U.S. ARMY ADJUTANT GENERAL'S CORPS
HALL OF FAME

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM H. GOURLEY
DATE RETIRED: 31 NOVEMBER 1989
DATE DECEASED: 25 AUGUST 2008

1. List of possible sources of information:

LTG (R) Frederick Vollrath
MG (R) Jack Wheeler
MG Sean Byrne
Mrs. Teresa C. Maude
U.S. Army Military History Institute
Library of Congress: Veterans History Project -
http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.58941/

2. Narrative highlights:

- As Director of Enlisted Personnel Management, HRC, MG Gourley led a force realignment that balanced the Army's MOS structure, specifically in developing the force's combat support structures.
- In 1983, MG Gourley established personnel policies for physical profile management and enlisted reclassification and streamlined the Army's medical processing system.
- After retirement from the Army, MG Gourley was instrumental in the planning, development, and funding for a combined Veteran's Affairs / Department of Defense Clinic at Fort Ord, California, which now bears his name.
- MG Gourley served as the Adjutant General's Corps Honorary Regimental Colonel from 1990 until 1999. Afterwards he served as the AG Corps Regimental Colonel Emeritus until his death in 2008.

3. POSITIVE, LASTING, AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS THAT PERPETUATE THE HISTORY OF THE U.S. ARMY ADJUTANT GENERAL'S CORPS:

Major General William H. Gourley was a professional Adjutant General's Corps Soldier. His significant accomplishments, mentorship and guidance set the azimuth for the future role of the Adjutant General's Corps, transitioning the Corps from an insular technical field to an integrated combat and Soldier focused branch of the Army.

As Director of Enlisted Personnel Management, Human Resources Command, MG Gourley led a force realignment that balanced the Army's MOS structure, specifically in developing the force's combat support structures. MG Gourley served as the "mover and catalyst" for the development of the following Career Management Fields (CMFs): CMF 63, Mechanical Maintenance, and CMF 67, Aircraft Maintenance. MG Gourley was significantly instrumental in implementing an Army-wide airborne recruiting plan as well as strengthening combat service support manning for airborne units, improving upon the nation's and the Army's rapid deployable force projection capability.

In 1983, MG Gourley established personnel policies for physical profile management and enlisted reclassification. Working with the Physical Disability Agency, he ensured Army readiness by streamlining the medical processing system. This system remained in place and served as the basis for the 1990 publication of AR 635-40, Physical Evaluation for Retention, Retirement, or Separation. Additionally, MG Gourley personally engineered the Soldier Deployability Program, which resulted in increased readiness across the force.

Upon MG Gourley's retirement, he continued his dedication to Soldier welfare. In May 1990, the Regiment recognized his service to Soldiers as the Adjutant General's Corps Honorary Regimental Colonel, which he served with distinction until 1999. Afterwards he served as the AG Corps Regimental Colonel Emeritus until his death in 2008. MG Gourley's total commitment to the AG Corps he loved was demonstrated one last time in May 2007 when he visited the AG School and shared his Army experiences – he received briefings, visited classrooms, and ate lunch with students, mentoring them throughout his visit.

Serving with several community, veteran, and civic organizations, MG Gourley was also instrumental in the planning, development, and funding for a combined Veteran's Affairs / Department of Defense Clinic at Fort Ord, California. Though he passed away on 25 August 2008, the clinic at Fort Ord now bears his name and is a fitting tribute to his commitment to Soldier well being.

MG Gourley's exemplary leadership inspired all who knew him. He established high performance standards and insisted that support focus on the needs of commanders and Soldiers. "Soldiers First" became the motto of the units he commanded, setting the standard for the entire Army personnel community. MG Gourley will remain known for setting the standard for future AG Soldiers to be warriors before technicians, and always placingthe Soldier first. He also shared his vision of leadership and the AG Corps with a dedicated passion that made him what he was and drove him while on active duty.

SOURCE OF COMMISSION – ROTC

MILITARY SCHOOLS ATTENDED
The Infantry Basic Course
Adjutant General Officer Basic and Advanced Courses
United States Army Command and General Staff College
United States Army War College

EDUCATION DEGREES
Temple University - BA Degree - Management
Indiana University - MA Degree - Management

PROMOTIONS DATES OF APPOINTMENT
2LT – 7 Sep 55
1LT – 7 Sep 58
CPT – 7 Sep 62
MAJ – 7 Sep 69
LTC – 7 Sep 76
COL – 7 Sep 79
BG – 22 Jan 82
MG – 15 Jun 86

MAJOR DUTY ASSIGNMENTS
Sep 55 – Nov 55, Student AG Officer Basic Course, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana

Nov 55 – Sep 56, Personnel Officer, later Asst Adjutant, 6003d Support Unit, 6th Infantry Division, Fort Ord, CA

Sep 56 – Feb 58, Section Chief, Personnel Records Branch, US Army Training Center and Garrison, Fort Ord, CA

Mar 58 – Jun 58, Student, Infantry Officer Basic Course, Fort Benning, GA

Jun 58 – Mar 60, Platoon Leader, later Executive Officer, Company D, and later S3 Air, 2d Armored Rifle Battalion, 46th Infantry, United States Army Europe

Mar 60 – May 61, Assistant G1, 3d Armored Division, United States Army Europe

Jul 61 – Dec 61, Student, AG Officer Advanced Course, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana

Dec 61 – May 63, Instructor, AG School, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana

Jun 63 – Aug 64, Student, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

Aug 64 – Sep 65, Chief, Operations Section, Administrative Services Division, Office of the AG, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam

Sep 65 – Jul 68, Chief, Message Control Branch, later Chief, Military Personnel Branch, Directorate of Administrative Services, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC

Aug 68 – Jun 69, Student, US Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

Jun 69 – May 71, Adjutant General, Joint US Military Assistance to Turkey, United States Army Europe

May 71 – Aug 72, Adjutant General, 2d Infantry Division, United States Army Korea

Aug 72 – Jul 74, Chief, Personnel Actions Branch, Officer Personnel Directorate, US Army Military Personnel Center, Alexandria, VA

Aug 74 – Jun 75, Student, US Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA

Jul 75 – Jul 78, Chief, Enlisted Management Branch, later Chief, Personnel Management Division, later, Chief, Enlisted Personnel Division, US Army Military Personnel Center, Alexandria, VA

Aug 78 – Nov 79, Chief, Enlisted Division, Military Personnel Management Directorate, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, US Army, Washington, DC

Dec 79 – Oct 81, Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, US Army, Washington, DC

Nov 81 – Aug 84, Director, Enlisted Personnel Management, US Army Military Personnel Center, Alexandria, VA

Aug 84 – Nov 87, Commanding General, 1st Personnel Command and Adjutant General, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army

US DECORATIONS AND BADGES
Legion of Merit
Bronze Star Medal
Meritorious Service Medal
Joint Service Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster)
Expert Infantry Badge
Joint Staff Identification Badge
Army Staff Identification Badge

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

Chief, Message Control Branch, later Chief, Military Personnel Branch, Directorate of Administrative Services, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC, Sep 65 – Jul 68, MAJ / LTC

Adjutant General, Joint US Military Assistance to Turkey, United States Army Europe, Jun 69 – May 71, LTC / COL