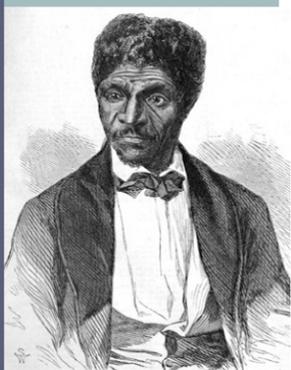


ASC HISTORY Newsletter



THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY...

- **1776:** Congress authorizes privateers to attack British vessels
- **1832:** Black Hawk War begins
- **1865:** Confederates suffer at Battle of Five Forks
- **1917:** President Wilson asks for a declaration of war
- **1918:** Ferdinand Foch becomes Supreme Allied Commander
- **1945:** US troops land on Okinawa
- **1948:** Soviets stop US and British military trains in East Germany
- **1972:** Nixon orders response to North Vietnamese invasion



Dred Scott



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Armament, Munitions, and Chemical Command - AMCCOM

The U.S. Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command, (AMCCOM) was formed in 1983 as the result of the merger of the U.S. Army Armament Materiel Readiness Command (ARRCOM) and the U.S. Army Armament Research and Development Command (ARRADCOM). The merger reunited the management of R&D and life cycle sustainment under one command. AMCCOM began as a centralized command with a decentralized operation. Under the AMCCOM structure, the research and development (R&D) mission was split into two separate R&D centers: the Armament Research and Development Center (ARDC) which remained at Dover, New Jersey, and the newly created Chemical Research and Development Center (CRDC) at Aberdeen, Maryland. The sustainment part of the organization operated at Rock Island Arsenal. AMCCOM was responsible for the life cycle management of armament and chemical materiel by supervising research, development, industrial preparedness production, and procurement and materiel readiness, as well as provided maintenance for armament systems. It also became the Single

Manager for Conventional Ammunition, which entailed production, management, and movement of conventional ammunition for the DoD. In 1983 AMCCOM consisted of 47 installations and activities in 26 states, making it the largest subordinate command of the Army Materiel Command. If AMCCOM had been a private company, it would have ranked 37th in terms of sales and 5th in terms of assets. Ten years later in 1993, AMCCOM consisted of 38 installations and activities in 25 states. Many of AMCCOM's accomplishments were intertwined with national and world events throughout the 1980's and early 1990's. The command supplied conventional arms, ammunition, equipment, and personnel to repair and perform maintenance in the field in Panama, Saudi Arabia, and Somalia. AMCCOM's biggest challenge occurred in 1990-1991 with the First Gulf War. As part of Operation Desert Shield, over 200 AMCCOM personnel were sent into the field to assist combat units. By the conclusion of the war, AMCCOM had shipped \$97 million worth of Class II individual equipment supplies, \$356 million worth of Class IX repair part supplies, and \$4 billion

worth of Class V ammunition supplies. The command managed the transport of 274,000 tons of artillery rounds, 34,000 tons of small arms ammo, 36,000 tons of mortar, tank and navy gun shells, and 31,000 tons of other assorted ammunition. AMCCOM also faced many challenges as the Army transitioned from the Cold War into a new geo-political reality. The end of the Cold War reduced the Defense budget, thereby requiring AMCCOM to accomplish its mission during lean times due to the cuts called for in the Balanced Budget Act of 1985 and the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) proposals of 1988, 1991 and 1993. To improve productivity, lower costs, and enhance its competitive edge in the world market place, AMCCOM completed a major modernization program, Project REARM (Renovation of Armament Manufacturing) at Watervliet and Rock Island Arsenals. While AMCCOM would become the Industrial Operations Command in 1994, the history of AMCCOM provides a valuable reminder of the Army's ability to evolve in the face of many challenges.

Dred Scott

In the fall of 1833, John Emerson, an Army physician, received a promotion to serve as an assistant surgeon in the United States Army. Following the promotion, Emerson received orders to report to Fort Armstrong to serve as the fort's physician. Accompanying Emerson on his journey was a slave he acquired just before leaving St. Louis, named Dred Scott. Few would have guessed that a simple move to Rock Island would later serve as a pivotal moment in the run-up to the Civil War.

In November 1833, both Emerson and Dred Scott arrived at Fort Armstrong and would serve at the installation for over three years. Dred Scott's stay at Rock Island provided his first opportunity to sue for his freedom under the terms of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. The Northwest Ordinance prohibited slavery in regions between the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and the

Great Lakes, except as punishment for crimes. In addition, when the state of Illinois was created from part of the Northwest Ordinance territory in 1818, the state constitution prohibited slavery. Even though Dred Scott could have pursued his freedom due to his residence at Rock Island and Fort Armstrong, he did not—most likely because he possessed little knowledge of his right to sue under the terms of the Northwest Ordinance. Instead, Scott would continue to follow Emerson to Fort Snelling in Minnesota and later return to St. Louis in 1840. Not until 1846 did Dred Scott file a petition with the St. Louis Circuit Court to obtain his freedom based on his residence at Rock Island. The trial took place in 1847, and Scott lost. However, a new trial was granted on technical grounds, and in 1850, Dred Scott won freedom for himself and his wife. Emerson appealed the decision to the Missouri

Supreme Court, which found in Emerson's favor in 1852. Dred Scott appealed the Missouri Supreme Court decision to the Supreme Court of the United States, which rendered a decision in 1857. Chief Justice Roger Taney (pronounced "Taw-ney") wrote the majority opinion holding that slaves were not citizens of the United States and therefore had no right to bring suit in federal court. Interestingly, Justice John McLean, one of two dissenting justices in the Dred Scott case, also presided over the Rock Island Bridge Case involving the *Effie Affton* the same year. In spite of the Supreme Court's decision that Dred Scott was a slave, he finally received his freedom from his owner in May 1857. The case served as one of the Supreme Court's most controversial decisions and accelerated the chain of events leading to the Civil War.