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AMC Commanding General Speaks To The Warrant Officer Cohort

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SERVING WARRANT OFFICERS & THEIR FAMILIES FOR MORE THAN 45 YEARS



Warrants: Take Back Your Profession!

By **GEN Gus Perna**

Army Materiel Command Commanding General

As we continue to drive our Army to be ready for the next contingency – amidst the reality that it may be soon and fierce – the difference between readiness and reacting is lives lost.

Make no mistake, to be ready, our Warrant Officers must be heavily involved in preparing our force for the battle. Though they make up less than three percent of the total Army force, Warrant Officers are the technical foundation on which the Army stands.

My own path through the commissioned ranks, and those of so many other general officers, was shaped tremendously by the coaching, mentorship, and training provided by these technical experts. Warrant Officers are the reason I know and understand maintenance and supply. I distinctly remember the Warrants I served with early on; the uncompromising standards and discipline they instilled in me continue to serve me well.

Today, our Warrant Officer cohort is at a pivotal moment. More than 15 years of sustained battlefield operations with robust forward operating bases led to the atrophy of Soldier and Warrant Officer skills. Deployed troops relied on contractor support for supply and maintenance to allow Soldiers to focus on the mission at hand. Meanwhile, rapid battlefield requirements supported by contractors created a skills gap for Warrant

Officers who were not working on our upgraded systems and platforms.

The battlefields of the future will require both decisive action and counterinsurgency operations. In war with a near-peer competitor, Soldiers will move out with what they can carry, and they will have to maintain their own equipment once again. No longer can we rely on forward operating bases (FOBs) and readily accessible contractor support.



The Army must be ready to sustain itself, and for that, I am charging Warrant Officers to lead the effort to revive Soldier skills and focus on fundamentals, such as conducting maintenance and inventories in the motor pools. We need Warrants to once again be the technical experts and problem solvers, keeping pace with the vast changes to our equipment and processes. We need Warrants to self-police and know what the technical aspects of right looks like. Warrant Officers must take

back ownership of their profession and reassume control as the Army's technical experts, masterfully administering, managing, maintaining, operating, and integrating Army systems across the spectrum of Army operations.

It will take time to catch up; it will require reading manuals, developing new training processes and procedures, and directing Soldiers while helping them learn necessary battlefield and operational skills. But I am confident the Warrant Officer cohort

is up to the challenge. I know they – you – will do what you do best: Coach, train, and mentor those above and below you. Roll up your sleeves and get in the trenches with our Soldiers, or wring your hands and maintain the status quo – but you cannot do both. As experts and professionals, take responsibility for the great task at hand, and hold us accountable to end states.

Our Warrant Officers – whether supply, maintenance, transportation, or any of the other 18 branches – will drive us forward to a ready Army.

I am the Army's senior logistician today because a previous generation of Warrant Officers showed me the way. I want our corps to be what I remember it to be and what it needs to be – and I have the utmost respect and confidence that it will. 🇺🇸