



THE ASC HISTORY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME III, ISSUE 2

15 NOVEMBER 2012

ARMY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

The Army Sustainment Command (ASC) was activated on 1 October 2006 at Rock Island. The focused command, JMC having been split off as a separate unit in anticipation of becoming a Life Cycle Management Command, was the result of a decade of evolution that shifted the command at Rock Island from being wholesale ammo-centric focused to being a global, operational level logistics provider and AMC's single point of entry to the Army at peace and war.

Many aspects of the ASC current mission set are rooted in Army Transformation from the 2000-2005 timeframe. As the Army decentralized to Brigade Combat Teams and flattened the rigid structure of permanent divisions and corps, other gaps were created in logistics support to include the loss of materiel management centers at higher levels. Also missing was higher level logistics expertise in a central command. The ASC was designed to fill that gap by becoming the CONUS Theater Support Command with the Distribution Management Center not only managing materiel, but also working to move materiel to the Army in the field. At the same

time, portions of ASC were already engaged in worldwide operations through LAP, APS, and LOGCAP—the ASC was never intended to be 'just' a CONUS TSC.

Whatever the full concept behind the ASC in the 2001-2003 time frame, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan demonstrated the continuing and compelling need for an operational arm of AMC in every theater to manage readiness, the logistics of equipment fielding, property, and to assure that units in the field had reachback to all of AMC's capabilities. The AFSBs were designed to meet those needs. In another example of "what is new is old" the AFSB construct looked strikingly similar to the old 1970s vintage AMC structure in Europe and Asia with one AMC commander creating an umbrella over all AMC activities in theater and simplifying customer access to AMC.

One wonders what would have happened to the ASC and AFSB concepts had it not been for the war? The concepts had moved forward slowly since 2000 and before, but the war crystallized the requirement for a new operational arm of AMC at the same time that structural transformation, high combat optempo,

increased fielding of new equipment, and the need for in-theater repair and upgrade demanded speedy solutions. The competence of the ad hoc AMC structure in SWA, followed by the smooth integration of the AFSBs and ASC after 2006 cemented the consensus that the AFSBs and ASC were the right structure at the right time. The hierarchy in place that could synchronize as no other command could the wide-ranging aspects of readiness, LAP, LOGCAP, DMC invited even more missions. Today ASC has added on the LMI mission and ownership/management of the Army's Directorates of Logistics. In six short but action packed years ASC has moved from experiment to a key, dependable element in managing the Army's logistics above the brigade level. From a resource linked at the theater level ASC is not represented on every post, camp, and station providing daily life support and the whole range of combat service support functions less medical. The command is a critical and integral part of Army life and will continue to be so in the future.

This MONTH in military history...

- **1777:** Washington learns of Conway Cabal trying to oust him.
- **1804:** Treaty ceding huge section of Midwest, including Arsenal Island, to U.S. is signed by Harrison and members of the Sauk and Fox tribes.
- **1861:** McClellan replaces Scott as Commander of the Union Army.
- **1871:** 1st machinery for the Rock Island Arsenal is ordered.
- **1875:** Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse identified as hostile.
- **1901:** Teddy Roosevelt establishes a naval base in the Philippines.
- **1941:** FDR puts Coast Guard under control of the Navy for the duration of WWII.
- **1946:** Army and Notre Dame fight to a draw.
- **1952:** United States tests first hydrogen bomb.

CYBER AWARENESS!

BE VIGILANT!

DO NOT OPEN IT!

REPORT IT!

Have you ever received an unsolicited email from an unknown source? Clicked a link that went to an unrequested page? If so, you may have been a victim of a Phishing attack. Phishing attacks are one of the leading causes of malware and viruses on all computer systems! Call your local Help Desk Support Team @ 2-0400 or ASC Info Assurance @ 2-3793 or 2-093.

TURKEY VS EAGLE

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, it's easy for us to sit back and think about how delicious that turkey is going to be on our dinner table. However, did you know that the same bird we now associate with holiday meals was almost on our nation's seal? It's easy now, more than two-hundred years removed from the debate, to take for granted the bald eagle as our nation's symbolic bird, but there were other candidates proposed by powerful interests.

On the afternoon of July 4, 1776, just after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress appointed a committee made up of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin to select a design for an official national seal. The three men each came up with various ideas for a new national seal,

none of which included the bald eagle. Congress turned to its secretary, Charles Thomas, to design a seal. He combined nine suggestions of the past committee as well as adding three of his own, and the Great Seal of the United States of America was born. Barton's new design included a golden eagle—a symbol to demonstrate the strength of the new republic and its ties to ancient Rome. During the debate over the Great Seal the fate of our national bird became important. Some lobbied for the bald eagle and others for the turkey. One person who planted himself at the center of this debate was Benjamin Franklin. In a letter Franklin discussed the selection of the bald eagle with great displeasure saying: "[The eagle] is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly." In debate he

went as far as to suggest the bald eagle might not be a true native of America adding: "For the Truth is the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America..." In a letter to his daughter Franklin extolled the virtue of the turkey "He is besides, ... a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on." On the other hand, the eagle was, according to Franklin, a coward as an enemy "not bigger than a sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district." The turkey, in Franklin's mind, also embodied the anti-nobility American spirit as a creature possessing "ascending honor," in which an individual moves up in society through their own merit.

In June 1782 Congress approved the Great Seal with the bald eagle and not Franklin's turkey the centerpiece. Now, as we look back on the debate, it's humorous to imagine congress in heated gridlock over which bird most truly symbolizes the United States. In the end, it's important to remember that nothing at the time was set in stone or taken for granted. The United States was a new nation striving to create its own identity. Formidable opponents competed over symbols to represent the new nation. This year, as you sit down for Thanksgiving dinner, remember the "First Bird Controversy" and that the bird on your table could have easily been the bird on our nation's seal.

Happy Thanksgiving!

