



ASC History Newsletter

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

15 DECEMBER 2013

The 403d Army Field Support Brigade

The 403rd Army Field Support Brigade was activated in Korea on 16 October 2007, but there is a much longer history of coordinating AMC support to forces on the Korean peninsula. In 1966 the AMC Customer Assistance 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 in 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 better 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 (TMDE), LAO-FE, the Logistics Assistance Program Senior Command Representa-

tives (LAP SCR's), 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 this fragmentation and moved to Camp New Market. 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 was changed back to AMC Forward-Far East.

On 1 May 2005 AMC Forward-Far East was re-designated as Army Field Support Brigade-Far East (AFSB-FE). This was the result of a year-long effort to re-design the organization into a brigade structure. In conjunction with the ongoing transformation of Army forces, AFSB-FE also transformed and restructured its Logistics Assistance Offices into Lo-

gistics 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 with AFSBn-NEA and AFSBn-Korea as subordinates. In the succeeding years the 403rd increased its scope to include planning for LOGCAP operations in the Pacific, the watercraft mission in Yokohama, Sagami Army Depot, and all AMC functions in Japan, Guam and Okinawa. The 403rd has, in recent years seen the construction of modern maintenance facilities for APS. The 403rd was significantly involved in humanitarian assistance operations March-September 2011 after the Japan tsunami. Finally, the 403rd is now responsible for the Logistics Readiness Centers in Japan, Korea, and across the AOR.

Despite the geographic dispersion of the Pacific, the 403rd is still
MAINTAINING THE WARRIORS



This MONTH in military history...

- **1787:** Delaware became the first state to adopt the new constitution of the United States of America.
- **1862–** Battle of Fredericksburg under command of General Burnside results in almost 3:1 loss for Union.
- **1865–** 13th amendment ratified abolishing slavery
- **1941:** Turning point in World War II as Japan's Axis partners, Italy and Germany, both declared war on the United States. The U.S. Congress immediately declared war on them. President Roosevelt then made the defeat of Hitler the top priority, devoting nearly 90 percent of U.S. military resources to the war in Europe.
- **1945 -** World War II General George Patton, nicknamed "Old Blood and Guts" died in German car accident.
- **1987 -** President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Russia's General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev signed the INF Treaty eliminating all intermediate-range and shorter-range nuclear
- **2001–** Taliban troops surrender in southern city of Kandahar. Leaders of the group, such as Mullah Mohammed Omar, fled the city before the surrender.

Black Squirrels of RIA

There are many stories floating around the Quad City area about the origin of a certain dark haired animal. *Sciurus carolinensis*, the black squirrel, has been claimed only to be found in the Quad Cities, and is often a point of awe for any travelers visiting the area. But from where did they come?

One of the most popular stories involves the Rock Island Arsenal and one of its previous commanders. In 1897, D.D. Palmer, one of the founders of Palmer College of Chiropractic, is said to have received a gift of two black squirrels from a thankful patient, who was originally from Cambridge, Massachusetts. Keeping them as pets, Palmer proceeded to house these squirrels in a cage in his office, at the time located at 2nd Street and Brady Street. Eventually Palmer began to feel badly for them, and wondered if there was a place he could let them run free, without making it seem as though he was

ungrateful for the gift. Someone else then suggested Palmer contact the Rock Island Arsenal to possibly arrange the squirrels new living arrangements. The RIA Commander at the time, Lieutenant Colonel Stanhope Blunt, was contacted, and happily agreed to receive the squirrels. During a formal ceremony, the squirrels were released on Rock Island Arsenal. Here, they were allowed to scamper around living happy lives, knitting red caps for the winter, and posing for cute photos.



Contained on Arsenal Island, the squirrels were able to build up their numbers. Eventually, they made it across the river, presumably by jumping across ice floes while it was frozen; thus becoming free to roam new territory.

As nice of a story as that is, it falls far from the truth. First, squirrels cannot knit. In addition, black squirrels can be found in the Midwest, Canada, northeastern US, and Britain. This includes the states of Maryland, Michigan, Indiana, Virginia, and Washington. The reason behind their darker color is a genetic mutation which causes excessive pigmentation. Without this mutation, black squirrels would be just regular old grey squirrels. This type of mutation is projected to occur in 1 of every 10,000 grey squirrels. So while they may not be as unique to the area as previously thought, they certainly are extraordinary and provide a wonderful topic of conversation!