



## THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY...

1804: Lewis and Clark depart.

1864: Lee beats Grant to Spotsylvania.

1917: First US WWI convoy to Europe departs East coast.

1945: Germany Surrenders!

1970: US invasion of Cambodia defended by Nixon.

1989: Statue of Liberty replica erected in Tiananmen Square.

2000: US Military opens accurate GPS location to civilian applications.

2011: US pledges support to anti-Qaddafi rebels in Libya.

## Gaining Control in Iraq– The Creation of AMC LSE-Iraq, June 2003

As noted last month, by mid-May 2003 there were 6-7 LSEs in Iraq and it was becoming clear that the operation would not be a quick in and out operation as planned. In addition to the LSEs, LOGCAP operations were being planned in Iraq. In Kuwait the 3rd ID was pulling back out of Iraq and turning in their APS equipment while new units flowed in. A quick maintenance cycle was needed. More supplies and units were arriving in Iraq while operations continued in Afghanistan. Finally, Forward Repair Activities (FRA) were being established in Iraq by CECOM, AMCOM, and TACOM. The FRAs were supposed to rely on AMC LSE-SWA for life support, but generally were on their own in Iraq. In sum, the span of control had gotten too large to coordinate efforts from Kuwait.

The solution was to create the AMC LSE-Iraq, headquartered at LSA Anaconda at Balad, Iraq. The LSE was created by calling forward the commander of AMC Fwd-Europe, who soon brought in equipment assets from Europe to better resource the LSE.

Originally, LSE-Iraq's mission was to provide command and control of the LSEs while also interfacing with the combatant headquarters in Iraq. However, that mission soon grew.

Initially the FRAs and other AMC elements in Iraq remained under the control of LSE-SWA in Kuwait. However, as more maintenance and other sustainment functions were added in Iraq, while missions continued to multiply in Kuwait, Qatar, Djibouti, and Afghanistan, senior commanders began to feel that placing all assets in Iraq under LSE-Iraq would be more efficient. An example was the HMMWV Service Center established in October 2003 on Anaconda (in the picture the service center is the tin building between the hangars. Above it is the CECOM FRA in trailers) The service center was created using assets from LSE-SWA, but the captain in charge

soon found he did not have the pull to get things done. So, he turned to the LSE-Iraq commander who had established relations on Balad. Soon the service center, and the other FRAs, had more resources and, eventually, a better piece of terrain to consolidate AMC operations, all because LSE-Iraq could work actions at a higher level face-to-face on a daily basis. By mid 2004 all AMC operations in Iraq were consolidated under the control of LSE-Iraq freeing LSE-SWA to focus on missions across the rest of SWA.

Next month, converting from LSEs to AFSBs.



## Nick Fury (One Last Comic Book Hero)

Nick Fury, famous today as Director of S.H.I.E.L.D. in the very popular Marvel Cinematic Universe superhero films, has a much longer career that started as a soldier in WWII and ends in some dark future. Fury first appeared in Marvel's Comic book *Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #1* in 1963 as the leader of a group of U.S. Army Rangers. During WWII, Nick Fury worked closely alongside Captain America and James Barnes, nicknamed "Bucky." They became close allies. He also worked with Richard Reed, later of the Fantastic 4. Over the years many different versions of Nick Fury have appeared, from a CIA agent to a spy compared to the likes of James Bond. The first mention of Fury as Director of S.H.I.E.L.D. was in the comic book series *Strange Tales #135*, August 1965.

The son of a WWI pilot, Fury had extensive Army training as a soldier and a vast knowledge of multitude different weapons and fighting techniques. Fury's skills included both armed and unarmed combat; Green and Black Beret training; as well as a black belt in Tae Kwan Do and a brown belt in Jiu

Jitsu. At different times he was an agent of O.S.S and was a liaison to MI-5.

Fury's famous eye patch resulted from an injury to his left eye during a mission in France. Due to lack of medical care at the time, he lost 95% of his vision. At the end of WWII he was wounded by a landmine and then found by Dr. Berthold Sternberg, who introduced Fury to the Infinity Formula. The Infinity Formula allowed Fury to age slowly if he took annual doses of the formula. Over a 30 year period, Dr. Sternberg extorted a large amount of money from Fury as payment for the formula injections. Eventually, Fury uses the last of the Infinity Formula to give Bucky extended life.

During his life, Fury has faced many foes, one in particular being his younger brother Jacob Fury, known as the original supervillain "Scorpio." Later, Fury's son, Mikel took up the persona of "Scorpio" before switching his loyalty to his father and working for S.H.I.E.L.D.

In later times the Nick Fury story became convoluted including evil organizations,

a constant mix of assistants changing their loyalties, invading alien Skrulls and Tribellians, sentient android Deltites, and even zombies.

Nick Fury remains one of the leading men of the Marvel Universe. Evidence of Marvel's continued popularity is seen with *Avengers: Age of Ultron* making over \$600 million worldwide to date. His story will continue to be told in many more movies and comics.

For us, Nick Fury is an example of focus and determination to getting the mission done in the face of difficult odds and a changing environment. Unfortunately, there is not any more Infinity Formula to help us in achieving our missions.

