



THE INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND AS THE START OF ASC

When discussing the evolution of ASC to its current structure the starting point is usually the creation of the Industrial Operations Command (IOC) in 1995. Why do we start there?

The IOC was created by merging the Armaments Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM) and Depot Systems Command (DESCOM). AMCCOM had managed the production of conventional ammunition through the ammunition plants and contract. They also had research and development and program manager duties in developing weapons systems and chemical equipment. AMCCOM also controlled some of the arsenals. In sum, AMCCOM managed the entire life cycle of armaments and

chemical equipment. DESCOM had managed the Army Ordnance depots system. This included maintenance and storage of all types of equipment and supplies. DESCOM work-loaded the depot system, provided resources, and was responsible for performance. The intent of IOC was to consolidate management of all of the Army's organic industrial base and depot operations.

These operations do not seem to be a start point for where the ASC is today, but they are. The one non-industrial or manufacturing mission the IOC received was management of the Army War Reserves, which had also been a DESCOM mission. Prior to 1992 War Reserves had been a theater mission in Europe and Korea. After Desert Storm the Army consolidated ownership and management and assigned the mission to AMC. With the standup of IOC control of the mission came to Rock Island. What this provided

the command at Rock Island was a global footprint. War Reserves were in place in Europe (the old POMCUS sets under Combat Equipment Group-Europe) and Korea. The War Reserves Afloat concept was in its infancy as was war reserves on the ground in SWA.

Immediately with the creation of IOC a small group of former DESCOM employees moved to Goose Creek, SC and founded what was at one time called the Combat Equipment Group Afloat and is now the Army Strategic Logistics Activity Charleston under the 406th AFSB. At the same time the IOC continued plans to build stocks in Kuwait and soon began a significant construction program for humidity controlled warehouses in Qatar.

These activities established the IOC as a global Army logistics command, and started the evolutionary process to the ASC of today.

This Month In Military History

- **1607:** Capt. John Smith captured by Indians
- **1780:** Snow storm hits Washington's army at Morristown, NJ
- **1789:** First American Presidential election
- **1847:** Battle of San Gabriel, CA: Joint Army-Marine-Navy unit over Mexican forces
- **1861:** Alabama troops seize Forts Morgan & Gaines on Mobile Bay
- **1865:** Battle of Dove Creek- Kickapoo defeat Confederate Texans
- **1941:** FDR Four Freedoms Address
- **1943:** Papua: US and Australian forces mop up in the Buna area
- **1946:** Army Signal Radar Corps bounces radar beam off the moon
- **1991:** Congress authorizes G. H. W. Bush to undertake offensive operations against Iraq

MACHINIST APPRENTICE SCHOOL

The Rock Island Arsenal Machinist Apprentice School was first commissioned on 16 May, 1910. Located in Shop 6, also known as Shop G and Building 108, it ran as a "watch and learn" type program. Formal academic learning was not offered and training occurred through practical shop work and by the passing down of knowledge from experienced machinists.

The program has grown exponentially and this was evident in the early years as well. By 1915, the teaching approach had morphed to include a more traditional educational mode. The first classroom was allocated space in Shop I (building 110) on the second floor. The initial class offered through the program contained instruction on mathematics and mechanical drawing. Students were now evaluated on projects and skill both on paper and in practical settings.

Growth in the program was

interrupted and at times even halted due to American involvement in wars. Focus was at times shifted from educationally complete learning and placed on learning enough to make the required equipment to support the war effort in each of the World Wars. At the closing of World War I, the apprentice program underwent reorganization. 1919 saw the schedule shift to 9 periods of study, with each period lasting six months. Specific topics were covered in each of these periods such as physics, tools, blue printing, and metallurgy. Unfortunately, the large upturn in production associated with the war also led to a large decrease in production needs after the war. As a result, enrollment in the program was terminated, effective 1 Jan, 1922.

The Machinist Apprentice Program entered a period of dormancy until 1937 when Shop M (Bldg 220) was designated as the new base of operations. The premier class of the renovated program contained 38 students.

Similar problems reminiscent of the WWI period arose with the approach of World War II. Again, RIA experienced increased production needs which led to mission based program instead of a broader educational based method. The apprentice school also suffered due to the Selective Service Act, limiting the number of qualified applicants. At one time the program was reduced to only two students. However, earlier graduates of the program were shop leads during the World War II effort.

As a way of offsetting the inevitable decline in production needs following a war period, the program expanded to include training for other trades such as electricians, carpenters, steam fitters and molders. With these innovations the program has lasted through the decades, most recently graduating 12 machinists in 2014.

