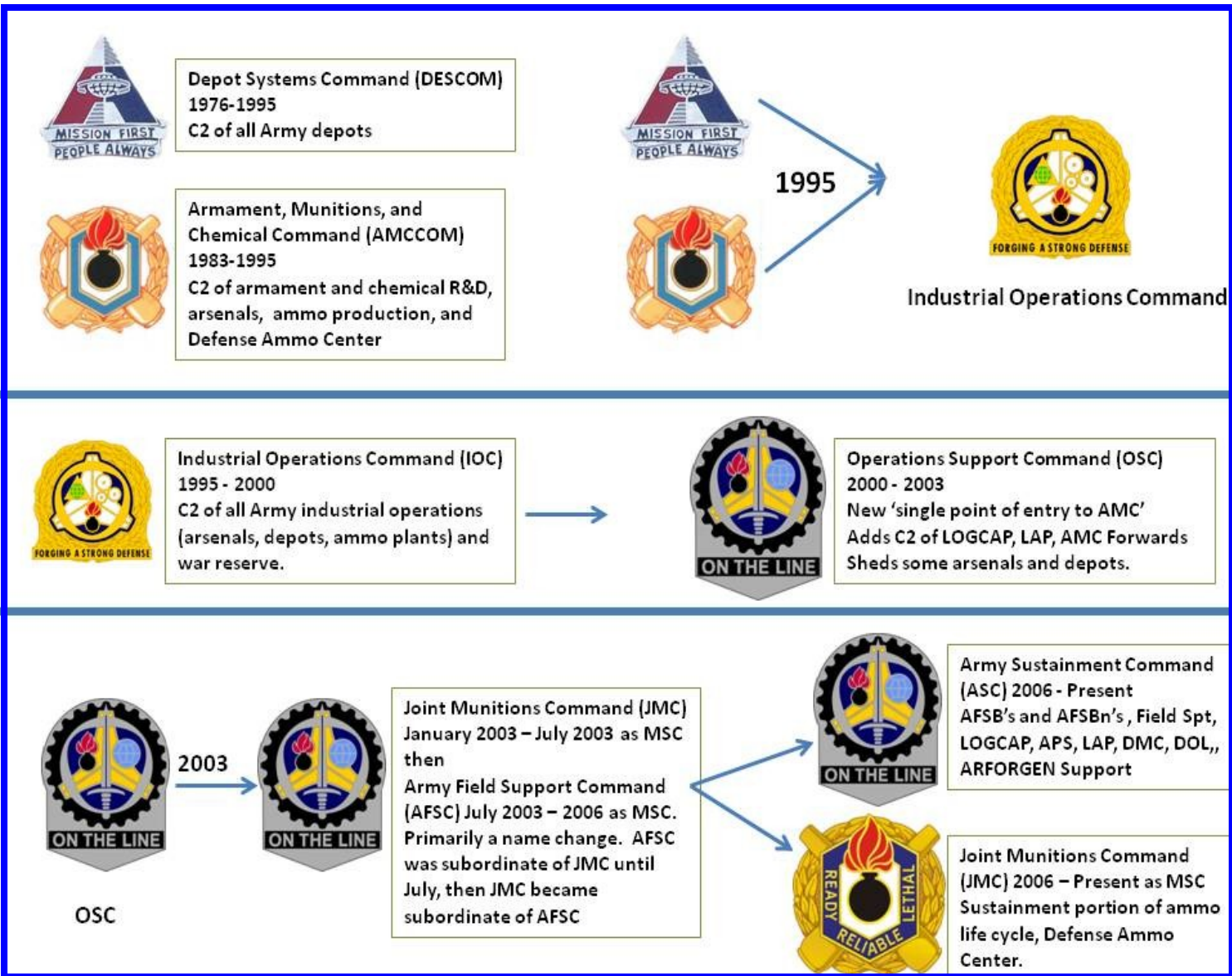


ASC History Newsletter



Timeline of Evolution to ASC



This MONTH in military history...

- 1779:** US Army establishes winter quarters at Morristown
- 1823:** Monroe Doctrine declared
- 1845:** Polk affirms Monroe Doctrine
- 1859:** John Brown hanged
- 1864:** Sherman completes the 'March to the Sea'
- 1882:** Edison creates first string of Christmas tree lights.
- 1942:** Fermi produces first nuclear chain reaction
- 1964:** Johnson administration makes plans to bomb North Vietnamese
- 1989:** Bush and Gorbachev suggest Cold War is coming to an end

Sometimes all you can do is laugh...

When in charge of planning an event, one always hopes the event will come off without a hitch. There is almost always, however, at least one wrinkle in the execution of plans, but these hiccups often make the most memorable stories.

In 1876, General William T. Sherman, Secretary of War J. Donald Cameron, and S.M. Cullom, the Republican candidate for Illinois governor, were some of the first distinguished visitors to the Rock Island Arsenal. As was fitting to the purpose of their visit, Colonel Flagler, then Commander of the Rock Island Arsenal, provided a tour of the entire island to Cullom, Cameron, Sherman, and Sherman's son who had also traveled with them. Although definitely not a part of the plans, the four men would leave

with quite the comical story.

Everything went smoothly and as expected until they left Rodman's grave. As they were preparing to depart, one of the horses grabbed the reins with its tail and pulled them from the driver's grip. While he was bending down to retrieve the reins the horse kicked the driver in the face, leaving him bloodied and stunned while the horses began to run off. Colonel Flagler immediately jumped down in an effort to grab and stop the horses but sprained his ankle in the jump. General Sherman and Secretary Cameron leapt from the wagon shaken but unharmed. As the horses were picking up speed, Cullom was able to leap from the wagon sustaining only minor cuts and bruises. The younger Sherman remained in his seat until the wagon hit a tree, eject-

ing him to land in the grass without injury. They were all immediately seen by Sherman's doctor, who just happened to be in the wagon behind them. No one was seriously harmed. Quite the opposite, it is said that the party took the incident in good humor, making it the source of much amusement and laughter to everyone with whom they could share the story.

Although definitely not a part of the plans, it is very likely that General William T. Sherman and the other men had a special place in their memories for the Rock Island Arsenal. Today we can be thankful that our wonderful safety offices try their hardest to avoid situations like this and that automobiles cannot be spooked and drive themselves!

