Who Are Engineer Warrant Officers?

By CW4 Clinton Parker, CW4 Fred Tressler, and CW4 Gilbert Rios

Perhaps the least understood soldiers in the U.S. Army are warrant officers, who are appointed by warrant of the Secretary of the Army. They are highly specialized experts and trainers who—by gaining progressive levels of expertise and leadership—operate, maintain, administer, and manage equipment, support activities, and technical systems throughout the Army's diverse branches. More than 25,000 active and reserve soldiers are warrant officers, who serve in specialties ranging from helicopter pilot through veterinary services technician to legal administrator.

Engineer Warrant Officers

The Corps of Engineers is the proponent for two warrant officer military occupational specialties (MOSs)—Utility Operation and Maintenance Technician (210A) and Terrain Analysis Technician (215D). Until October 1994, the Corps of Engineers was also proponent for the Engineer Equipment Repair Technician MOS (919A), but now engineers have only training responsibility for this MOS, and the Ordnance Corps has all other responsibilities. Table 1 shows the enlisted feeder MOSs for accession into these warrant officer MOSs.

About 80 percent of engineer warrant officers are in the Reserve Components, which consists of the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR). Their missions span the military and civil engineering spectrum.

Duties

Most positions in the three warrant officer MOSs are coded for particular grades. Specific duties for each grade are shown in Table 2, page 25.

MOS 210A

Utility Operation and Maintenance Technicians organize and manage personnel and organizations that provide engineer support on the battlefield and in rear areas. They plan, organize, and supervise the maintenance and repair of utilities equipment to support commanders engaged in real property maintenance activities, such as rehabilitating or remodeling and upgrading existing facilities. They maintain fixed or mobile electrical power plants (Prime Power Teams), install or set up deployable medical hospitals, and install and maintain high-voltage electrical power lines.

MOS 215D

Engineer Terrain Analysis Technicians provide geographic information in digital and hard-copy forms, so that maneuver commanders and staff elements can visualize the terrain and formulate possible courses of action early in the decision-making process.

MOS 919A

Engineer Equipment Repair Technicians manage, supervise, and coordinate general support maintenance activities for engineer equipment and direct maintenance and supply management operations. In staff positions, they assist and advise commanders in areas pertaining to maintenance and maintenance operations. They also serve as training implementers and developers, combat developers (equipment), and maintenance officers.

Opportunities

A career as a warrant officer offers rewarding opportunities for leadership and growth. It also demands great dedication and the highest moral character.

Warrant officer candidates must have above-average skills, demonstrated ability, and supervisory experience in a particular feeder MOS. Their highly specialized skills are warrant officers' most vital contribution. Civilian education and experience may substitute for some military training and experience.

In addition to MOS qualifications, warrant officers execute numerous managerial functions. They are expected to keep abreast of changes in equipment, organization, and procedures in their specialty.

Male or female NCOs, E5 or higher, may have what it takes to become a warrant officer. The Army's goal is to appoint NCOs with eight or fewer years of service in either the Active or Reserve Components as warrant officers. Applicants with concurrent orders to active duty should not exceed 12 years of active Federal service.

Table 1

Warrant Officer Accession Sources	
Warrant Officer MOS	**Enlisted Feeder MOS**
210A	51B Carpentry and Masonry Specialist 51H Construction Engineering Supervisor 51K Plumber 51R Interior Electrician 52C Utilities Equipment Repairer 52D Power Generation Equipment Repairer 52E Prime Power Production Specialist 52G Transmission and Distribution Specialist (Reserve)
215D	81T Topographic Engineering Specialist
919A	52C Utilities Equipment Repairer 52D Power Generation Equipment Repairer 62B Construction Equipment Repairer

Table 2

Warrant Officer Duties	
MOS	Grade
210A	**WO1/CW2** ■ Assigned to combat support and evacuation hospitals. ■ Supervise organizational maintenance of wheeled vehicles, mobile medical support equipment, and utility power plants. ■ Repair, modify, and rehabilitate utility systems and subsystems, facilities, structures, power plants, station hospitals, and mobile hospitals. **CW3/CW4** ■ Command separate detachments that produce prime power. ■ Plan and supervise expedient vertical construction and rapid rehabilitation of structures, facilities, and utilities. ■ Repair interior and exterior of facilities (carpentry, masonry, plumbing, electrical work, and painting). ■ Plan, design, and contruct base camps. **CW5** ■ Serve as supervisor or advisory manager or in a staff position.
215D	**WO1/CW2** ■ Work at division level, usually as Terrain Analysis Detachment commanders. ■ Support the G2 on intelligence preparation of the battlefield. **CW3/CW4** ■ Serve on theater topographic battalion staffs, echelons above corps, and at major regional commands to help formulate topographic and terrain analysis requirements. ■ Serve as project officers at the Engineer School's Department of Training and Doctrine or Directorate of Combat Developments, where they develop engineer doctrine and identify mapping, charting, and geodesy requirements to support a mobile army in a digital environment. **CW5** ■ Work at the Topographic Engineering Center to help identify and coordinate research and development initiatives to meet the technical and automation needs of tomorrow.
919A	**WO1/CW2** ■ Assigned to engineer, ordnance, and transportation (terminal service) companies and battalions. ■ Supervise engineer and nonengineer equipment maintenance. ■ Oversee repair of equipment for power generation; earth moving, shaping, compacting, lifting, and loading; quarrying; rock crushing; road surfacing; refrigeration and air conditioning; and engineering electronic equipment. **CW3/CW4** ■ Assigned to engineer battalions and ordnance companies (heavy and light divisions). ■ Supervise organizational and direct support maintenance and staff responsibilities. ■ Supervise general support maintenance activites for engineer equipment. ■ Oversee repair of power generation, earth moving, refrigeration, air conditioning, and other engineer and nonengineer equipment. **CW5** ■ Serve in staff positions at brigade level or higher, assisting and advising commanders in areas pertaining to maintenance and maintenance operations. ■ Provide maintenance expertise in ordnance, engineer, airborne, and light and heavy divisional and nondivisional units.

Additional requirements are a high school diploma, a general technical score of 110 or higher, and an enlisted feeder MOS.

Warrant officer candidates must complete the Warrant Officer Candidate Course at Fort Rucker, Alabama, before attending the Warrant Officer Basic Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Army Regulation 611-112, *Manual of Warrant Officer Military Occupational Specialties,* Chapter 5, and Department of the Army Circular 601-94-1, *Warrant Officer Procurement Program,* provide detailed information on application procedures; or call CW4 Tressler at (573) 563-4088. To learn more about warrant officer history, visit the Warrant Officer web site at *http://leav-www.Army.mil/wocc.*

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