



The ASC History Newsletter

The 401st Army Field Support Brigade

This
MONTH in
military
history ...

- 1610: First Anglo-Powhatan War
- 1676: King Philip's War ended
- 1812: USS Constitution "Old Ironsides" captured and destroyed the British brig *Adeona*
- 1846: US Forces captured Santa Fe, NM
- 1861: Battle of Wilson's Creek
- 1900: During the Boxer Rebellion, an international force entered Peking
- 1920: 19th Amendment to the Constitution ratified
- 1942: Invasion of Guadalcanal
- 1943: German troops began to evacuate Sicily
- 1945: Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- 1949: Department of Defense established
- 1965: 7th Marines landed at Chu Lai
- 1965: Watts Riots
- 1967: Operation Cochise
- 1972: Last US combat unit left South Vietnam

The 401st Army Field Support Brigade formally traces its lineage to 16 October 2006 when it was activated as the first MTOE AFSB. While the 401st has official lineage from 2006, the unit has a longer TDA history in SWA. The 401st traces its history back to the 1997 activation of the Combat Equipment Group-Southwest Asia, charged with expanding War Reserves in the Persian Gulf region.

While the unit created APS sets in Qatar and Kuwait, it underwent a series of name and organizational changes. CEG-SWA was renamed the AMC Forward-SWA in 2000 when the unit assumed responsibility for the Logistics Assistance Program and LOGCAP in SWA. The unit began war support operations in SWA in Oct, 2001 with support to US Forces in Afghanistan. The HQ moved from Qatar to Kuwait in the fall of 2002 as part of the ramp up to OIF. At about the same time the unit became the AMC Logistics Support element—SWA. AMC LSE—SWA was re-designated the Army Field Support Brigade-SWA on 1

Oct, 2004. At the time the AFSB-SWA consisted of the Brigade HQ's in Qatar; AFSBn-Qatar; AFSBn-Kuwait; AFSBn-Afghanistan; and pre-positioned Watercraft at Kuwait Naval Base.

The AFSB-SWA was deactivated on 16 October 2006 when the 401st AFSB stood up. In 2008 the brigade headquarters forward deployed to Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan. In 2010 the battalions in Kuwait and Qatar transferred to the 402d AFSB in order to allow the 401st to focus on the surge in Afghanistan. At that point the 401st had AFSBn-Bagram and AFSBn-Kandahar under its control as well as all other AMC assets in Afghanistan.

After arriving in Afghanistan in 2008, the 401st provided support to all US units as well as to allied forces across Afghanistan. This support included the fielding of MRAPs, the Afghan Surge, and steady support during the slow drawdown of forces. In its last years in Afghanistan the 401st focused on retrograde of non-mission essential equipment from the theater in preparation for the project-

ed end of combat operations. Retrograde goals were impacted by exceptionally difficult winters and the closure of the Pakistan ground lines of communication.

In early 2015 the 401st redeployed to Kuwait. In July the 401st assumed command of AFSBn-Kuwait and AFSBn-Qatar and continued command of AFSBn-Afghanistan. Once again, the 401st is the single face for ASC and AMC in SWA.

Despite the challenges, the 401st AFSB continues to be the "First to Make a Difference" for Army forces in SWA.



Apollo 11

At 10:56 p.m., American astronaut Neil Armstrong, 240,000 miles from Earth, spoke these words to more than a billion people listening at home: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." A moment later, he stepped off the lunar landing module *Eagle* and became the first human to walk on the surface of the moon. The American effort to send astronauts to the moon had its origins in a famous appeal President John F. Kennedy made to a special joint session of Congress on May 25, 1961: "I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth."

At 9:32 a.m. on July 16, with the world watching, Apollo 11 took off from Kennedy Space Center with astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin Jr., and Michael Collins aboard. Armstrong, a 38-year-old civilian research pilot, was the commander of the mission. After traveling 240,000 miles in 76 hours, Apollo 11 entered into a lunar orbit on July 19. The next day, at 1:46 p.m., the lunar module *Eagle*, manned by Armstrong and Aldrin, separated

from the command module, where Collins remained. Two hours later, the *Eagle* began its descent to the lunar surface, and at 4:18 p.m. the craft touched down on the southwestern edge of the Sea of Tranquility. Armstrong immediately radioed to Mission Control in Houston, Texas, a famous message: "The *Eagle* has landed." At 10:39 p.m., five hours ahead of the original schedule, Armstrong opened the hatch of the lunar module. As he made his way down the lunar module's ladder, a television camera attached to the craft recorded his progress and beamed the signal back to Earth, where hundreds of millions watched in great anticipation. At 10:56 p.m., Armstrong spoke his famous quote, which he later contended was slightly garbled by his microphone and meant to be "that's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." He then planted his left foot on the gray, powdery surface, and humanity had walked on the moon. "Buzz" Aldrin joined him on the moon's surface at 11:11 p.m., and together they took photographs of the terrain, planted a U.S. flag, ran a few simple scientific tests, and spoke

with President Richard M. Nixon via Houston. By 1:11 a.m. on July 21, both astronauts were back in the lunar module and the hatch was closed. The two men slept that night on the surface of the moon, and at 1:54 p.m. the *Eagle* began its ascent back to the command module.

Among the items left on the surface of the moon was a plaque that read: "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot on the moon—July 1969 A.D.—We came in peace for all mankind."

