

This Month in Military History

- **1774:** British close the Port of Boston as punishment for Tea Party
- **1775:** “United Colonies” changes name to “United States”
- **1785:** Frigate ‘Alliance’ is sold; Last continental Navy ship
- **1918:** NYC initiates 13 nights of blackout conditions due to rumors of an attack by aircraft launched from U boats
- **1924:** Congress grants citizenship to Native Americans– in partial recognition of service in WWI
- **1943:** Aleutians campaign– Japanese decide to evacuate Kiska
- **1947:** US dissolves “Office of Price Administration”, America’s WWII rationing agency
- **1981:** Supreme Court upholds male-only draft constitutional

US Army Reserve Sustainment Command (ARSC)

The U.S. Army Reserve Sustainment Command (ARSC), headquartered in Birmingham, AL, provides trained acquisition and logistics professionals for worldwide deployment or mobilization. These Soldiers augment active-duty military or civilian staff of the Army Materiel Command (AMC). Receiving its permanent order in November 2007, the ARSC became a one-of-a-kind organization through its consolidation of all AMC Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs) under one Army Reserve structure. In doing so, the Multifunctional Support Command (MFSC), which had supported the ASC Troop Program Unit (TPU) deployment requirements, folded its structure into the ASC TPU Element.

The ARSC is a General Officer Command that currently has 29 Derivative Unit Identification Codes (DUICs) spread in as many locations to support all AMC Major Subordinate Commands and Life Cycle Management Commands, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ALT), and the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). Each supported command has a Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel Officer in Charge while AMC, ASC, and DCMA Troop

Program Units (TPU) elements have Colonel commanders.

In keeping with its motto, *Unus Sustineo Plures*, or “One Sustains Many,” the ARSC offers an immediately available pool of Reserve Soldiers, operational teams, and detachments.

Since 2008, the ARSC has augmented ASC’s 401st and 402nd Army Field Support Brigades (AFSBs) serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, and Qatar. (an earlier version of the command began deployed support in 2005) The ARSC has also provided Soldiers to stand up the ASC Combat Operations and Information Center (COIC). Also mobilized have been ARSC Soldiers sent to augment the 404th and 407th AFSBs at Fort Lewis and Fort Hood, respectively. In addition, at one point two ARSC Soldiers filled key active component (A/C) military staff positions, the ASC Deputy G3 and ASC G1 SGM, as interims until the A/C replacements arrived.

ARSC Soldiers offer seamless



integration to support the interdependent mission requirements with Army Materiel Command, Army Sustainment Command (ASC), DCMA, ASA (ALT), LOGCAP Support Brigade (LSB), and the 915th Contracting Support Battalion (CSB). The command is authorized 4697 officers, warrant officers, and enlisted soldiers. Because of the diverse demands, the Soldiers making up the unit are in a wide variety of military occupational series.

The multifunctional command continues to support many.

Sanger and Steel Fraud

The Rock Island Arsenal was not built in a day; in fact there were many bumps in the road to its completion. One of these bumps was in the procurement of the limestone used as the primary building material. The stone was contracted out, and a “reputable company” took up the contract. This company was Sanger and Steel of Joliet, Illinois, who agreed to provide the stone necessary to complete the ten stone manufacturing shops on the island.

The choice to use Sanger and Steel was peppered with favoritism. During the Civil War Lorenzo Sanger was commissioned a Colonel. His son served as General Sherman’s aide during the Civil War, and later as his inspector general. For providing such good service, Sanger had received recognition from Sherman. This relationship influenced the choice to award the limestone contract to Sanger and Steel over other companies who had submitted

bids. The reality of this decision set in almost immediately.

Shortages of stone and higher proposed costs created delays to the completion of the stone shops. The amount of stone arriving at the Arsenal was below what had been agreed upon, and it failed to arrive on time. When questioned about their poor performance on the contract, Sanger and Steel blamed shipping costs, inaccuracies, and misunderstandings in the contract. The truth of the matter was that the company had been shipping the stone to other customers, who had agreed to pay higher prices. The plethora of customers requiring limestone occurred not only because of the multiple government contracts besides the arsenal, but also because of the Chicago Fire of 1871. After the four mile devastation caused by this disaster, rebuilders used limestone rather than the more venerable wood of which the Chicago buildings had previously been made.

Once Rock Island Arsenal officials learned of the fraud Sanger and Steel was committing, the commander at the time, Major Flagler,

sent soldiers to the quarry to oversee the delivery of the stone to the Rock Island Arsenal. This helped with delivery of the desired product. Shipments that were supposed to arrive in the summer started slowly arriving during the winter months. However, having Army personnel present at the quarry did not make everything run smoothly. Sanger and Steel were still upset with the price they were receiving and constantly campaigned for a higher price stating that the Arsenal was wasting the limestone they received by not cutting it in a way that would maximize usage. This second complaint was found to be valid, and soon remedied. Not all of the problems could be fixed, and continued complaints and lack of adherence to the contract caused Sanger and Steel to go into default. Breaking the contract by Sanger and Steel left the Arsenal free to begin a contract with a different company for the procurement of the remaining limestone.

