



The ASC History Newsletter

Army Field Support Battalion– Africa

This
MONTH in
military
history ...

1676: Indians attack Plymouth, Massachusetts

1776: General Howe evacuates Boston.

1812: The US issues the first War Bonds

1862: Siege of New Madrid, Missouri begins.

1862: Battle of Pea Ridge in Arkansas

1918: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk signed.

1941: Nazi extermination camps commence full operation.

1945: PFC Thomas Atkins awarded CMH Luzon, Philippines.

1951: Operation Ripper launched by United Nations Forces.

1953: Joseph Stalin dies.

1965: Operation Rolling Thunder begins.

2002: Operation Anaconda begins in Afghanistan.

2004: The 1st Cavalry Division deploys to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom II



After World War II, the communist blockade of Berlin from 1948 to 1949 created a crisis for the United States and her allies. In response, NATO was created. To support US Armed Forces, an improved combat support system was needed. From 1950, this support system was established and run out of the Bordeaux region of France. A year later in 1951, Camp Darby was created in Italy. Following the activation of the Southern European Task Force (SETAF) in 1954, Camp Darby was

included in the USAREUR depot system.

Since that time, the name of the battalion has changed along with its mission. From its beginning as part of the 7th US Army Augmentation Readiness Group, later the US Army Combat Equipment Group-Europe, the battalion has strived to provide the best support possible. Over the years, the battalions name has changed from Combat Equipment Battalion (CEB)-South to CEB-LI (Livorno) to Army Field Support Battalion– Livorno (AFSB-LI) to the 3rd Battalion 405th to AFSBn-Italy and finally AFSBn-Africa.

Prior to its re-designation on October 1, 2015, AFSBn-Africa had numerous missions it had to fulfill. The battalions primary mission was to provide centralized C2 of the AMC activities in the SETAF AOR. Additionally, it configured, stored, maintained and issued APS-2, HAP, OFDA, and Operational Project

Stocks when the need arose.

AFSBn-Africa can look back on the job they have accomplished with pride. Not only did they provide support for the troops in Kosovo, but also those soldiers actively engaged in the Global War on Terrorism. Aside from the Reset, LBE, FMS and other assigned maintenance and supply missions, the battalion provided humanitarian assistance efforts in countries such as Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Tunisia and Algeria to name but a few.

With this vast array of experience and knowledge, AFSBn-Africa and the Logistics Support Team-Africa (Vicenza) are poised to provide the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) with the necessary support to ensure a safe, stable and secure Africa. Despite the many challenges facing the unit, the ASC and AMC can rest assured that the AFSBn-Africa will continue to live up to the 405th AFSB motto- Fulcio Bellatoris!

Fort Armstrong Time Capsule

“Upon this site on the fourteenth day of May in the year of our lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty six, members of the Rock Island Arsenal, tenant agencies and members of the surrounding communities did commemorate the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Fort Armstrong with ceremony befitting a symbol of a free people. To pass on this heritage and attest to mementos of our day, we have hereby caused artifacts of this generation to be encased in stone beneath, and duly recorded in the John M. Browning Museum, for generations yet to come.” In 1966 these lines were written by the Rock Island Arsenal historian and inscribed upon a commemorative plaque by arsenal workers.

If it seems a bit wordy, you are not mistaken. Once the work on the plaque was complete, it was brought to the site where the time capsule would be buried. At this point, everyone realized their error. The plaque was too big for the boulder it would be mounted upon. This realization touched off a comic event. The island was scoured, from one end to the other, to find an appropriate sized rock before the Sesquicentennial (150 year) Anniversary ceremony.

In May, the arsenal will be celebrating the two hundred year anniversary of the founding of Fort Armstrong. As part of the celebration, the



time capsule, which was buried near the Fort Armstrong blockhouse will be unearthed. What artifacts are buried? And more importantly, in what condition will the artifacts be found?

To the first question, we know what was buried in the time capsule. The contents were inventoried prior to being sealed and a list has been preserved through the years at the Arsenal Museum. While that list could be published here, it would ruin the surprise. However, as a teaser, two of the most important artifacts are a pen and medallion donated

by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The entire collection will be on display at the Rock Island Museum.

As to the last question, we will not know how these artifacts have stood the test of time until we open the capsule. The ASC history office is confident that our predecessors did everything in their power to preserve the contents. Likewise, they provided a detailed description of how the final box was constructed and the best way to open it. With help from volunteers at the JMTC, we will soon be able to see a piece of our history.