



This MONTH
in military
history...

- **1775:** USS Unity takes British Margareta—1st naval victory of Rev. War
- **1784:** Congress creates US Army, forming the 1st American Regiment (now 3d Infantry)
- **1813:** US invasion of Canada is halted by Battle of Stoney Creek, Ont.
- **1830:** USS Vincennes becomes 1st US warship to circle the globe
- **1861:** Battle of Big Bethel
- **1898:** US exchanges fire with Spanish batteries at Santiago, Cuba
- **1912:** Army Air Service tests 1st airplane-mounted machine gun
- **1916:** Congress establishes ROTC
- **1918:** US & French halt Germans at Chateau-Thierry
- **1942:** US decisively defeats Japan in Battle of Midway
- **1945:** Sixth Army isolates Japanese forces on Luzon
- **1965:** US troops ordered to fight offensively in Vietnam
- **1970:** US leaves Wheelus AFB Libya in wake of Qadaffi coup
- **1974:** Sally Murphy becomes 1st female Army Aviator

ASC History Newsletter

U.S. Army Reserve Sustainment Command (ARSC)

The U.S. Army Reserve Sustainment Command (ARSC), headquartered in Birmingham, AL, provides trained acquisition and logistics professionals for worldwide deployment or mobilization. These Soldiers augment active-duty military or civilian staff of the Army Materiel Command (AMC). Receiving its permanent order in November 2007, the ARSC became a one-of-a-kind organization through its consolidation of all AMC Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs) under one Army Reserve structure. In doing so, the Multifunctional Support Command (MFSC), which had supported the ASC Troop Program Unit (TPU) deployment requirements, folded its structure into the ASC TPU Element.

The ARSC is a General Officer Command that currently has 29 Derivative Unit Identification Codes (DUICs) spread in as many locations to support all AMC Major Subordinate Commands and Life Cycle Manage-

ment Commands, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ALT), and the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). Each supported command has a Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel Officer in Charge while AMC, ASC, and DCMA Troop Program Units (TPU) elements have Colonel Commanders.

In keeping with its motto, *Unus Sustineo Plures*, or “One Sustains Many,” the ARSC offers an immediately available pool of Reserve Soldiers, operational teams, and detachments.

Since 2008, the ARSC has augmented ASC’s 401st and 402nd Army Field Support Brigades (AFSBs) serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, and Qatar. The ARSC has also provided Soldiers to stand up the ASC Combat Operations and Information Center (COIC). Also mobilized have been ARSC Soldiers sent to augment the 404th and 407th AFSBs at Fort Lewis

and Fort Hood, respectively. In addition, two ARSC Soldiers have filled key active component (A/C) military staff positions, the ASC Deputy G3 and ASC G1 SGM, as interims until the A/C replacements arrived.

ARSC Soldiers offer seamless integration to support the interdependent mission requirements with Army Materiel Command, Army Sustainment Command (ASC), DCMA, ASA (ALT), LOGCAP Support Unit (LSU), and the 915th Contracting Support Battalion (CSB). The command is authorized 404 officers, 27 warrant officers, and 168 enlisted soldiers, filling various elements around the nation.



Educational Contracts

Between WWI and WWII, the War Department began encouraging new studies to measure the ability of a manufacturer to transition from making civilian goods to building defense materials. These studies were known as Industrial Mobilization Plans and were a result of lessons learned from the difficult experience of mobilizing and rationing American manufacturing during World War I. Army planners solicited information from a wide range of civilian manufacturers to include utilized floor space, non-utilized floor space, types of machinery, normal product lines, and numbers of skilled and unskilled employees.

One result of the plans process was a realization that many manufacturers did not have the tools or experience to produce military equipment. This realization led the Army to expand the ability of private industry to produce items needed for wartime by awarding educational con-

tracts. Under the educational contracts, manufacturers produced low quantities of an item in order to gain practical experience that would pay off in times of rapid mobilization.

Legislation to allow these contracts was prepared as early as 1927 but did not pass until 1938. Once passed, the War Department developed a plan for staffing and choosing plant facilities to produce limited quantities of Army ordnance under the contracts. The manufacturers received machine tools and training from Ordnance Corps representatives. Besides delivering products to the Army, the private manufacturer gained practical experience and developed a pool of skilled labor that could be used to produce war materials.

Locally, Brigadier General N. F. Ramsey was responsible for dispersing Rock Island Arsenal contracts to local commercial firms. Private contractors were given permission to study manufacturing operations at the Arsenal

and were also provided with the necessary tools, machinery, and instruction. The firms were given updated assembly drawings to produce tanks, artillery, and machine guns in the private plants. One of the contractors, the Quad Cities Tank Arsenal, was supplied with technical advice and drawings for a tank assembly plant for the overhaul of 133 medium tanks. International Harvester also produced 750 tanks under the Contracts.

The real value of the educational contracts was measured after the U.S. entered WWII. The ability of the Arsenal to mobilize industry in the Quad Cities area was crucial for the production of materiel and equipment utilized in the war. Without the educational contracts, arsenals throughout the United States would not have had the ability to expand war production as rapidly to support WWII operations.