

# ASC HISTORY NEWSLETTER



## OUR 407TH AFSB



The 407th Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) activated on 16 October 2007 at Ft Hood Texas with as little pre-history as the 406<sup>th</sup> AFSB. While young, the 407<sup>th</sup> AFSB has been critical in the transformation of Army logistics in CONUS.

In 2005 the Army approved the concept of creating AFSB's in CONUS in order to provide the same kinds of service in CONUS as the AFSBs were providing overseas. In January 2005, the Army Field Support Brigade CONUS West (AFSB-CW) stood up in the first test of the concept. AFSB CONUS West was initially responsible for enhancing the readiness of active Army,

Army Reserve and National Guard units West of the Mississippi River, except those in Washington state. The first command headquarters was established in empty office space in the 13<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Command headquarters building. From this vantage point AFSB-CW realized that as the Corps Materiel Management Center stood down as a part of Army Transformation that a capability gap had been created and the III Corps was creating a shadow MMC. This knowledge led to the establishment of the Distribution Management Teams reporting back to the fledgling Distribution Management Center at Rock Island.

In late 2005 AFSB-CW deployed in support of humanitarian relief operations after Hurricane Katrina. In 2006 they converted the first LSE to Army Field Support Battalion when they stood up AFSBn-Carson.

AFSB-CW completed its missions, but lack of deployment equipment strengthened the argument that the AFSBs needed to be deployable TOE units. On 16 October 2007 the 407<sup>th</sup> AFSB stood up at Ft Hood as a TOW unit. Since October 2007 the 407<sup>th</sup> has continued to support all AR-FORGEN efforts and has been at the heart of logistics transformation.

The 407<sup>th</sup> recently assumed operation control of the Directorates of Logistics in its footprint and now synchronizes all logistics on the installations and workloads the sources of repair critical to resetting units in the ARFORGEN process while coordinating all AMC activities in the Western US.

The 407th AFSB is at the cutting edge of Army logistics transformation and is creating new logistics history every day, while continuing to "Support the Soldier" in its AOR.

## BATTLE OF CAMPBELL'S ISLAND

The Battle of Campbell's Island was one of the westernmost battles fought in the War of 1812. The Sac and Fox tribes in the Rock Island region allied with the British in an attempt to protect their land from the Americans. Major John Campbell left St. Louis on 2 July 1814 with Lieutenants Jonathan Riggs and Stephen Rector, 3 keel boats, reinforcements, sutlers, and supplies for Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. His party of 133 included 42 men of the 1<sup>st</sup> US Infantry, territorial Rangers, civilians, women, and children.

Campbell's group camped at the foot of Rock Island on 20 June and gained the attention of local Indians. Local Sac and Fox ate and drank with the

American party that night. Unknown to Campbell, during the night the Indians received a request from the British to attack any Americans coming upriver and a promise to pay in gunpowder and supplies. On 21 July as he was headed upstream, Campbell's boat was driven ashore in the Rock Island rapids. The Sac and Fox, under the leadership of Blackhawk, had been trailing the party and attacked. The Indians eventually shot fire arrows and set the boat aflame. Riggs and Campbell entered the fray, took survivors onto another boat and then escaped.

US losses were 16 killed, including a woman and child, and 21 wounded. Indian losses are unknown. The battle was considered by the British to be the "most brilliant victory of the war won by Indians, unassisted by any whites." This and other battles during the War of 1812 set both sides on a collision course ending in the Black Hawk War, a disaster for the tribes.



### This MONTH in military history...

- 1775: American Revolution begins with first shots fired at Lexington and Concord
- 1818: Gen. Jackson seizes St. Marks, FL from Seminole Indians
- 1818: U.S. Army Medical Corps formed
- 1836: Battle of San Jacinto
- 1846: Battle of Cerro Gordo
- 1861: Civil War begins as Confederates fire upon Fort Sumter
- 1865: Confederate capital at Richmond surrenders to Union troops
- 1899: Spain cedes Puerto Rico, Philippines, & Guam to U.S.
- 1917: U.S. officially enters WWI
- 1942: First air raid on Japan
- 1945: Nazi concentration camp Buchenwald is liberated by U.S. troops
- 1949: North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is formed
- 1954: 1st army helicopter battalion formed at Ft. Bragg
- 1972: 72 nations agree to ban biological weapons