

ASC History Newsletter



Distribution Management Center— DMC

This MONTH in military history...

- **1776:** France & Spain agree to donate arms to American rebels
- **1801:** Tripoli declares war on United States
- **1846:** U.S. declares war on Mexico
- **1848:** Battle of Palo Alto, TX
- **1863:** Battle of Chancellorsville
- **1911:** Birth of Naval Aviation—USN orders its 1st airplane
- **1915:** German u-boat torpedoes the Lusitania
- **1919:** The 77th Division marches home up Fifth Avenue
- **1943:** Wartime rationing begins
- **1945:** V-E day
- **1949:** 1st firing of U.S. Viking rocket—to 80 km
- **1952:** U.S. conducts 1st H-Bomb test
- **1965:** 1st large U.S. ground units arrive in South Vietnam
- **1967:** U.S. bombs Hanoi

The Distribution Management Center (DMC) is responsible for providing materiel readiness management support of the Army in CONUS, Alaska and Hawaii; materiel management of ARFORGEN and Reset processes, and is ramping up to become the Lead Materiel Integrator (LMI) executive agent for the Army.

The DMC began standing up in mid 2006 as a reaction to the transformation of the Army to Brigade-based modular deployable units. One of the changes in Transformation was the shift of focus from divisions to brigades. As part of that shift, the Materiel Managements Centers at Division and higher stood down, and MMC capability was added to the Brigade Support Battalions. This shift left higher headquarters without the capability to monitor materiel readiness or the ability to rapidly impact priorities or fixes to problems. In response ASC began to organize the DMC in a hasty and ad hoc fashion. At first, the DMC was staffed with a handful

of DA Civilians, but by the end of 2006 more than 30 soldiers had been assigned to the DMC. Initially the DMC, while developing processes, contracted to create Distribution Management Teams (DMTs) at the major CONUS posts in the Army. The DMTs provided on the ground interface with customer units to answer questions on materiel management and readiness. By the end of 2007 the DMC had established nearly full operating capability through staffed sections at HQ ASC and the DMTs. However, "full operating capability" was elusive as the mission changed over time. In addition to typical MMC missions of redirecting excess, maintenance management, RESET management, and customer assistance for SARSS-2, the DMC also managed the Left Behind Equipment program, Pre-Deployment Training Equipment, and Add-On-Armor.

In the following years the DMC continued to improve the MMC processes through maturation

of the staff and collaboration with LOGSA, SDDC, and other materiel managers in the Army. In late 2010 the DMC began to shed some of its missions in preparation to becoming the executive agent for the Lead Materiel Integrator for the Army. This function places the DMC in the management center of ensuring that the Army, in CONUS and OCONUS, has the right equipment, at the right place, in the right readiness condition to support recovery and RESET, training, and deployment missions. In March 2011 the Secretary of the Army published a memo making AMC the LMI for the Army, and AMC delegated that mission to ASC and the DMC. The DMC will spend the rest of 2011 preparing for full operational capability by 15 February 2012. As LMI executive agent DMC will become the Army's materiel management center and critical to the materiel readiness of the Army at home and deployed.



Following the Campbell's Island debacle, Brevet Major Zachary Taylor set out on a retaliatory expedition to punish the Indians and establish forces at or near Rock Island. Over 300 Army Regulars and Rangers were with Taylor when he left towards Prairie de Chien. Taylor's plan was to ambush the Indians at their Rock River village after making them think the US force was further upriver.

After arriving at the mouth of the Rock River on 4 September 1814 Taylor was forced to beach his 6 keelboats on Willow Island, just off Credit Island, due to a tremendous storm.

Battle of Credit Island

This action frustrated an Indian plan to ambush the US force at the foot of Rock Island as the boats entered the rapids.

Lieutenant Duncan Graham of the British Army had a 3-pound cannon with the native force on Rock Island. After learning from the Sac that Taylor had beached his boats, Graham agreed to a plan to move the cannon downriver off Credit Island and support an attack on the US force.

Taylor had placed out sentries, but had withdrawn them to the boats due to the storm. At dawn on 5 September, after creeping unnoticed to within a few feet of the boats, the Indians attacked. Taylor was able to form his men and drive the native force off Willow Island, but at that point Graham opened fire with the one can-

non and inflicted heavy damage to the keelboats. Recognizing that he was heavily outnumbered Taylor ordered his force onto the boats and escaped downriver with the Indians following for several miles. The defeat at the hands of the Sac and Fox led to the Army's decision to build Fort Armstrong on Rock Island after the war in order to protect Americans interests in the area.

The ASC History Office can lead a staff ride of the Battle of Credit Island. This is considered leader development training and can be completed in less than 4 hours. Contact the History Office for more information or to schedule a training event for your office.