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ASC NEWSLETTER

This MONTH in military history...

- **1780:** British retreat from Middleburgh
- **1781:** Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown
- **1790:** Little Turtle's Victory
- **1859:** John Brown's "raid" on Harper's Ferry
- **1864:** Battle of Tom's Brook
- **1940:** WWII draft begins—#158 is 1st drawn
- **1942:** US troops occupy the Andreanof Islands
- **1943:** US carriers & cruisers raid Wake Island
- **1945:** The United Nations is born
- **1954:** Defense Department announces elimination of all segregated units
- **1962:** Federal troops secure entry of black veteran James Meredith to "Ole Miss"
- **1973:** The Yom Kippur War brings United States and USSR to brink of conflict
- **1983:** US invades Grenada



ASC-Army Reserve Element

The Army Sustainment Command- Army Reserve Element, (ASC-ARE) is the current form of a 2002 concept, which was to provide Reserve Component support to the ASC. The organization has changed names and structure over the years, but the mission has always been to support the Army's global operational sustainment mission. The Multi-Functional Support Command (MFSC) stood up in December 2002. The unit was comprised of 56 positions that were transferred from the deactivated 19<sup>th</sup> Theater Army Area Command (TAACOM). The original mission concept was for the MFSC to augment the Global Logistics Information Center (GLIC) and use the Soldiers in some of the global logistics exercises. The MFSC also sent Soldiers to the Joint Readiness Training Center to evaluate the number

of personnel, capabilities and proposed composition for the conceptual Brigade Logistics Support Team (BLST) that would be embedded in the Brigade Combat Teams.

In November 2004, the MFSC was alerted to mobilize and augment at Rock Island and in Southwest Asia. In February 2005, 28 Soldiers were mobilized in support of OIF/OEF. The locations of deployment were RIA, Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. The MFSC sent personnel to fill battle roster positions in the staff offices as well as battalion Executive Officers, Sergeants Major and Command Sergeants Major in the 401<sup>st</sup> and 402d Army Field Support Brigades.

In 2006, the AFSC transitioned into the ASC, but the MFSC remained to provide reserve component support to the active forces. The MFSC was deactivated on 15

September 2009, and the Army Sustainment Command-Army Reserve Element (ASC-ARE) was activated on the same day in a ceremony held on RIA. The ASC-ARE falls under the Army Reserve Sustainment Command (ARSC), headquartered in Birmingham, AL. The mission of the new ASC-ARE has not changed. The unit continues to deploy Soldiers in support of the ASC by rotating into SWA Theater of Operations every year. When the ASC-ARE Soldiers are not deployed overseas they work with the Command Operations Information Center (COIC) and support CONUS missions.

The ASC-ARE and its predecessor, the MFSC, have been on continuous mobilization since 2005. Soldiers organic to the ASC-ARE deploy as individual augmentees and until recently were only guaranteed 12 months between deployments. They now get 24 months.

In early 1871 General Thomas Rodman, "the Father of Rock Island Arsenal," moved into his nearly completed masterpiece, now known as Quarters One. In June 1871 General Rodman died in the house. His funeral was held on 7 June with 1,000 mourners in attendance. The parlors designed for formal entertainment were used for the first time for the funeral. General Rodman never got a chance to entertain in the massive quarters he designed and built for the commander of RIA. Rodman was not the only commanding officer to expire in the house. In 1918 COL Leroy Hillman, who commanded RIA less than a year died in Quarters One, an early victim of the influenza epidemic that later swept the nation. In 1932 COL David King, the 12<sup>th</sup> RIA commander, also died in Quarters One. At least three deaths in the house, and rumors of more, are the underlying basis of a series of ghost stories relating to Quarters One. What are these stories?

The most common Quarters One ghost stories involve the sound of someone walking the hallways on the third floor, windows that open on their own, lights that turn on and off, and sightings of a shadow at the windows. Also, many people have reported that perfectly functioning doors will stop working, precluding them from exiting a room or the building itself. Fig-

Ghosts in Quarters One?

ures have also been reported outside the house, most commonly a Civil War era soldier leaning against a tree smoking. This figure is seen just across the street from the old Civil War POW Camp where over 500 POWs died of disease in the winter of 1863-64.

Do these ghost stories have any basis in fact? Of course, some are prone to believe and others to disbelieve. The History Office surveyed a number of past residents of the house as well as people who worked in the house for an extended period. Many were provided floor plans and asked to mark where odd things happened. Interestingly, people who had never spoken with each other all marked the same places on the

floor plans and told the same stories- sounds of boots, shadows that move, doors that would not open, uniforms strewn around the room, and places where dogs barked for no reason. In 2009 a ghost hunter group was allowed in the house and they recorded unexplained audio and took photos of unexplained shadows and forms.

None of this proves ghosts in Quarters One, but they also cannot be disproven. For now, the stories are an interesting side-light that raises the question - Is General Rodman just lonely for someone to entertain in his masterpiece?

Unexplained figure on porch



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