THE LEAVENWORTH LAMP

SYMBOL OF

THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE

FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

PRESENTED

7 MAY 1956
**The Leavenworth lamp: symbol of the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas: presented 7 May 1956**

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Command and General Staff College and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on 7 May 1956, the "Leavenworth Lamp" was officially adopted by the College as the symbol of its distinguished history and renowned role in the military affairs of this Nation. The unveiling ceremony took place on Andrews Hall before a large audience who had gathered to hear the principal address of the day given by the honorable Wilber M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army. This pamphlet presents the story of the search for a College symbol, and the contest which resulted in the choice of the Lamp. It contains artwork of the top submissions and copies of the orders announcing the contest and establishment of a College symbol.
ON ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE
BY THE KANSAS CITY CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

"THE LEAVENWORTH LAMP" PRESENTED TO THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE ON ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE BY THE KANSAS CITY CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

FEB 12, 1957
MAJOR GENERAL GARRISON H. DAVIDSON, Commandant, Command and General Staff College. General Davidson first conceived the idea of having a College symbol and through his personal efforts furnished the necessary impetus to carry the project to a successful conclusion.
The Original Leavenworth Lamp

Basically, the Leavenworth Lamp is the traditional lamp of learning symbolizing the knowledge acquired at the College—from which emerges a mailed fist symbolizing the military nature of this knowledge. Clenched in the fist are a rifle and a sword, connoting the origin of the College in 1881 as the School for Application of Infantry and Cavalry, and a guided missile symbolizing the future. The entire symbol thus represents the idea that from the College emerge leaders who, with their knowledge and control of the past, present, and future weapons of war, protect our liberty.

The base upon which the lamp stands is made of polished walnut and is 5” × 9” × 4¼” high. The lamp itself is in silver with a mailed fist in washed gold emerging from the top. The College crest is centered on the viewing side of the lamp. Dimensions of the lamp are 12” × 3½” × 7¾” high. Overall height with base is 12”.
The Story of the Leavenworth Lamp

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on 7 May 1956, the “Leavenworth Lamp” was officially adopted by the College as the symbol of its distinguished history and renowned role in the military affairs of this Nation. The unveiling ceremony took place in Andrews Hall before a large audience who had gathered to hear the principal address of the day given by the Honorable Wilber M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army.

The unveiling ceremony consisted of a presentation of the original “Leavenworth Lamp” to the College by the Kansas City Missouri Chapter, Military Order of World Wars. Major General Garrison H. Davidson, Commandant, accepted for the College, and Mr. James H. Parker III, Vice Commander, MOWW, made the presentation.
Mr. James H. Parker III, Vice Commander, Kansas City Missouri Chapter, MOWW, presents the original “Leavenworth Lamp” to Major General Garrison H. Davidson, Commandant, Command and General Staff College.
It was entirely fitting that the Military Order of World Wars should have been granted the honor of presenting the original "Leavenworth Lamp" to the Command and General Staff College since they too are possessors of a prominent and distinguished history of devoted service to our Nation, particularly in the field of military affairs. The relationship between the Order and the College has been an especially close one, notably in the assistance rendered the Allied officers by the Order. Further, the alacritous manner in which the Kansas City Missouri Chapter accepted General Davidson's request to sponsor the presentation of the Lamp to the College is a true example of the fine traditions established by that organization. For this generous and unselfish action, which so accurately characterizes their entire Order, the College acknowledges a sincere debt of gratitude.

The idea of having a College symbol had its origin with General Davidson, the 33d and present Commandant of the Command and General Staff College. As the third oldest school in the Army Educational System (only the United States Military Academy and the Artillery School predate), General Davidson felt that CGSC possessed a basis for a tradition which had not yet been exploited. He further felt that one important element in building this tradition into a positive morale factor lay in the tangible representation of the College history and role. Primary among such representations should be a symbol which would in time become widely associated with the College in the same sense that the Camberley Owl is related to the British Staff College.

With this in mind, General Davidson requested the Post Historical Committee to develop ideas for the design of such a symbol. Following this request, a number of designs were submitted from various members of the Post but primarily from members of the Editing and Publishing Unit under the direction of Major W. C. Washcoe. Particularly worthy of mention, among these early submissions, were several designs submitted by Mr. Fred M. Biastock, then of the Editing and Publishing Unit, Army Field Printing Plant, but now associated with the Quartermaster Property Office, Fort Leavenworth.
Mr. Biastock with several of his early designs.
An early Biastock design.
As can be seen from the reproduction above, this early Biastock design bears a strong resemblance to the final form of the College symbol.

General Davidson reviewed these several early submissions, some of which he considered quite noteworthy. At the same time he realized that the project had only begun to tap the many sources of original ideas that were available at Fort Leavenworth. As a result, and with the added thought of giving more people an opportunity to participate actively in the symbol program, on 21 September 1955 he appointed a committee to solicit suggested symbol designs from wider sources. Specifically, the General directed the committee to conduct a Post-wide contest to find an appropriate symbol for the College and to submit to him their recommendations for the first three places. Funds were made available in the amount of $40 for cash prize awards; $25 for first prize, $10 for second prize, and $5 for third prize.

The contest committee composed of
Col Louis Büttner, Director of Administration, Chairman,
Col Ward S. Ryan, Director, Department V,
Col Raymond R. Shoemaker, Assistant to Assistant Commandant,
Lt Col M. H. Armor, Jr., Department I,
Maj W. C. Washcoe, Editing and Publishing Unit,
held their first meeting on 23 September 1955. During this meeting, Major Lexy Ford, Post Special Services Officer, was appointed as the Project Officer for the contest.

Upon notification of his appointment, Major Ford prepared an extensive publicity program for the contest and together with Major Washcoe drafted a set of rules, an entry blank, and a letter of announcement. This material was coordinated with the committee members and submitted to the Commandant for approval. The Commandant disapproved the broad publicity approach but directed that the other material, with certain modifications, be prepared forthwith and distributed to all military and civilian personnel at Fort Leavenworth. After the necessary revisions, the material was printed and Post-wide distribution was made on 1 October 1955.
Command and General Staff College
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

Subject: Appropriate Symbol for CGSC

To: Military Personnel and Civilian Employees
   Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

1. As a further move to foster the prestige and tradition of the Command and General Staff College, it is desired to establish a symbol representative of the vital role the College plays in the military scheme of things. It is planned to utilize this symbol for several purposes, one such is as an award for outstanding service each year (similar to the use of Oscars in the Moving Picture Industry), to selected officers whose efforts result in the more efficient accomplishment of our College mission.

2. In order that everyone at Fort Leavenworth may have an opportunity to participate in the design of the symbol, a contest to obtain ideas and suggestions is announced. This contest is open to all military personnel, civilian employees and dependents. Cash prizes of $25.00, $10.00 and $5.00 will be presented to the three persons submitting the best contributions. An entry blank containing complete instructions is enclosed.

3. While a simple symbol will perhaps be most effective, no limit is placed on the design. It can be a simple object, symbolic animal or bird, or perhaps something as elaborate as a motif that considers the official crest of the College; its origin as the first school of combined arms (Infantry-Cavalry) at a time when this Post was still a base for operations against the Indians; and its present role as the tactical school of all the combined arms and services in the atomic era.

4. Your individual interest and cooperation in making this contest a success is encouraged.

Incl:
Entry Blank

Garrison H. Davidson
Major General, USA
Commandant
ENTRY BLANK
SYMBOL CONTEST
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

ENTRY BLANK
SYMBOL CONTEST
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE

4. Ronk . .. I ... of the description or explanation.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

Symbol contest entry blank.
According to the rules of the contest, all military and civilian personnel of Fort Leavenworth, to include dependents, were eligible to enter the contest. Individuals were permitted to submit as many entries as they desired. The contest opened 3 October 1955 and closed at midnight 30 October 1955. Eighty-three entries were submitted by deadline time.

The contest committee met during the morning of 31 October 1955 to screen the entries. Each entry had been prepared in such a way that the entrant's name was not available to the judges. By 1300 hours of the same day the judges had eliminated all but seven entries. These seven had received a rating of at least excellent by a majority of the committee.

Committee discussion was then turned to the next step to be taken, which was to put the seven entries into a form suitable for final judging. It was decided that the submitters of these entries should be contacted and advised that their entries had been considered worthy of further development and that they would be given an opportunity, with the aid of an illustrator, to put them into a final format so that graphic presentation of all would be equalized.

The envelopes containing the names of the contestants were opened and it was found that the following 6 people had submitted the 7 remaining entries:

- Col Dallas A. Pilliod, Office, Supervisor of Allied Personnel
- Lt Col Henry S. Parker, G4 Section, Academic Staff
- Lt Col Robert O. Rupp, G1 Section, Academic Staff
- Lt Col William D. Vaughan, G1 Section, Academic Staff
- Lt Col James H. Hill, Jr., Student, Regular Course (2 entries)
- Mr. Fred M. Biastock, Civilian, Quartermaster Property Office

A conference was held with the above-named persons during the evening of 31 October 1955 and arrangements were made for uniform presentations. A deadline of 1100 hours, Friday, 4 November 1955, was established for the revised entries.

On 4 November 1955, the contest committee met for the final judging. The seven remaining entries, having now been standardized for presentation, were again considered. Reproductions of these finalized entries follow.
LEADERSHIP IN THE ATOMIC AGE

Entry submitted by Col D. A. Pilliod,
Office, Supervisor of Allied Personnel.
A PRESENTATION PIECE

Entry submitted by Lt Col H. S. Parker, G4, Academic Staff.
LAMP OF LEARNING

Entry submitted by Lt Col R. O. Rupp, G1 Section.
GAUNTLET

Entry submitted by Lt Col W. D. Vaughan, G1 Section.
TROPHY

One entry submitted by Lt Col J. H. Hill, Jr.,
Student, Regular Course.
TROPHY

Second entry submitted by Lt Col J. H. Hill, Jr.,
Student, Regular Course.
THE ARROWHEAD

Entry submitted by Mr. Fred M. Biastock,
Civilian, Quartermaster Property Office.
After thorough deliberation the judges voted to award prizes for three of the entries as follows:

First prize—“Gauntlet,” Lt Col Vaughan
Second prize—“A Presentation Piece,” Lt Col Parker
Third prize—“Trophy,” Lt Col Hill

The 3 winning entries together with the 4 remaining designs were forwarded to General Davidson with the results of the judging.

At this point, the Commandant, in conference with the members of the contest committee, came to the conclusion that while the “Gauntlet,” which had taken first prize in the contest, was an exceptionally well-conceived design, with great merit, it, within itself, as well as the other entries, failed to meet the strict test of a properly proportioned representation truly symbolic of the history and role of the College. For this reason, it was decided not to accept the “Gauntlet” as the symbol of the Command and General Staff College. No further action was taken to develop a College symbol at this time.

On 14 November 1955, ceremonies were held in the offices of Brigadier General William F. Train, Assistant Commandant, CGSC, at which time the cash prizes were presented to the contest winners by General Train.
Lt Col Vaughan is shown with the symbol which won first place and $25 for him in the CGSC symbol contest. Entitled "Gauntlet," the symbol has a base with a relief outline of the state of Kansas and five stars, indicating the "birthplace of the generals." Emerging from the base is a hand, gloved in a US Cavalry officers gauntlet, signifying the era the College came into being. The hand holds an 1832 General Staff officers sword, a torch to signify liberty and the light of knowledge, and a rocket to indicate control of the future. Lt Col Vaughan is a member of the G1 Section, Academic Staff, CGSC.
Brig Gen W. F. Train (right), Assistant Commandant, CGSC, presents a cash prize to Lt Col H. S. Parker (left), G4 Section, Academic Staff, CGSC, for having won second place in the CGSC symbol contest. Shown between the two officers is Lt Col Parker’s winning entry entitled “A Presentation Piece.”
Brig Gen W. F. Train (right), Assistant Commandant, CGSC, presents a cash prize to Lt Col J. H. Hill, Jr., (left) student, Regular Course, CGSC, for having won third place in the CGSC symbol contest. Shown between the two officers is Lt Col Hill's winning entry entitled "Trophy."
The three winners of the CGSC symbol contest with their prize-winning entries and two of their wives. Left to right: Lt Col Parker, Mrs. Parker, Lt Col Vaughan, Mrs. Vaughan, and Lt Col Hill.
When General Davidson first conceived the idea of adopting a College symbol, one of his thoughts was that replicas of the symbol would be awarded each year to individuals whose exceptional efforts resulted in the more efficient accomplishment of the College mission. Accordingly, the Commandant appointed an Awards Committee on 17 January 1956 to recommend a complete plan for recognizing conspicuously outstanding service to the College. In his letter of instructions to the Committee the General specified that, amongst other provisions, the plan should:

1. Define the purpose of the award.
2. Designate the field eligible to compete.
4. Prescribe an incentive type award to foster a spirit of competition thereby improving the quality of performance and in turn the quality of the College product.

On 27 February 1956, this Ad Hoc Committee on Awards, composed of
Col James L. Cantrell, Class Supervisor, CGSC, Chairman,
Col Raymond L. Shoemaker, Assistant to Assistant Commandant, CGSC,
Lt Col Ernest P. Lasche, Assistant Secretary, CGSC,
forwarded a recommended plan known as the Gauntlet Award, to the Commandant. The plan was complete and detailed. In their report, which was attached to the forwarded plan, the Committee pointed out that because of the diversity of activities carried on within the College community there was no way possible in which they could establish a body of specific criteria by which outstanding performance at the College could be measured. This lack of some measuring device was the most serious negating feature of the plan.

During a thoughtful perusal of the plan, the Commandant became increasingly aware of the fact that in any attempt to administer a program of this nature, an undesirable byproduct, in the form of an adverse morale effect on nonrecipients, was likely to occur. For this reason he decided that the administrative phase of the award program should be thoroughly tested to determine its feasibility. Accordingly, the plan was forwarded to the Assistant Commandant, General W. F. Train, with the request that the required testing be accomplished.
For this purpose a committee was formed with membership as follows:

Brig Gen William F. Train, Assistant Commandant, CGSC, Chairman
Col William W. Culp, Director of Instruction, CGSC
Col Seth L. Weld, Jr., Director of Research and Analysis, CGSC
Col John F. Franklin, Jr., Secretary, CGSC
Col Raymond L. Shoemaker, Assistant to Assistant Commandant, CGSC.

The committee met on 19 April 1956. During this meeting General Train explained to the membership that a limited test would be run to determine whether an award, such as the one envisaged in the plan before them, should be recommended to the Commandant for establishment. To this end each department director was asked to prepare a sample nomination for the award.

Trial nominations were drafted and circulated to the membership.

On 8 May 1956 the committee reassembled to discuss in more detail the implications of such an award and to determine whether the trial nominations warranted favorable action.

In substance, the results of the committee action and the committee findings were as follows:

1. All trial nominations were turned down.
2. The lack of a solid basis for selection rendered the plan self-defeating in that it would have an adverse rather than a favorable effect on morale.
3. There could be no competition in such a plan, since an individual would never know against what he was competing.
4. There would be a tendency for the award to become a position award.
5. The award could quickly degenerate into a popularity contest.
6. The reaction of recipients would be favorable but collective reaction of nonrecipients would have a deleterious morale effect.
7. The disadvantages of establishing such an award are such as to make its adoption highly undesirable.
In view of the above-mentioned findings, the committee recommended that this award not be established at the College. The recommendation was accepted by the Commandant and the thought of utilizing a replica of the College symbol as an award for outstanding service to the College was dropped.

Concurrent with the consideration of the Gauntlet Award, during the early part of March 1956 General Davidson found time to reopen his consideration of a design for the College symbol. After reviewing the various designs which had been submitted during past months, he came to the conclusion that the design he was looking for was amongst them. Perhaps all the elements were not in any one design; perhaps the elements were not properly proportioned; but taking all the designs as a whole, the symbol was there.

Encouraged by this thought, General Davidson took up pencil and paper and began to piece together a design which, after much hard work on his part and that of his Aide-de-Camp, Lieutenant Edward C. Gillette III, took the form of the "Leavenworth Lamp."

To clarify the question of credit for the design of the College symbol, it can be stated that no one person has a logical claim to it. Credit in some part, therefore, belongs to all who actively participated in the symbol design program. However, it cannot be denied that General Davidson, who drew up the final design, and Mr. Biastock, whose early submissions exercised more than a casual influence upon this final design, are deserving of a greater share of the honors. So, to them, the College gives a special vote of thanks.

When the "Leavenworth Lamp" design was finalized it was forwarded to Mr. Reldon T. Blair, Assistant Crafts Director, Post Special Services, a professional sculptor, who reproduced it in clay. General Davidson then contacted the Kansas City Missouri Chapter, Military Order of World Wars, and requested that that organization sponsor the original "Leavenworth Lamp" and present it to the College on the 75th Anniversary of the founding of our school. The Order cheerfully accepted this honor and obligation and immediately commissioned the Green Jewelry Co., 1010 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Missouri, to cast the original lamp.
During the presentation ceremony on 7 May 1956, the “Leavenworth Lamp” was officially adopted as the symbol of the Command and General Staff College and so, 75 years to the day since its founding, the College became the proud possessor of an emblem which soon will become recognized throughout the world as the symbol of a great military college, proud of its past and confident of its future.

During the Commandant’s considerations leading to the “Leavenworth Lamp,” he conceived the idea of presenting miniatures of the Lamp to all members of the College Staff and Faculty at the end of each individual’s tour of duty with the school. The presentation would be made by the Commandant or the Assistant Commandant. It was felt that this miniature of the Lamp would serve as a memento of the school and also provide conspicuous evidence of faithful service to the College. Since the cost of the miniature was $12 and since no funds could be provided for such a project, General Davidson felt that participation in the program should be on a voluntary basis. During a Staff and Faculty Briefing on 14 May 1956, the Commandant outlined his plan for the benefit of the assemblage and requested all to consider participation in the program. The Secretary was designated as action officer for the project.

Following the briefing the Secretary distributed individual questionnaires to a representative of each department. It was requested that all questionnaires be completed and returned with the least possible delay. A tally of the replies received indicated that approximately 95 percent of the Staff and Faculty desired to participate in the program. Following this tally, arrangements were made with the Officers’ Mess to become the collecting agency for the project and an order for the first 200 miniatures was placed with the Green Jewelry Company of Kansas City, Missouri.

On 18 May 1956, it was decided that all officers being assigned to the Staff and Faculty in the future would be presented with a letter from the Assistant Commandant setting out the purpose of the program together with a questionnaire requesting that each new arrival indicate his desires concerning the program thereon.
1. At a Staff and Faculty meeting on Saturday, May 12th, 1956, the Commandant reviewed his desire to add all possible means to add to the tradition of the Command and General Staff College. In a sentence particularly, he expressed the desire to increase the sense of pride in having been a member of the Staff and Faculty of this important College. He explained the point thus, "In this context, the accelerated implementation of our country's war plans and effort is needed, or, if necessary, adopted, at any price or by any mechanism in the Army's educational system. We believe that this traditional sense of pride, the Leavenworth Lamp, has been selected as the symbol of the Command and General Staff College's role in the preparation of our Officer Corps.

2. The Leavenworth Lamp was presented to the College by the Kansas City Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the College on May 7th of this year. The Lamp rests on the mantle-piece in the Commandant's office under General Leavenworth's portrait. Basically, it is the traditional lamp of learning symbolizing the knowledge acquired at the College - now which is conveyed a mental light symbolizing the military value of this knowledge. Clenched in the fist are a rifle and a sword, connoting the origin of the College in 1881 as the School for Application of Infantry and Cavalry, and a guided missile, indicating the future. The entire symbol thus represents the idea that from the College emerge the leaders, with their knowledge and control of the past, present and future weapons of war, protect our liberty.

3. To establish this item as the traditional symbol of the College it was decided to make it available to members of the Staff and Faculty at the end of their individual tours of duty. Official funds are not available for this purpose. Therefore, the program had to be undertaken on a voluntary basis. The cost of the miniature of the Lamp, approximately 1/3 the size of the original, is estimated at about twelve dollars. To provide this sum, each officer who desires to participate in the program on a voluntary basis may have one dollar assessed on his monthly Mess bill until the required amount is accumulated or may make any other comparable arrangement to provide the necessary sum.

4. It is requested that each officer fill out the attached questionnaire indicating his desire to participate in the program, and turn it to the orderly at the nearest entrance on the Officers' Open Mess account or other comparable arrangement.

Letter presented to each new arrival to the Staff and Faculty, CGSC.
SUBJECT: Questionnaire on the "Leavenworth Lamp"

TO: Secretary, CGSC

1. Reference the establishment of the "Leavenworth Lamp" as the traditional symbol of the CGSC, explained by the Commandant in a letter on this subject dated 17 May 56, it is my desire:

☐ To participate in the project.

☐ Not to participate in the project.

2. If affirmative in reply to the above question and effective the first day of the month following submission of this questionnaire, I agree by indication below to an assessment on my Officers' Open Mess Account as indicated:

a. Monthly assessment of $1.00 for a total of 12 months ☐

b. One assessment of $12.00 ☐

3. Lamps will be presented to officers by the Commandant or Assistant Commandant at the end of the individual's tour at the College.

(Name Signed)

Officers' Open Mess No:

Questionnaire accompanying letter presented to each new arrival to the Staff and Faculty, CGSC.
During a farewell party given for General and Mrs. Davidson on 1 July 1956 at the Fort Leavenworth Officers' Club, Colonel Franklin presented the Commandant with an oil-tinted photograph of the "Leavenworth Lamp." The gift was presented on behalf of all present members of the Command and General Staff College in recognition of General Davidson's untiring efforts in the development of the College symbol.

Colonel John F. Franklin, Jr., Secretary, CGSC, presents painting of "The Leavenworth Lamp" to Maj Gen Davidson during farewell party at Fort Leavenworth Officers' Club on 1 July 1956.
In further recognition of his distinguished accomplishments as Commandant, Command and General Staff College, General Davidson was presented the first miniature of the "Leavenworth Lamp" on the occasion of his departure to take up newly assigned duties as Superintendent, United States Military Academy, West Point. This act officially introduced a new College tradition which gives every indication that it will gain in stature and remain extremely popular in the years to come.

General Train presents first miniature of the "Leavenworth Lamp" to General Davidson immediately prior to departure of General Davidson from the College on 6 July 1956.
The story of "The Leavenworth Lamp" would not be complete without a special acknowledgment of appreciation to General Garrison H. Davidson, who gave birth to the idea of the College symbol, who weaned it in its infancy, and who finally guided and goaded it on to maturity and reality. It is interesting to note that various important aspects of General Davidson's character come to light as this account of the "Leavenworth Lamp" unfolds. Here is a man whose enthusiasm is never dampened, a man who accepts reverses as something purely temporary in nature, and a man who refuses to be drawn away from his goal. It is indeed fitting that such a man should have played the major role in the development of a symbol for the Command and General Staff College.