



The ASC History Newsletter

The 402d Army Field Support Brigade

This
MONTH in
military
history ...

- 1776: The Battle of Harlem Heights
- 1779: The Siege of Savannah
- 1812: Seminole Indians ambush Marines in Florida
- 1846: US troops capture Monterey
- 1862: The Battle of Antietam
- 1918: Meuse-Argonne Offensive launched
- 1944: Octagon Conference
- 1944: Operation Market Garden
- 1950: US 8th Army breaks out of the Pusan Perimeter
- 1950: 5th Marine Regiment seizes Kimp'o Airfield
- 1968: Special Forces camp at Thuong Duc attacked
- 1980: Iran/Iraq War began
- 1982: Peacekeeping troops arrived in Lebanon
- 2001: Attacks on the WTC, Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93
- 2006: Operation Mountain Fury in Afghanistan
- 2014: Airstrikes begin against ISIS

The 402d Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) was officially activated as a MTOE unit on 16 Oct 2006 at Balad Air Base, Iraq. While the official lineage of the 402d AFSB started on 16 October 2006, for many the date was just another small change in the evolution of an ever changing command. The Army may only trace the 402d lineage back ten years, but there was a significant period of mission support prior to that. In October 2006 the structure and standing in the Army changed, but not the missions on the ground in Iraq.

In late May 2003 nine Logistics Support Elements (LSE) provided operational logistics support to their customers in Iraq. All nine LSEs were under the command and control of the LSE-SWA in Kuwait. However, LSE-SWA was also responsible for all other AMC operations in SWA and the mission had already outpaced effective span of control. LSE-Iraq was established in late May 2003 to provide mission command (MC) for all LSEs in Iraq. The unit was established in Logistics Support Area-Anaconda, also known as Balad Air Base, in order to be centrally located as well as co-located with the Corps Support Command headquarters. LSE-Iraq took an administrative burden off LSE-SWA allowing LSE-SWA to focus on Kuwait, Qatar, and Afghanistan. As the theater matured the missions

of LSE-Iraq expanded. By Sept 2003 CECOM and TACOM had forward repair activities in Iraq, with the largest concentration in Balad. These forward units remained under the C2 of LSE-SWA. In late 2004 Logistics Support Activity-Iraq was established to provide C2 on Balad for these units. At the same time AMC was increasing support to the Army in Iraq with the establishment of up-arming programs and retrofit. At times these activities competed with the LSEs in Iraq for space. Diverging chains of command further confused the situation on the ground.

In January 2005 LSE-Iraq was transformed and renamed the AFSB-Iraq. In addition to the name change, AFSB-Iraq also assumed C2 of all AMC operations in SWA, once again establishing a single point of entry for all AMC operations in Iraq. In 2005 AFSB-Iraq's mission set continued to grow with the addition of Retrograde Property Accounting Team, Theater Property Book, Route Clearance support, and increasing number fielding missions.

In October 2006 the 402d AFSB was activated in Balad assuming all of the mission sets of the AFSB-Iraq. The 402d continued to execute all AMC missions in Iraq, including transitioning to retrograde operations in 2009 as the Army began to withdraw from Iraq and shift focus to Afghanistan. In 2010 the 402d AFSB assumed

responsibility for AFSBns Kuwait and Qatar giving it control over the entire retrograde process and freeing up the 401st AFSB to concentrate on the Afghanistan surge. The 402d AFSB also assumed direct responsibility for LOGCAP operations in Iraq and Kuwait.

Until 2011, they continued to focus on Iraq drawdown while still providing continuing support to forces remaining in Iraq. The unit shifted headquarters to Kuwait in 2011 as force structure in Iraq further drew down. In 2012 the 402d retrograded 180,000 items of equipment from SWA and completed three APS 5 draws. On 3 August 2015, the 402nd officially moved to Hawaii, assuming command of all AMC assets in PACOM. No matter the location, the 402d AFSB continues to provide "Readiness Power Forward."



15th Anniversary of 9/11



A different take on 9/11 from a Soldier's Memoir: "The day started as many others. It was still dark when the company commander took us on a run around the Giessen Army Depot. After completing one circuit around the interior fence, he decided he did not care for how quiet we were. So, around we went again, however this time quite a bit faster.

For the remainder of the morning, the company PMCS'ed our vehicles, griped about the commander's run and, most importantly, continued to make plans for Oktoberfest. For soldiers in Germany, times were good. We were at peace and all of Europe was just a short train ride away.

After lunch, I was called to the company to update some paperwork. The CP was congested with other service members waiting to do the same thing. While we waited, a friend and I went outside for some fresh air. After a few minutes, two NCOs came running into the build-

ing, yelling for the First Sergeant to turn on the TV. It was 1445 hrs on a beautiful Tuesday afternoon and the world was about to change.

Everyone stood around watching the TV until the second plane struck. Within minutes, the company received a call from the battalion commander. From that point on, the remainder of the day was a blur. Orders were given to drive the AVLBs and M88s to the gates to act as roadblocks. Once the M88s were in position, the AVLBs were sent out and deployed their bridges to block the main entrances leading to the Depot.

My squad was tasked with conducting a foot patrol of the surrounding Stadtwald (City Forest). During the patrol, there were no longer any plans being made for Oktoberfest or griping about PT. We all knew we were at war."

Where were you during 9/11?

Lest We Forget