit Roosevelt Lecturer at the British Senior Service Schools. General Tuttle retired from the Army on 1 February 1992.



General Jimmy D. Ross
1 February 1992 - 11 February 1994

Jimmy D. Ross was born in Hosston, Louisiana, on 23 May 1936. Upon completion of a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, in 1958, he was also commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Transportation Corps. He also earned a Masters' degree in business administration from Central Michigan University. His military education included the Basic Officer Course at the Infantry School, the Transportation Advanced Officer Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

His initial company grade assignments were with the Infantry and Transportation Corps units at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Thailand; Fort Eustis, Virginia; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 1964, General Ross served in Vietnam as an Infantry Battalion Advisor in the PBT Special Zone, III Corps.

From 1967 to 1969, he was assigned as a JTF-11 Staff Officer, United States Strike Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. In 1969, General Ross returned to Vietnam. During his second combat tour, he served as the S4 and later the S2/3 in the 101st Airborne Division Support Command; and then commanded the 10th Transportation Battalion at Cam Ranh Bay.

Upon his return to the United States, he was assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics at HQDA, in the Financial Resources and the Materiel Acquisition Directorates. He served as the Assistant Director of the Army Staff in the Office of the Chief of Staff, Army, from 1973 to 1974. His next assignment was as the Deputy Comptroller of Oakland Army Base, California, and later as the Commander of the Military Ocean Terminal, Bay Area.

In 1978, General Ross transferred to Germany, where he commanded the 4th Transportation Brigade and 2nd Support Command, VII Corps. He returned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, HQDA, as the Director for Transportation, Energy and Troop Support from 1982 to 1984.

He served as the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Materiel Command, from 1984 to 1986 and the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Depot Systems Command, from 1986 to 1987. In June 1987, he was assigned as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, U.S. Army, where he served for four and a half years. General Ross returned to AMC as commanding general from 1 February 1992 to 11 February 1994.

His award and decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster). He has also been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. General Ross retired from the Army in 1994. He died on 2 May 2012.



General Leon E. Salomon
11 February 1994 - 27 March 1996

Leon E. Salomon was born in Chicago, Illinois, on 27 April 1936. On completion of Infantry Officer Candidate School he was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1959. General Salomon earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and biology from the University of Florida, and a Master of Science degree in management logistics from the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology. His military education includes the Chemical Officer Advanced Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Following three years as an Infantry Officer, General Salomon transferred to the Chemical Corps in 1962. Following assignments as a Chemical School instructor and responsibility for an inventory control point in Orleans, France, he became involved in his first assignment with leveraging technology as Chief of the Automated Logistics Tests for the Division Logistics Systems at Fort Hood, Texas. After graduation from the Command and General Staff College in 1969, a tour in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970, and graduate studies in logistics management at the Air Force Institute of Technology, he was again put to work developing automation systems to support logistics.

In 1974, he transferred to the Ordnance Corps and became Commander of the 19th Maintenance Battalion, 3rd Support Command, in Giessen, Germany. He later became Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics for the 3rd Armored Division, in Frankfurt.

Following graduation from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1978, he was assigned to the Office of the Army Chief of Staff as the Chief of the Commercial Industrial Type Activity Team.

In 1980, he became the Director of Combat Services Support Systems. He became involved in the drafting of the new proponentcy regulation that resulted in the recreation of the branch chief concept for Combat Service Support Branches. The end result was the reestablishment of the position of Chief of Ordnance and the rebirth of the Ordnance Corps under the Army Regimental Concept.

He next went on to command the Division Support Command for the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. Following his tour there, he became the Deputy Commanding General, 21st Support Command, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Following his promotion to Brigadier General in 1986, he was named the Commandant of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School at Aberdeen Proving Ground and the Chief of Ordnance. His next key assignments included Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Materiel Command (1988-89), Deputy Commanding General for Logistics U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia, Deputy Commanding General for Combined Arms Support, U.S. Training and Doctrine Command, and Commanding General, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command, Fort Lee, Virginia. He also served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Department of the Army. His career culminated in his last assignment as Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, from 11 February 1994 to 27 March 1996.

General Salomon's awards and decorations include two Distinguished Service Medals, the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. General Salomon retired from the Army on 1 May 1996. He was inducted into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame in 1996.



General Johnnie E. Wilson
27 March 1996 - 26 April 1999

Johnnie E. Wilson was born on 4 February 1944. He was raised in Lorain, Ohio, and entered the Army in August 1961 as an enlisted soldier, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant before attending Officer Candidate School (OCS). On completion of OCS in 1967, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He also earned a Master of Science degree in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology. His military education includes completion of the Ordnance Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

General Wilson commanded three times at the company level; a maintenance company in the 82nd Airborne Division as a First Lieutenant, followed by command of a supply and services company in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and a maintenance company with the 1st Armored Division in Europe. At the Lieutenant Colonel level, General Wilson commanded the 709th Maintenance Battalion, 9th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, which converted and became the Army's first Main Support Battalion. General Wilson commanded twice at the Colonel level, serving as the DISCOM Commander of the 1st Armored Division followed by command of the 13th Support Command at Fort Hood, Texas.

General Wilson next served as the Deputy Commanding General, 21st TAACOM, the Army's largest and most diverse logistics unit. Based on his wide experience with leading soldiers, General Wilson was selected to command the Ordnance Center and School responsible for the training and professional development of thousands of soldiers, NCOs and officers every year.

Following this successful assignment, General Wilson served as the Chief of Staff, AMC, where he was responsible for resource and personnel management for a workforce with over 80,000 military and civilian members. From 1994 to 1996 served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Department of the Army, where he was responsible for worldwide logistics. He served at the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command from 27 March 1996 to 26 April 1999.

General Wilson's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Special Forces Tab, Master Parachutist Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge. General Wilson retired from the U.S. Army on 26 April 1999.



General John G. Coburn
14 May 1999 - 30 October 2001

John G. Coburn was born on 9 October 1941. He graduated from Eastern Michigan University and was commissioned in 1962. General Coburn's education includes attendance at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Kansas, a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Missouri.

During the course of his long career, he served in Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, and Germany as well as a number of stateside assignments. While overseas, he commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Company, III Corps; served as an assistant operations officer in II Field Force, Vietnam; held a series of key assignments in the Taiwan Materiel Agency; advised the Saudi Arabian Army; commanded the 124th Maintenance Battalion and the 2nd Armored Division Support Command; and served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, US Army Europe.

In 1992, he became the Chief of Ordnance and Commanding General of the Ordnance Center and School. In 1994, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and assigned as Deputy Commanding General, US Army Materiel Command. With his guidance, AMC developed the Bosnia Technology Integration Cell to enhance the command's support to forces deployed to Bosnia; established the Industrial Operations Command to manage the Army's arsenals, depots, and war reserve stocks; simplified the contracting process; reduced administrative and production lead times; and supported Force XXI initiatives in the areas of equipment, techniques and systems.

From 1996 to 1999, he served as the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics and assumed responsibility for policy, planning, programming, budgeting, management, staff supervision, evaluation, oversight and information system support for all of the logistics activities of the Department of the Army.

General Coburn served as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command from 14 May 1999 to 30 October 2001. He became the fourth Ordnance 4-star General Officer in United States Army history.

General Coburn's military decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal. General Coburn retired on 1 December 2001. He was inducted into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame in 2002.



General Paul J. Kern
30 October 2001 - 5 November 2004

Paul J. Kern was born on 16 June 1945. Kern is a native of West Orange, New Jersey. He was commissioned as an Armor lieutenant following graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. His education includes master's degrees in both Mechanical and Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan, and a Senior Service College Fellowship at Harvard University.

As a junior officer, he began his career with two combat tours in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry as a platoon leader and troop commander. He taught weapon systems and automotive engineering at the U.S. Military Academy and was the department's research officer.

During Desert Storm, he served as Brigade Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division, playing a pivotal role in the historic attack on the Jalibah Airfield, Iraq. General Kern has been associated with all Army Transformation efforts since 1996.

As the Division Commander of the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), he led the way in developing network centric warfare ideas and capabilities. General Kern has served as the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, and as the Director of Requirements (Support Systems), Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. Earlier in his career, he served as the Program Branch Chief, Bradley Fighting Vehicle Systems.

General Kern served as the Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology and was the senior military advisor to the Army Acquisition Executive and the Chief of Staff, Army on all research, development, and acquisition programs. He supervised the Program Executive Officer system and served as the Director of the Army Acquisition Corps.

General Kern served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command from 30 October 2001 to 5 November 2004.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster), Bronze Star (with Valor Device and Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Purple Heart (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Parachutist Badge, and Ranger Tab. General Kern received the Society of Automotive Engineers Teeter Award and the 2002 Alumni Society Medal from the University of Michigan for his contributions to the engineering field. He retired on 1 January 2005.



General Benjamin S. Griffin
5 November 2004 - 14 November 2008

Benjamin S. Griffin was born on 11 August 1946. He received a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Old Dominion University in 1969 and a master's degree in Business Administration from Mercer University in 1981. His military education includes the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at the National Defense University.

General Griffin began his career when he was commissioned as an Infantry officer in July 1970 following graduation from Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Georgia. He served two tours at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in the 82nd Airborne Division: in the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry as a rifle platoon leader and company executive officer, and in the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 325th Infantry as a commander of Company C and a S-3 Air (Operations) officer. General Griffin also worked as a G3 operations officer, Headquarters, 82nd Airborne Division.

General Griffin's overseas assignments included a tour in Korea as a Company Commander and Brigade S-2 in the 2nd Infantry Division. He served two tours in Germany in the 8th Infantry Division as Secretary of the General Staff and Mechanized Infantry Battalion Executive Officer in the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 87th Infantry. He was also Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment.

His later assignments included: Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Army in Washington, D.C., and Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 6th Infantry Division (Light) in Alaska. In August 1994, he served as Executive Officer to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia.

Following his assignment in Georgia, General Griffin took command of Joint Task Force 6, Fort Bliss, Texas. He then served as the Assistant Division Commander (Support), 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas.

In July 1997, he became the Director of Force Programs, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans in Washington, D.C. General Griffin returned to Fort Hood from June 1999 to October 2001 to command the 4th Infantry Division.

General Benjamin S. Griffin served as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command from 5 November 2004 to 14 November 2008. Prior to this assignment, he served as the Department of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8.

General Griffin's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Expert Infantry Badge, and the Army General Staff Badge. General Griffin retired on 1 January 2009.



General Ann E. Dunwoody
14 November 2008 - 7 August 2012

Ann E. Dunwoody was born on 14 January 1953. She received a direct commission as a Quartermaster officer in 1975, after graduating from the State University of New York at Cortland. She later earned a Master of Science Degree in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1988 and a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1995.

General Dunwoody's command assignments include the 226th Maintenance Company Fort Sill, Oklahoma; 5th QM Detachment (ABN) Kaiserslautern, Germany; the 407th Supply and Service Battalion/782d Main Support Battalion (MSB) Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the 10th Division Support Command (DISCOM) Fort Drum, New York; the 1st Corps Support Command Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC)/Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) Alexandria, Virginia; and the Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) Fort Lee, Virginia. She most recently served as AMC's Deputy Commanding General.

General Dunwoody's key staff assignments include 82d Division Parachute Officer; Strategic Planner for the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA); Executive Officer to the Director, Defense Logistics Agency; and Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics G-4. She deployed with the 82d as the Division Parachute Officer for Desert Shield and Desert Storm from September 1990 to March 1991, and in 2001, as 1st COSCOM Commander she deployed the Log Task Force in support of OEF1 and stood up the Joint Logistics Command in Uzbekistan in support of CJTF-180. As Commander of SDDC, she supported the largest deployment and redeployment of U.S. forces since WWII.

On 14 November 2008, General Dunwoody became the first female four-star general in United States history and assumed the duties as the Commanding General of AMC. She relinquished her command on 7 August 2012.

Her awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster; Army Commendation Medal; the Army Achievement Medal; the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star; SWASM (2 campaign stars); and the Kuwait Liberation Medal. Her badges include the Master Parachutist Badge and the Parachute Rigger Badge.

General Dunwoody has been recognized as a 2001 Distinguished Alumni for the State University of New York at Cortland, the 2004 recipient of the National Defense Transportation Association's DoD Distinguished Service Award, the 2007 recipient of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) Distinguished Service Award, the 2009 recipient of the Association of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces Eisenhower Award, and is the 2011 recipient of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Theodore Roosevelt Award. She received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the State University of New York at Cortland in 2009 and an honorary Doctorate of Military Science from Norwich University in 2010. She was inducted into the Quartermaster Hall of Fame in June 2012.

General Dunwoody officially retired from the U.S. Army on 1 October 2012.