



ASC History Newsletter

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 9 15 JUNE 2012

Operations Support Command

The Operations Support Command (OSC) was developed as the successor to the Industrial Operations Command (IOC) in late 2000. The switch officially happened on 30 September 2000 under the leadership of Major General Joseph W. Arbuckle. Under this new command, the missions of OSC included force projection and sustainment, the provision of munitions, industrial operations, and to serve as the “Single Face to the Field” for the Army Materiel Command (AMC). In order to achieve these competencies, the OSC had two major parts functioning underneath it: Army Field Support Command (FSC) and Army Munitions and Armaments Command (MAC). Both of these subordinates to OSC were created on 31 October 2000, under the command of MG Wade H. McManus Jr. The primary duty of the FSC was to manage the Army Prepositioned Stocks Program (APS) in order to be prepared and ready to respond immediately to any contingency operation that would arise. In addition, OSC

was now responsible for LOGCAP and the Logistics Assistance Program. In a complementary fashion, the duty of MAC was in ammunition production, flexible manufacturing, and munitions outloading to support the Warfighter in peace and war. Each part of the OSC possessed capabilities that led to a great impact for soldiers involved in war; the OSC was able to outload the right kind of ammunition that was requested to the right place, at the right time, and in the right condition; provide combat equipment; and sustain our Soldiers in the fight. The major test of the OSC and its capabilities was after the events of 9/11. As soon as news of the attacks occurred, the OSC shifted into round the clock operations within minutes; production, packaging, and shipping of ammunition was ready only eleven hours later. In the aftermath of the attacks, the Army instituted Operation Noble Eagle to improve security at installations. The OSC was responsible for operations on 18 active installations but did not have enough security personnel to appropriately

secure 14 of those installations. Operation Noble Eagle called for 750 National Guard soldiers to be placed on active duty in order to assist the OSC in the safety and security of the various arsenals, depots, and ammunition plants. These National Guard members were activated for just under 365 days. The OSC was able to achieve its goals of unit readiness and ammunition provider to the armed forces during the crisis of 9/11. Following these first few critical months, the OSC gradually began the transition into its next command. In January of 2003, OSC was no more as it became the Joint Munitions Command (JMC). This change occurred to better reflect the joint mission in the providing and supplying of conventional munitions to all of the service branches. This change was just a refinement of the OSC in order to assure even better unit readiness and ammunition production, if another national crisis were ever to arise again.

This MONTH in military history...

- **1774:** Continental Congress completes the Coercive Acts with the Quartering Act
- **1775:** John Adams proposes a Continental Army
- **1779:** Benedict Arnold is court-martialed
- **1864:** Battle of Cold Harbor begins
- **1900:** Future President Hoover caught in Boxer Rebellion (China)
- **1916:** Pres. Wilson signs National Defense Act
- **1918:** Allies launch counterattack against Germans in France
- **1944:** US begins “shuttle bombing” in Operation Frantic
- **1953:** President Eisenhower rejects calls for US “isolationism”
- **1961:** President Kennedy and Khrushchev agree on neutrality for Laos
- **1965:** Westmoreland requests 44 battalions

Skeleton of John Long



As is customary for American families on the 4th of July each year, many residents will set

out to celebrate the nation’s birth with parades, fireworks, and other festivities. Such was the case for George Davenport on the 4th of July, 1845. Davenport received an invitation to attend the Independence Day celebration in the city of Rock Island and planned to attend the event due to his prominent status in the local community. Originally from England, Davenport immigrated to the United States in the early 1800’s and went on to provide supplies and contract services for Fort Armstrong. His interactions with the Government, and his later job as an agent with the American Fur Trading Company richly rewarded George Davenport with a great deal of wealth. Several men within the local com-

The Murder of George Davenport

munity knew of George Davenport’s wealth and believed Davenport kept \$20,000 locked in a safe in his house on Rock Island. On July 4, 1845, assuming George Davenport to be attending the Independence Day festivities, the men rowed across the Mississippi River to Davenport’s house on Rock Island in order to rob Davenport’s home. Upon entering the house, the men were unpleasantly surprised—George Davenport was still in the house. He had not been feeling well and decided to forego the Independence Day celebrations. The intruders shot Davenport in the leg and bound him hand and foot. The thieves soon received another surprise—as George Davenport opened the safe, only \$400 was inside. Upset by their failure to find the large sum of money, the angry men dragged Davenport into his own bedroom, where they beat him unconscious and stole a watch and chain, a gold piece, and a gun from a dresser. Davenport died later that evening from his injuries. John Baxter—who had been a friend of the Davenport family and a visitor to the house—John Long, Arron Long, Granville Young, and William Fox were even-

tually charged with murder. William Fox managed to escape before his trial, but the rest were convicted. Granville Young, John Long and Arron Long were hanged, and their bodies were given to Dr. P.P. Gregg for research and study. Dr. Gregg later buried Arron Long and traded Granville Young to another doctor for a barrel of rum. However, Gregg kept the skeleton of John Long on display in the hospital steward’s office at the Rock Island Arsenal. John Long’s skeleton would later go to Dr. Charles Kalke of Chicago, who in turn passed it back to the Arsenal in 1940. Long’s body somehow found its way to a display case at the Rock Island County Courthouse, and then at the Hauberg Museum of Black Hawk State Park in Rock Island before finally being buried in 1978. George Davenport’s murder not only demonstrates the wide variety of events that have occurred throughout the history of Arsenal Island, but also the importance of always attending your 4th of July celebrations. Happy 4th!