

African American JAG Warrant Officers – Professional Legal Administrators



**by CW4 Farrell J. Chiles
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Each year, during the month of February, the nation celebrates Black History Month. It's a time to celebrate the many contributions that African Americans have made to our country. It's also a time to highlight African Americans who would otherwise not receive the recognition that they rightly deserve.

Within the military and the Army is a special group of warrant officers. As "quiet professionals" their deeds and accomplishments sometimes go unnoticed. Legal Administrators are one such group. African American Legal Administrators are a subset of that group. Let me share some of their history with you.

CW4 (R) Carl E. Black

CW4 Carl E. Black, U.S. Army, Retired, entered the U.S. Army in September 1953 in Wilmington, North Carolina. After completing Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill Oklahoma, he remained at Fort Sill through 1956. CW4 Black completed Basic Airborne School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in 1956 and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he completed Jumpmaster School.

Mr. Black was appointed as a warrant officer in 1969 at Fort Bragg where he served as a criminal investigator and commanded the 125th Military Police Detachment (Criminal Investigations) until October 1970. After formal schooling, he became a Legal Administrative Technician (MOS 713A), serving at XVIII Airborne Corps and subsequently at the 82nd Airborne Division Staff Judge Advocate Offices from October 1972 until 1977.

After a tour at U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia, CW4 Black returned to the 82nd Airborne Division until he retired in October 1974. In 1999, CW4 (R) Carl E. Black was made the Honorary Regimental Warrant Officer of the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

CW4 Lennox A. Chance

CW4 Lennox A. Chance was born on 16 February 1949 in Georgetown, Guyana, South America. He migrated to the United States on 17 May 1970.

Mr. Chance was drafted into the United States Army on 18 December 1972 and completed his Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He attended two Advanced Individual Trainings – the first one was at Fort Ord, California, where he attained the MOS 71B (Company Clerk) and the second one was at Fort Benjamin, Indiana, where he was awarded "71D" Legal Clerk MOS.

In July 1973, Chance served as a legal clerk with the 3rd AIT Brigade, Fort Polk, LA through 17 January 1975. He joined the 4th Legal Services Organization in New York upon his ETS from active duty. In August 1976, Chance graduated from the Court Reporting School at the Naval Justice School, Newport, Rhode Island.

Mr. Chance served as an Assistant Instructor for three consecutive years at the Naval Justice School from 1979 through 1982 where he taught Court Reporting to reservists. The highest enlisted rank attained by Chance was master sergeant prior to his appointment as a warrant officer.

For fifteen years, while a member of the Army Reserve, CW4 Chance was a Senior Field Commercial Insurance Underwriter for two well known insurance companies. In 1996, he was called to active duty in support of Operation Joint Endeavor where he served with V Corps, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, in Heidelberg, Germany. Mr. Chance came back on active duty in November 1997 with a duty assignment at Fort Mc Nair, Washington, DC where as a legal administrator he was involved in several high profile court martial cases. CW4 Lennox A. Chance is currently assigned to the Staff Judge Advocate Office at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

CW3 Belynda Lindsey

CW3 Belynda Lindsey joined the Army Reserve in 1986 and was assigned to the 78th Legal Support Organization as a legal specialist. She became a legal administrator in 1994 after completing the Warrant Officer Candidate Course at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin and the Legal Administrator Basic Course at the JAG School in Charlottesville, Virginia. In her civilian capacity, she is a senior investigator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission – Los Angeles District Office.

CW3 Lindsey is a life member of the United States Army Warrant Officers Association and the Reserve Officers Association. In 2002, Ms, Lindsey was honored by the Reserve Officers Association's Department of California as the winner of the CW3 James H. Witcher Outstanding Warrant Officer of the Year Award.

In 2006, Ms. Lindsey was cross-leveled with an active duty unit – the Headquarters Headquarters Command (HHC), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) at Ford Hood, Texas with deployment to Anaconda, Balad, Iraq. CW3 Lindsey was further assigned to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. During her tenure in Iraq, she was the only legal administrator in theatre. Her many missions included coordinating a JAG conference, naturalization ceremonies, officer evaluation reports, awards processing, issues regarding and contract management, and a host of personnel issues that required her attention.

Ms. Lindsey served with distinction for over a year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She returned to her reserve unit in the later part of 2007 and is currently waiting for the next Reserve Component's Promotion Board to make CW4.

Warrant Officer Donnell O. McIntosh, Jr.

Warrant Officer Donnell O. McIntosh Jr., a legal administrator, deployed to Iraq with Headquarters and Headquarters, 1st Armored Division.

On August 3, 2006, McIntosh was part of a three-vehicle convoy on a re-supply mission in central Baghdad. As the convoy drove through a busy business district, looking for a secure place to park, there two humvees parked on a median. The convoy continued, parked, and as the soldiers were dismounting the vehicles, they heard a loud boom. Mr. McIntosh knew immediately that the boom had come from the vicinity of where the two humvees had been parked. He ran to the median, where he saw that one humvee had been hit by a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) and was on fire. One soldier had been thrown out of the vehicle and one was still trapped inside. Both soldiers were wounded. The area was also under small-arms fire. Mr. McIntosh assisted in getting the wounded soldiers into a nearby store. McIntosh then provided medical aid while the soldiers waited for medical evacuation.

For his actions, Warrant Officer Donnell O. McIntosh, Jr. was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor Device for saving the lives of the two soldiers.

Black History Month

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us not forget the contributions and sacrifices that all African American warrant officers have made to our country. It's because of their dedication and commitment to serve our country and defend our liberties, that we are stronger as a nation.

And, to all African American legal administrators – I salute you.