



# ASC HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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## Creation of Army Materiel Command

This year the Army Materiel Command marks its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In 1962 the Army Materiel Command was created as part of a general reorganization of the Army to create more efficiencies in training, readiness, and materiel development and sustainment. Prior to 1962 the Army used a 185 year-old system of Technical Services and Bureaus that had managed the development and procurement of equipment for the Army. The old system was stove-piped with the Infantry, Armor, Ordnance, Quartermaster, Signals, and other branches often not coordinating the development and use of new items of equipment. The new Army Materiel Command integrated research, development, procurement, and sustainment processes under one command through the use of commodity commands and project managers. The initial commodity commands were Electronics, Missile, Munitions, Mobility, and Weapons Commands. They were supported by 36 PM's. In addition, AMC controlled the Supply and Maintenance Command and the Test and Evaluation Command.

In 1966 the Supply and Management Command was assimilated into HQ Army Materiel Command. Depots, stock control, repair parts, storage and

distribution remained HQ AMC functions until 1976 when the Depot Systems Command was created. This move of functions into HQ AMC and then to another command is a good example of the relatively constant roiling of the AMC organizational structure ever since its creation. The history of AMC can be described as a constant tug and pull between the R&D and sustainment aspects of the command. In times when R&D and procurement were the focus, the command was restructured to create independent commands to conduct R&D. When the focus was on lifecycle management the R&D commands were reintegrated with the sustainment commands. In addition, AMC has constantly been subject to personnel reductions that have, most often, gone too far. Then there have been periods of growth as the command and Army realized too many cuts were made. In 1975 the CG, AMC changed the name of the organization to the Army Development and Readiness Command (DARCOM). This was an attempt to use a new name to balance the R&D and sustainment parts of the mission. The name only lasted until 1985 when the organization was re-named AMC to focus on the Army-

wide materiel function of the command.

At the same time AMC regained its name, the command began to create a more robust system of forward commands in Europe and Korea to focus AMC efforts in the major OCONUS theaters. In 1990, AMC created a forward general officer led Logistics Support Element for Desert Shield/Desert Storm and began to develop a doctrine of forward deploying a senior command structure in future contingencies. After Desert Storm, AMC assumed control of the War Reserve stocks. This led to even more forward presence. In order to better manage the forward presence, AMC created the Operations Support Command in 2000 as a command to better track Army readiness and to serve as a unified AMC point of contact for all Soldiers in the field. OSC eventually was named the ASC in 2006.

For 50 years AMC has served the Army as an integrator of the materiel R&D, procurement, and sustainment functions. As such, AMC ensures that Soldiers have everything they need to shoot, move, and communicate, as well as to sustain the personnel and their units.



### This MONTH in military history...

- **1776:** SIEGE OF BOSTON
- **1779:** CONGRESS ESTABLISHES THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- **1836:** TEXAS DECLARES INDEPENDENCE
- **1863:** CONGRESS PASSES CIVIL WAR CONSCRIPTION ACT
- **1865:** YANKEES ROUT REBELS AT THE BATTLE OF WAYNESBORO
- **1916:** PANCHO VILLA ATTACKS COLUMBUS, NEW MEXICO
- **1917:** PUERTO RICANS BECOME US CITIZENS, ARE RECRUITED FOR WAR EFFORT
- **1942:** MACARTHUR LEAVES THE PHILIPPINES
- **1945:** FIRE-BOMBING OF TOKYO
- **1965:** US INFORMS SOUTH VIETNAM OF INTENT TO SEND MARINES

## Squatters on RIA

As we celebrate the Arsenal's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, many residents of the Quad Cities will undoubtedly join the festivities to mark the Arsenal's many economic, cultural, and historic contributions to the area. However, in the mid 1800's not all local residents were inclined to support a military installation in the community. By 1838 squatters began to encroach upon many parts of the Island, using the land for their own business or private purposes. Several attempts were made to remove the squatters from the Island, but such efforts were rarely successful. In addition to the squatters, private parties such as George Davenport and David Sears also possessed legitimate claims to portions of the Island.

Throughout the 1840's and 1850's, mill owners and private interests increased their pressure on political leaders to allow the public to bid for tracts of land on Rock Island. On January 7, 1850 President Millard Fillmore issued an order directing the Secretary of State to sell Rock Island. The sale languished, but the issue was revived in February 1854 when a bill was introduced into Congress authorizing the sale of Rock

Island in ten acre tracts. However, Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, (who would later be the President of the Confederacy), had visited Rock Island twenty-two years earlier during an Army mission to find a suitable location for a national arsenal. Secretary Davis was convinced of Rock Island's value to the Government and worked diligently to persuade Congress against selling Rock Island. Davis's opposition was essential to ensuring the Island remained under Government control. A notice to vacate was served in July 1854 on all persons who had located on Rock Island, but few squatters obeyed the order and instead continued to reside on the Island.

By 1858, the War Department was again prepared to sell portions of the Island to the public. Advertisements were placed in newspapers requesting sealed pro-

posals for "all or any part not less than one legal subdivision of the unsold land of the Island of Rock Island heretofore reserved for military purposes." Bids arrived from all over the country for plots ranging from ten to seventy acres. However, before the War Department acted on the bids, the Civil War began in 1861. The War Department realized the need for increased storage and manufacturing capabilities to support the war effort. On July 11, 1862, Congress passed an act establishing an arsenal at Rock Island, which effectively retained the Island solely for Government purposes.

### Notice to Trespassers On the U. S. Reserve on Rock Island.

All persons detected in cutting or destroying Timber on the United States Reserve on Rock Island, will be prosecuted according to the following Act of Congress, passed the 3rd day of March, 1859:

CHAPTER LXXVIII. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, &c. That if any person or persons shall unlawfully cut, aid, or assist, or be employed in unlawfully cutting, or shall wantonly destroy, or procure to be wantonly destroyed, any timber standing, growing, or being upon the lands of the United States, which, in pursuance of any law passed or hereafter to be passed, have been or shall be reserved or purchased by the United States for Military or other purposes; every such person or persons so offending, on conviction thereof, before a Court having competent jurisdiction, shall for every such offence pay a fine not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars, and shall be imprisoned not exceeding Twelve Months.

July 23, 1860. H. Y. SLAYMAKER, Agent, for Qr. M. Dep. U. S. Army.