

## This Month In Military History

- **1636** – The National Guard was officially created in 1916; however, the heritage of the National Guard can be traced back to English common law and the citizen militias of the British North American colonies
- **1800**– Washington DC established as the capital of the US
- **1947** – The Corps' first helicopter squadron, HMX-1, was commissioned at Quantico.
- **1948**– Whittaker Chambers brings forward the "Pumpkin Papers"
- **1954** – The Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty, between the United States and Taiwan
- **1959** – Twelve nations, including the United States and the Soviet Union, sign the Antarctica Treaty, which bans military activity and weapons testing on that continent.

# ASC HISTORY NEWSLETTER



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## LOGCAP Support Brigade

The LOGCAP Support Brigade (LSB) was officially renamed and transformed on 16 October 2013 at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. The LSB, previously called the LOGCAP Support Unit (LSU), is part of the Army Reserve. Despite a new name, the LSB mission remains the same—to maintain the "green suit" connection between the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) contractor and supported units, allowing for a more efficient and effective capability to support units all around the globe. The Army is formalizing the LSB by organizing 5 Battalions under the HQ.

The LSB was preceded by the LSU, which was activated 16 October 1998. The LSU was created due to criticisms about program performance and higher than expected costs of LOGCAP operations in the Balkans in the early 1990's. Part of the problem was that requirements were ill defined. Working together with the combatant command's requiring units, the LSU assisted in defining the exact material or service required from the contractor in order to support the war-

fighter through LOGCAP. The LSU was also intended as an interface between the military and the contractor and as a trainer to educate customers on the appropriate use of LOGCAP to support operations. LSU members were often appointed as the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for LOGCAP support to Joint, Interagency, and Multinational forces. The LSU supported operations in East Timor, the Balkans, the Philippines, Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. LSU/LSB personnel were deployed in a multitude of countries such as: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Philippines, Georgia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan.

The very success of the LSU in support to the Warfighter necessitated an evolution and expansion of the unit. In the past the LSU was manned primarily with called up new inexperienced members of the Army Reserve. This meant that the unit had constant turnover as Soldiers were activated for a tour in a contingency operation and then were usually released from the LSU upon redeploy-



ment. The new LSB was created to end that trend. The unit was restructured to have a small headquarters and added five geographically dispersed LOGCAP Support Battalions (LSBNs) consisting of 34 personnel each. The intent is that these battalions and the headquarters will be more permanently staffed and a pool of experienced Soldiers can be gathered, trained, and developed through a series of LOGCAP support assignments. On 17 September 2013 the LSB received orders moving the headquarters to Rock Island, IL from Fort Belvoir, VA.

The potential of the LSB is immense and will continue to build on an encouraging legacy started by the LSU.

## RIA Holiday Celebrations

During this time of year there is a distinct feeling of camaraderie and a sense of unity leading toward celebration. While many want to celebrate with family and close friends and most offices celebrate among themselves, the Rock Island Arsenal has at times provided an opportunity to share in these festivities.

Since at least 1945 the Arsenal has often had a Holiday social event of some type. Invitations were originally printed in the local Island paper, The Target. The first party in 1945 was proposed to promote the participation of arsenal families. This was done by offering it at no cost to the families, being

open to both military and civilian workers. A complementary lunch was provided. Entertainment for the evening included a plethora of options for both the children and the adults. Films were shown, carols were sung, and each child was provided with presents and pastries.

Since 1945 there have been celebrations each holiday season. The pomp that accompanied the first party has petered off, although as late as a few years ago the event always included a band and dancing. Over time the free aspects faded and employees had to pay for the event. Each year there is a tree lighting ceremony where employees and

family can join together.

While the Island-wide holiday event started in 1945, since the Arsenal was created the Soldiers living here have been the recipients of a splendid Holiday Feast. The image below is for the Christmas meal in 1922.



The holidays are a special time and the History Offices wishes you the best this holiday season.

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