

# ASC History



# Newsletter

United States Army

## OUR 406TH ARMY FIELD SUPPORT BRIGADE

### THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

- 1770: Boston Massacre
- 1778: Rhode Island authorizes enlistment of black troops
- 1836: Mexicans surprise Texans at San Patricio
- 1847: Battle of Sacramento
- 1864: Ulysses S. Grant becomes Commanding General of the Union armies
- 1893: 1st American first class battleship, USS Indiana, launched
- 1918: Second Battle of the Somme begins
- 1943: Battle of the Bismarck Sea begins
- 1965: 1st direct & massive intervention of U.S. ground forces in Vietnam
- 1973: Last U.S. Combat troops leave Vietnam
- 2003: Attack begins to remove Saddam Hussein from power

The 406th Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) activated on 16 October 2007 and is one of the newest organizations in ASC with less of the prehistory of the other AFSBs.

In 2005 the Army approved creating AFSB's in CONUS in order to provide the same kinds of service the AFSBs were providing overseas. In the spring of 2005, this concept was put into action with the creation of the TDA Army Field Support Brigades CONUS East (AFSB-CE) and CONUS West. AFSB-CE stood up in March 2005 and was responsible for enhancing the readiness of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Army reserve component units east of the Mississippi River. The original commander of AFSB-CE was also the Commander of Combat Equipment Brigade-Afloat (CEG-A) at

Charleston, SC. The commander transitioned his headquarters to Ft Bragg while CEG-A was reduced to a battalion command equivalent and then shifted to civilian leadership. Despite successful mission accomplishments AFSB-CE had limits because it was officially a non-deployable TDA unit- despite deploying in support of Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts. This changed in October 2007 when AFSB-CE was deactivated and the MTOE 406<sup>th</sup> AFSB stood up in its place.

The Commander, 406<sup>th</sup> AFSB represents AMC as the primary logistics leader responsible for integration and synchronization of all acquisition, logistics and technology actions into a single effort to enhance and support the peacetime mission and war fighting capability of the U.S. Army across

the command footprint. The 406<sup>th</sup> has recently assumed operation control of the Directorates of Logistics in its footprint and now synchronizes all logistics on the installations and workloads the sources of repair critical to resetting units in the ARFORGEN process.

The 406th AFSB is at the cutting edge of Army logistics transformation and is creating new logistics history every day while providing "Steadfast Support" to the units it supports.



## SAVANNA PROVING GROUND

The Savanna Proving Ground was the oldest depot in the Industrial Operations Command. Savanna was constructed in northern Illinois as a sub-post of Rock Island Arsenal in 1918. Its original mission was to proof and test artillery and ammunition. In 1921, Savanna Proving Ground became independent of Rock Island Arsenal and was reorganized as Savanna Ordnance Depot. When the mission changed to mostly storage in 1962, the depot was renamed as Savanna Army Depot Activity (SVADA).

Throughout World War II, SVADA was responsible for storage, processing, and handling munitions, explosives, and industrial chemicals. The Defense Ammunition Center and School and the U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosive Safety were also housed there. After the war, heavy manufacturing slowed and many areas were used for demolishing and burning outdated ordnance.



Rows and rows of tractors and tanks awaiting permanent storage after WWI at Savanna Proving Ground

SVADA was one site set as a BRAC closure in July 1995. It was officially closed in March 2000, and most munitions were sent to McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in Oklahoma. The Defense Ammunition Center and Technical Center for Explosive Safety were also realigned to McAlester.

The Savanna area tried to offset negative economic impacts by competing to be the site for a proposed medium security prison. They were top contenders for proposed sites three different times between 1995 and 1998 and were finally chosen in '98. Opposition grew steadily with each attempt to bring in a prison

facility, and Governor Jim Edgar bent to environmentalists, deciding that the prison would be built in Thomson, IL instead.

Because of its mission testing artillery and storing chemical weapons, federal and state EPA agencies have been working to remove items like unexploded ordnance and chemical residue that remain on the grounds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services will take over about 9,404 acres after the cleanup is complete and utilize the area as a refuge for many threatened or endangered animals.