



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.