



ASC History Newsletter

DOLs - Directorate of Logistics

On every post, camp, and station in the Army is a recurring need for supplies, services, transportation, and maintenance to support the Soldiers on the installation. These requirements are often outside the scope or capability of tactical units on the installation and are provided by the installation Directorate of Logistics. The Directorates of Logistics have a long history on Army installations both in the US and OCONUS. Until 2001, the DOLs were part of a garrison staff under the direction of the post commander- who was also the commander of the tactical or training units on the installation. In 2001, the Installation Management Activity, now the Installation Management Command, was created in a move to separate the running of the installation from the training and readiness of the uniformed units on the post. The role of the DOLs did not materially change, as their funding stream simply shifted while they provided the same critical services.

The services provided by the DOLs span almost the entire spectrum of combat service support— from food service to ammunition; maintenance to transportation, and uniform items to repair parts. The most recognizable function of the

DOLs has always been maintenance support to the installation and back up maintenance support to the tactical maintenance units at the installation. On many posts, the DOL maintenance division is the prime maintenance provider for tactical units if they do not have tactical support structure. This was especially true for the Training and Doctrine Command posts as well as smaller garrisons with small units isolated from their tactical support structure. Maintenance functions in the DOLs include wheeled and tracked vehicles, communications, small arms, crew served weapons, IT equipment, and night vision devices, as well as a wide range of other commodity pools. The area of expertise in a Maintenance Division depends on the units and missions executed on the base. In addition, the DOLs also run the dining facilities and ration break points, household goods and general transportation, ammunition supply points, fuel points, general supply warehouses, receiving yards, and laundry services.

For the past two years ASC has been planning a transfer of all the

Army’s DOLs to AMC and ASC. Why this change? In the 1990s FORSCOM created the Field Logistics Readiness Division (FLRD) to fill gaps in support provided by the DOLs. Over time the FLRDs became large scale maintenance operations across CONUS and overseas. In 2007, the FLRD was transferred to ASC. At the same time, ASC became responsible for workloading DOL support of Army RESET operations. This created efficiencies as ASC managers could direct maintenance work to the activities with the most expertise as well as the most available capability. In 2009, ASC began working on a project to assume ownership of the maintenance functions in the DOLs. The 2009 plan changed to allow ASC to assume control of all DOL missions in order to provide even greater centralized management of logistics functions to units in garrison and out in the field. While the timelines remain in flux, ASC should soon add another mission set in the operation and ownership of the Army’s DOLs.

This MONTH in military history...

- 1763: The French and Indian War ends
- 1781: Nathanael Greene finds fortification at Steele’s Tavern
- 1836: Alamo defenders call for help
- 1847: Battle of Buena Vista begins
- 1865: Battle of Dabney’s Mill begins
- 1917: Zimmerman telegram
- 1917: Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare
- 1941: Rommel goes to Africa
- 1944: US troops capture the Marshall Islands
- 1950: Klaus Fuchs arrested for passing atomic bomb information to Soviets
- 1965: US warns North Vietnam of forthcoming bombing operations



RIA Prison Barracks

cheap shanties.

Life as a prisoner was extremely difficult in the early days of the prison camp. In addition to surviving

and asked for flour to bake white bread, with varying degrees of success. At times, slab bacon was added to the prisoners’ diet.

Books provided a temporary escape from the monotonous routine of a prisoner’s life. Other diversions undertaken by prisoners included attending church services, organizing skits, forming singing groups, gambling, and debating the war. Tobacco, blankets, clothing, books, and personal items, acquired in several different manners by the prisoners, made their incarceration bearable. Some of the prisoners volunteered their labor on prison construction projects, such as the building of the prison sewer system. Each prisoner that worked, depending upon his skill, received a credit of five to ten cents a day on his account at the prison sutler store.

A total of 12,192 prisoners were confined to the prison barracks during its existence with the last two prisoners released from the Barracks Hospital in July 1865, three months after the end of the long and deadly conflict.

By the summer of 1863, all expectations that the Civil War would be a short campaign had faded. Recognizing the long war ahead, Union leaders began looking for a suitable location to house prisoners of war.

Rock Island, isolated in the Mississippi River far from the battle areas of the Civil War, and under federal control since July 1862, proved an ideal location. In August 1863, a team from the Quartermaster Department began construction on the north central shore of the island, where the golf course stands today. The Prison Barracks consisted of eighty-four 22 x 100 ft. buildings arranged in six north to south rows of fourteen buildings each. Construction of the camp quickly fell behind schedule due to equipment, material, and labor shortages. When the first 488 Confederate prisoners arrived in December 1863, they were housed only in

the bitter winter cold of the North, Confederate prisoners had to endure exposure to a variety of contagious diseases. During the operation of the prison, 1,964 Confederate prisoners died, with smallpox, pneumonia, and diarrhea accounting for the majority of these deaths.

In the early days of the prison, prisoners were allowed to receive clothing and food packages from sympathetic local citizens, friends, and relatives. Prisoner rations included fourteen ounces of bread and twelve ounces of “fresh” beef. In addition, the prisoners received a quart of hominy per man each day. The Southerners made hominy soup and also boiled other food, serving it in sauce pans produced from canteens and burned-out stove pipes. The prisoners had a difficult time swallowing the coarse yellow corn bread provided by the prison