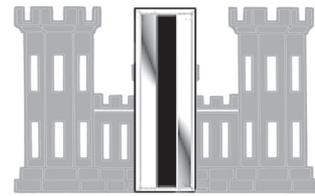


# Show The Way

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**H**appy Birthday, Engineer Warrant Officers! Celebrations at home and abroad marked the Army Warrant Officer Corps's 92d birthday on 9 July 2010. In recognition of the event, this issue of the Engineer Bulletin includes an outstanding article titled "92d Birthday of the Army Warrant Officer" by CW5 David P. Welsh (Retired) on page 70. The article provides a historical overview of warrant officers from the establishment of the Army Mine Planter Service in 1918 to the current Warrant Officer Program. Today, warrant officers make up nearly 15 percent of the Officer Corps and are represented in 17 Army branches, consisting of 70 unique military occupational specialties (MOSs).



Officer, MOS 7917; Map Reproduction Technician, MOS 831A; Photomapping Officer, MOS 7916; Photomapping Technician, MOS 811A; Terrain Analysis Technician, MOS 841A; Geospatial Information Technician, MOS 215D; and finally to our present day title, Geospatial Engineering Technician, approved by TRADOC in February. The MOS's numeric designation will change to 125D on 1 October 2010. For the next issue of the Engineer Bulletin, I will solicit specific engineer warrant officer history articles that expand on the information provided above.

The rich history of the Army warrant officer extends to our own engineer warrant officer specialties—Construction Engineering Technicians and Geospatial Engineering Technicians. The first Utilities Maintenance Officer, MOS 7120, was added during World War II in 1943. The Construction Engineer, MOS 7110, was added to the warrant officer ranks in 1948. Engineer warrant officer MOSs continued to evolve, expand, and contract over the next 67 years to meet the Army's needs, highlighted by the Nuclear Power Plant Technician, MOS 351A, which came on line in 1962. Assigned to the Engineer Reactor Group, these highly skilled nuclear power plant technicians could operate fixed and floating power facilities such as the Army's Stationary Medium-1 (SM-1) prototype nuclear reactor and the MH-1A Sturgis floating nuclear power plant, a 45-MW pressurized water reactor. MOS 521A, Utilities Maintenance Technician, created in 1961 and split into two MOSs with the addition of MOS 521B in 1972, effectively took over the nontactical/ fixed installation part of the MOS. The Utilities Operation and Maintenance Technician, MOS 310A, was created in 1977, with the numeric designation changing to 210A in 1987. The 210A MOS name change to Construction Engineering Technician signifies a major shift in the MOS's core mission and brings its evolution full circle back to its 1943 roots—Construction Engineer.

The origins of the Geospatial Engineering Technician can be traced back to 1943 and World War II as well, with the creation of the Topographic Engineer, MOS 7915, and the Aerial Photographic Officer, MOS 8502. Over the years, additional MOSs were created and deleted along with various name changes. They included Map Reproduction

On another note, I have been able to visit a few units in the past year and have been extremely pleased with the positive comments I received from commanders and command sergeants major about your technical and leadership abilities. Keep up the great work! I did, however, discover some systemic issues that are challenging our younger warrant officers with regard to Officer Evaluation Report (OER) counseling and professional development. Many warrant officers are not receiving their initial and quarterly OER counseling on time or at all. Engage your rater and senior rater, and get the counseling sessions on the boss's calendar. In addition, warrant officers must be included in Officer Professional Development (OPD) sessions. Ensure that you are tied into the training schedule early, and add this as one of your OER support form objectives. At least once a year, provide a warrant officer brief to the command during OPD. Let's fix this issue now.

The engineer warrant officer accessions board was held the week of 12–16 July. We are not attracting enough non-commissioned officers (NCOs) to become warrant officers, especially Geospatial Engineering Technicians. The addition of seventy MOS 215D brigade combat team positions to the force makes this a great time to become a geospatial warrant officer. We are looking for outstanding NCOs who possess a sustained and demonstrated level of technical and leadership competency as supported by rater and senior rater comments on NCOERs. I urge commanders and warrant officers in the field, when asked for a letter of recommendation, to recommend your best NCOs for the warrant officer program. For more information about the upcoming board or how to become an engineer warrant officer, log on to the Army recruiting website at <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant>.

Until next time, stay safe. Essayons!