



ASC History Newsletter

Field Support Command 2000-2003

The Field Support Command is the product of several transformations that began in 1995. In FY95 the US Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM) and the US Army Depot System Command (DESCOM) merged to form the US Army Industrial Operations Command (IOC). The US Army War Reserve Support Command (AWRSC) was then assigned as a subordinate of IOC. In FY 2000 the IOC transformed into the Operations Support Command (OSC) to accentuate its support to military operations. At this time, the Army War Reserve Support Command then became the Field Support Command (FSC) under the command of BG Jerome Johnson. During this time, the FSC was a subordinate command to the Operations Support Command. These changes were more than just names. The FSC added missions that shifted the OSC focus more and more to operational logistics readiness with OSC/FSC as the central manager of horizontal integration within AMC.

The FSC mission, beginning with its provisional establishment on 31 March 2000, was to provide a single face for logistical support to the

theater Commander in Chiefs by maintaining, accounting for, issuing, and reconstituting Army pre-positioned stocks. It also provided command and control for all Army Materiel Command field elements as well as provided a single point for LOGCAP operations. The FSC took on the added responsibilities of managing the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP), and the Army's Logistics Support Elements that provided field sustainment support during times of crisis. Lastly, FSC provided horizontal information integration across AMC, and a seamless anticipatory logistics link between the sustaining base and the theater CINCs in peace and in war.

The FSC was established as the leader in power projection by advocating for the absorption of U.S. Army Europe's mission to store and maintain their Immediate Reaction Force. The FSC also successfully integrated the LOGSA Field Support Center into FSC operations. At the end of 2001, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the FSC began planning the shipment of various equipment from each of the overseas Army Prepositioned Stocks sites and

several Continental United States locations to Southwest Asia. Throughout the existence of FSC, the command worked to support operations in Afghanistan as well as support the wide range of contingency operations executed by the US Army.

As FSC's missions gained stature it was renamed the U.S. Army Field Support Command. At a change of command ceremony on 2 July 2003, BG Vincent E. Boles relinquished control of the Field Support Command to MG Wade H. McManus. Simultaneously, the FSC was renamed the Army Field Support Command (AFSC) and transformed into a Major Subordinate Command of the Army Materiel Command.



This MONTH in military history...

- **1779:** DeLancey and Hull battle for the Bronx
- **1863:** Gen. Lee offers resignation after Gettysburg
- **1864:** Union generals squabble outside of Atlanta
- **1867:** General Rodman receives orders to begin work on the Moline water power
- **1877:** Nez Perce fight Battle of Big Hole
- **1895:** Announcement for construction of most recent government bridge
- **1918:** Battle of Amiens
- **1942:** US forces invade Guadalcanal
- **1945:** Atomic Bomb dropped on Nagasaki
- **1953:** Eisenhower warns of "ominous" situation in Asia

Italian Quartermaster Corps



volunteer signed a pledge to perform any assigned duty except combat on behalf of the U.S. against the common enemy,

Most employees of the Arsenal are familiar with the Confederate Prison Barracks that existed on the Island during the Civil War. Perhaps less known is the role of former Italian POW's who lived here during World War II. By June 1943 over 14,500 Italian Prisoners of War resided in camps throughout the United States. When Italy agreed to join the Allied Powers in October 1943, the United States developed a program that would allow captured Italian's to assist with the American war effort by performing a variety of manual labor jobs in order to assist with the labor shortages throughout the country.

On 16 July 1944 the 38th and 40th Italian Quartermaster Services Companies arrived at Rock Island Arsenal by train from Pine Camp, New York to assist with the many labor related projects occurring at RIA. The Italians were permitted to volunteer for non combat duty in special service units of the U.S. Army. Each

Nazi Germany.

Upon their arrival the Italian Service Units were assigned to the stone barracks, building 90 and two other quarters. After a few months of working on the Island and demonstrating good behavior, the Arsenal Commander relaxed the limitations on the Italian Quartermaster Service Company. In September 1944, the Arsenal Commander established a limited pass policy for Italian signees. The Italians had to stay in groups of five and under escort of an American soldier while off the island. Two groups of five each were granted passes each Sunday to visit the Quad Cities and attend Mass.

Throughout the Italian's stay on the Island, they assisted with a wide variety of projects. They would frequently provide assistance with packing and shipping tank and motorized gun carriage parts, crating tank motors, salvaging mechanized parts, painting, and unloading the extraordinary number of freight cars com-

ing onto the Arsenal daily. A report from Col. C.A. Waldmann, Commandant of the RIA Ordnance Center, noted that 25 of the Italian workers at the Ordnance Center accounted for over 30,000 hours of work and saved more than \$14,000 of taxpayer money in the salvage of used lumber alone. Indeed, many Officers at RIA noted the important contributions of the Italian Quartermaster Service Companies.

Of the 426 Italian signees assigned to Rock Island Arsenal, only 15 were returned to prisoner-of-war status for disciplinary reasons. Several Quad Cities veteran organizations protested against the Italians being assigned to Rock Island Arsenal. They expressed concern for the safety of the community and in their opinion the excessive liberties permitted to the Italians. This opinion would persist throughout the duration of the Italian's stay at Rock Island, however, with few negative incidents involving the workers, public opinion in the area remained largely positive. On 22 September 1945 the Italian signees departed Rock Island on a special troop train to begin their journey back to Italy—ending another unique period of history at the Rock Island Arsenal.