



History of The Provost Marshal General of the Army



MG David E. Quantock
2011-present



BG Colleen L. McGuire
2010-2011



BG Rodney L. Johnson
2006-2010



MG Donald J. Ryder
2003-2006



MG Lloyd B. Ramsey
1970-1974

Position abolished on May 20, 1974



MG Karl J. Gustafson
1968-1970



MG Carl C. Turner
1964-1968



MG Ralph J. Butchers
1960-1964



MG Haydon L. Boatner
1957-1960



MG William H. Maglin
1953-1957

Revolutionary War

Congress approved General George Washington's appointment of William Marony, as the Continental Army's first Provost Marshal General on 10 January 1776. The Provost Marshal General was responsible for enforcing camp discipline and his functions included maintaining the camp jail and supervising the guards furnished daily by line regiments in rotation. The office suffered from heavy personnel turnover throughout the war, primarily because the Provost was also required to serve as executioner. To remedy this situation, General Washington normally selected a sergeant to perform executions, and conferred on him the temporary rank of Captain. On 27 May 1778 Congress authorized the formation of the Marechaussee (fr. Provost troops) Corps, and Bartholomew Von Heer was appointed by George Washington as commander of the corps and Provost Marshal of the Continental Army. History tells us that the Provost Marshals General were successful at performing their functions during the revolutionary war, but after the war, the Marechaussee Corps was disbanded on 4 November 1783 and the position of Provost Marshal of the Continental Army was abolished.

Civil War

During the Civil War, Congress passed the Enrollment Act of 3 March 1863, which authorized a draft and established the Office of the Provost Marshal General. James Barnet Fry (shown below) was named Provost Marshal General on 17 March 1863 and served until 30 August 1866. Provost Marshal General

Fry was responsible for supervising the whole draft under Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and was specifically tasked to administer and enforce the new draft law. That law was very unpopular, and many riots took place in protest of the draft. The Provost Marshal General's functions included arresting deserters, enrolling men for the

draft, enlisting volunteers, and compiling statistics on the physical condition of recruits and on Army casualties. To accomplish this huge task, the Provost Marshal General appointed Acting Assistant Provost Marshals General (AAPMG) for each state or group of territories. General Order #66 abolished the Office of the Provost Marshal General, on 20 August 1866.

World War I

World War I marked a significant step in the military police journey toward permanent branch status within the Army. Once again the Army organized units both at the War Department level and in the field to carry out military police duties. Following America's entry into the war on 13 June 1917 under General Order Number 8, the War Department appointed Enoch H. Crowder (pictured above) Provost Marshal General of the Army. Among the duties of the Provost Marshal General's office in World War I was administration of the selective service law. In November 1918, General John Pershing directed the Provost Marshal General of his American Expeditionary Forces to organize a criminal investigation division within the Military Police Corps for the purpose of detecting and preventing crimes within the territory occupied by the American Expeditionary Forces. However, operational control of the CID remained with the individual Provost Marshals and was not centralized under the Provost Marshal General.

World War II

The trend of appointing a Provost Marshal General during wartime and abolishing the position afterwards repeated itself throughout history up until WWII. During and after WWII, the Army recognized the need for a permanent Provost Marshal General to carry out the functions of discipline, law and order, and supervise and guide the specialized missions assigned to Military Police and Criminal Investigators. During WWII, The Office of the Provost Marshal General supervised the surveillance, investigation, and internment of aliens and suspected subversives. The office was organized with an Internal Security Division, Personnel Security Division, Military Police Division, Provost Division, Military Government Division, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Prisoner of War Information Division, Special Projects Division, and the Italian Service Units.

MG Allen W. Gullion (shown below), who had worked under the Provost Marshal General's office in World War I, was appointed Provost Marshal General on 31 July 1941 during a particularly turbulent period at the beginning of World War II and handled some of the most troublesome issues of the time, including enforcement of the draft laws and internment of aliens on U.S. soil. MG Gullion's job was made even more difficult by the fact that, for a period of time, he served concurrently as both Provost Marshal General and Judge Advocate General. His service was impressive and has left an enduring impression both on military law and Army law enforcement. He directed and oversaw the early development of the Military Police Corps, which was established by General Order at or about the same time as the Office of the Provost Marshal General. He also directed the first Military Police academy established at Arlington Cantonment to provide training for the newly established Military Police Corps, consisting of approximately 25,000 men trained in groups of 100 officers and 100 enlisted at a time. Between 1941 and 1974 there were ten Provost Marshal Generals: MG Allen W. Gullion - 31 July 1941-27 April 1944; MG Archer L. Lerch - May 1944-17 July 1945; MG Blackshear M. Bryan - 17 July 1945-9 April 1948; MG Edwin P. Parker, Jr. - 10 April 1948-4 February 1953; MG William H. Maglin -- 5 February 1953-September 1957; MG Haydon Lemaine Boatner - 19 November 1957-31 October 1960; MG Ralph Joseph Butchers - 1 December 1960-1 July 1964; MG Carl C. Turner - 1 July 1964-30 September 1968; MG Karl W. Gustafson - 30 September 1968-14 July 1970; and MG Lloyd B. Ramsey - 14 July 1970-20 May 1974.

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Although the Military Police Corps and the MP school have continued operations since they were first established, following the conclusion of the Vietnam War, on 8 May 1974, General Order 10 was published discontinuing the Office of the Provost Marshal General and distributing the functions, personnel and equipment of the office to the ODCSPER and ODCSOPS. These staff agencies provided supervision and oversight of the law enforcement functions while the US Army Criminal Investigation Command provided centralized command, control and technical oversight over Army criminal investigations.

Thus, for 29 years the Army was without a Provost Marshal General, and the law enforcement and criminal investigative functions were performed by Military Police Corps personnel and Criminal Investigation Special Agents. On 25 June 2001, the Secretary of the Army established a Department of the Army Realignment Task Force to look at aligning the missions and functions of the Army staff with the Secretary's Title X authority. Then, the horrific events of September 11, 2001, brought home the true vulnerability of America and the military to protect its citizens against all enemies both foreign and domestic. This significant event and the aftermath resulted in the Chief of Staff of the Army recognizing a serious shortfall in the organization of the Army Staff in that there was no single individual or office responsible for all Army law enforcement, security, corrections, and criminal investigative functions.

Consistent with the Realignment Task Force's mandate, The Army recommended the reestablishment of the Office of the Provost Marshal General and on 30 January 2003, the Department of the Army publicly announced the creation of a new position on the Army Staff -- The Provost Marshal General. With this announcement, the Commander, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, was tasked with the responsibility of submitting a concept and implementation plan for re-establishing the Office of the Provost Marshal General and transforming USACIDC from a MACOM to a Direct Reporting Unit (DRU) to the Provost Marshal General.

On 6 August 2003, the concept plan for the new Office of the Provost Marshal General was approved with an effective date of 26 September 2003 for the establishment of the office under General Order #9. Thus, on 26 September 2003, sixty-two years to the day after the Military Police Corps was founded, the Provost Marshal General of the Army was reestablished. The Army's new Provost Marshal General is Major General David E. Quantock, and he joins the ranks of those who have proudly preceded him as the chief law enforcement officer of the United States Army.

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• This content, was prepared by the PMG Working Group (COL William Drake, LTC Michael Brown and LTC Terry Kelley in 2003) contains material taken from various published sources including the Army Lineage Series published by the Center of Military History, United States Army; Army Times, The Army and The Navy Journal. In addition, the authors consulted original source materials in the National Archives. Photographs for this document were provided by the United States Army Military Police School, the United States Military Academy, and The 78th ("Lightning") Infantry Division