



ASC History Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

15 DECEMBER 2010

Our 403d Army Field Support Brigade

The 403rd Army Field Support Brigade was activated in Korea on 16 October 2007. New on that day as a MTOE unit, the organization has a much longer history of coordinating AMC support to forces on the Korean peninsula. In 1966 the AMC Customer Service Office-Pacific was opened in Seoul. In 1972 the CAO in Korea was renamed the Logistics Assistance Office-Far East. LAO-FE was responsible for technical assistance, wholesale supply support, management of modification work orders, and select item management for all Army units un USARPAC. This small office was headed by a colonel and augmented as required with civilian technical representatives from the AMC major commands. In the late 1970s a variety of different AMC activities were established in Korea that did not report to the LAO-FE. This fragmented AMC focus in Korea.

In 1986 the AMC Forward-Far East was established to again coordinate all AMC activities in the Far East. Consolidated directly under AMC Forward-FE were

the Depot Support Activity Far East (DSAFE), Test Measurement & Diagnostic Equipment, LAO-FE, the Logistics Assistance Program Senior Command Representatives, the Science and Technology Center-Far East, and the Science Advisor. However, by the mid 1990's AMC Forward-FE had again become fragmented. AMC-Logistics Support Element -FE was established in 1995 to correct that. In 2000 that headquarters and all subordinates were assigned to US Army Operations Support Command, the predecessor of the ASC. This change continued the movement of centralizing coordination of all AMC operations in the theater—or providing the warfighter “one face to the field.” The DSAFE and Combat Equipment Battalion-Far East began reporting to AMC FE in 2000. During 2001 the name of the command returned to AMC Forward-Far East.

On 1 May 2005 AMC Forward-FE was re-designated as Army Field Support Brigade-Far East.



In conjunction with the ongoing transformation of Army forces, AFSB-FE restructured its LAOs into Logistics Support Elements (LSEs) and Brigade Logistics Support Teams (BLSTs) in order to provide modular support to the 8th Army. On 16 October 2007 AFSB-FE was disestablished and in its place the 403rd AFSB was activated as a MTOE unit. In the succeeding years the 403rd added responsibility LOGCAP operations in the Pacific, the watercraft mission in Yokohama, and AMC functions in Japan, Guam, and Okinawa. The 403rd continues to provide dedicated support to the theater's warfighters while maintaining the necessary area coverage required due to resource constraints and geographical dispersion.

This MONTH in military history...

- 1773: 342 chests of tea dumped into Boston Harbor to resist tax
- 1777: Philadelphia nurse saves lives after overhearing & reporting British plans to attack Washington
- 1814: Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812
- 1860: South Carolina is 1st state to cede from Union
- 1890: Over 200 Sioux men, women & children killed at Wounded Knee Creek, SD.
- 1898: Treaty of Paris signed after Spain's defeat in Spanish-American War.
- 1916: 10-month long Battle of Verdun ends
- 1941: Pearl Harbor bombed by Japanese
- 1964: Captain Roger Donlon awarded 1st Medal of Honor for actions in Vietnam
- 1972: Linebacker II, the most intense bombing operation of the Vietnam War, ends
- 1991: Last American hostage in Lebanon released

The First Bridge

When ideas were circulated for a railroad to run from Chicago to San Francisco, oppositions immediately arose. Steamboats and river towns saw the rail as a threat, and St. Louis feared being replaced as the “hub of the Midwest.” The people of Rock Island, however, saw an opportunity.

In response, Colonel Davenport proposed a more focused plan to build a railroad from LaSalle to Rock Island, which eventually extended to Chicago as well. Rock Island wanted to be the first city to build a bridge spanning the Mississippi River.

Rock Island had been viewed as the best place to cross the Mississippi in the past. The river was narrow at that point and the island would be used as a stepping stone, making construction more economical. The Federal Government did try to halt construction of the bridge on its property but was overruled in a Supreme Court hearing.

Finished in 1856, the 1st bridge had a Howe-Truss type structure with a single track. The draw span, set in the middle of the river, was the heaviest and largest of its time, showing the technological expertise of Rock Island engineers.

Unfortunately, just two weeks

after its construction, a steamboat called the *Effie Afton* crashed into the bridge. A fire ignited, burning a large portion of the wooden bridge. The “accident” remains a controversial mystery. The fact that all of the steamboats along the shore loudly celebrated, while the bridge was still burning, led some to believe it may have not been an accident at all.

