



# ASC HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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## ASC at 8

On 1 October the Army Sustainment Command will turn eight years old. The picture at the right shows General Benjamin Griffin, Major General Jerome Johnson and Colonel Rocky Easter trooping the line during the activation ceremony.

The activation of ASC was another step in a relatively short organizational evolution that started in 2000 with the reorganization from the Industrial Operations Command to the Operations Support Command. That change in January 2000 began the move from an ammunition and manufacturing focused command to a field focused command. In January 2000 OSC became responsible for the Logistics Assistance Program, LOGCAP, and the AMC Forwards. The command was designated the "Single Face to the Field." In addition to maintaining management of ammunition and the arsenals, OSC created a focus on force projection and sustainment operations. This focus expanded upon the old War Reserve mission previously managed by IOC. The war reserve stocks had already given IOC a global reach; OSC built on that presence and expanded its forward presence through the AMC Forwards.

With the attacks of 11 September 2001 the OSC rapidly became involved in sustaining forward deployed forces. The focus was first ammunition, but very rapidly Army Prepositioned Stocks (the new term for War Reserves) and LOGCAP took precedence as we put forces on the ground in Afghanistan and then prepared to issue APS to units tapped for the assault into Iraq. In 2003 the OSC name was changed to Army Field Support Command (AFSC) with the ammunition function contained in the subordinate Joint Munitions Command. As is normal in war, challenges, solutions, process, and missions changed at a rapid pace to keep up with the needs on the battlefield. AFSC took on new missions in SWA to meet emerging requirements while creating systems at home station to support customers throughout the ARFORGEN cycle. Finally, partially in response to Army transformation changes in logistics support above the brigade level, concepts were approved at DA level for a CONUS Theater Support Command to perform materiel management and coordinate logistics support. The concept split off the ammunition function to reduce competing demands for atten-

tion with the command. The idea of being a CONUS TSC was in some ways limiting as the future ASC was already managing property in SWA as well as the APS and LOGCAP functions. At the same time DA approved the creation of Army Field Support Brigades to coordinate all AMC functions in each theater. By the time ASC formally activated on 1 October 2006 ASC was already in support to the deployed and home station Army around the globe. Since then her mission set has continued to grow with the addition of LMI, more recently, the Logistics Readiness Centers. ASC is, in just 8 years a critical and trusted provider of logistics support on every post, camp, and station in the Army. We look forward to more changes in the next few years as ASC remains

**"On The Line."**



## THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

- 1795: US pays Algiers \$1 million to ransom 100 soldiers
- 1857: Mountain Meadows Massacre: 120 emigrants killed by extremists in Utah
- 1863: Texans repel Union invasion force at Sabine Pass, TX
- 1918: Due to WWI, the World Series begins one month early
- 1940: US gives Great Britain 50 old destroyers in exchange for basing rights in the Empire
- 1941: FDR orders Navy to shoot on sight any Axis war ships in American waters
- 1945: US troops land in Korea to assume occupation duties
- 1950: First appearance of comic strip Beetle Bailey
- 1951: US, New Zealand, and Australia sign ANZUS treaty

## BEGINNINGS OF THE BETTENDORF BROTHERS

The town of Bettendorf, named for brothers William and Joseph, got its start just as many others in this area did- through machinery innovation. The brothers grew up around the Midwest, living in the states of Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas. While in Kansas, their father Michael worked as a federal government clerk at Fort



Leavenworth. William, the eldest brother, began his inventing career while he worked for the Illinois-based Peru Plow Company in 1874. He patented the first successful "power lift" sulky plow, which netted him \$5,000 in royalties. From there, he changed companies to work for the Moline Plow Company, then he quickly switched jobs to become the foreman for the Parlin & Orendorff Company, located in Canton Illinois. He rounded out his tour of the major plow companies in the area by returning to Peru Plow as the superintendent. Here, he

invented the "Bettendorf Metal Wheel" for use on wagons and other farm vehicles. William Bettendorf also invented machinery to better make his wheels. With those inventions under his belt, he created his own Bettendorf Metal Wheel Company, of which he was the vice-president until 1892 when he resigned to turn his attention to another business venture. In 1894, the Bettendorf Axle Company came to be, with William as president and his brother Joseph as Secretary. He did not then become complacent and William continued to invent. This time it was the Bettendorf Frame, a metal box used to house and support locomotive car axles rotating on bearings. The brothers' business soon outgrew the factory located in Davenport, so the two moved to the nearby town of Gilbert. In 1903, the town of 440 citizens

petitioned for incorporation, requesting to change the town's name from Gilbert to Bettendorf in honor the brothers, whose factory was a major influence in the early development of the city. Unfortunately, in 1908 William died due to complications from intestinal cancer. At the time of his death he had 25 patents pending, and he held over 100 total. Joseph stepped up in his brother's absence to become the new president of the company. The Bettendorf Company was an asset to the country during the Great War and was responsible for 30% of all side frames manufactured for the government during the war. Joseph was active in many industries located in Davenport, and was also active in many civic organizations. Near the time of Joseph's death, the company ceased production due to the Great Depression. After his death in 1933, his two sons were able in 1936 to pull the company out of debt and begin production once more.

This edition of the Toilet Paper wraps up our 4th year of presenting monthly history information about the ASC, RIA, and general military history to the command and the general public. If you have ideas for future articles, please submit them to George Eaton—