



ASC HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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Distribution Management Center

The Distribution Management Center (DMC) is responsible for providing materiel readiness management support to the global Army, materiel management of the ARFORGEN and RESET processes, and directing ASC's role as executing agent for the Lead Materiel Integrator (LMI) mission. The DMC was created in mid-2006 as a reaction to the transformation of the Army to brigade-based modular deployable units. One of the changes in transformation was the shift of focus from division down to the brigade level. As part of that shift, the Materiel Management Centers (MMC) at division and higher stood down and the MMC capability was assumed at the DMC. Initially the DMC was staffed with a handful of DA Civilians, but by the end of 2006 more than 30 Soldiers had been assigned to the DMC.

By the end of 2007 the DMC had nearly reached full operating capability. In addition to typical MMC missions of redirecting excess, maintenance management, reset management, and customer assistance for SARSS-2, the DMC also managed the left behind equipment (LBE) program and Pre-Deployment Training Equipment (PDTE) program. In the following years, the DMC continued to improve MMC processes through matu-

ration of the staff and collaboration with the Logistics Support Activity (LOGSA), the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), and other materiel managers in the Army.

In late 2010 ASC prepared to become Army Materiel Command's (AMC) executing agent for the LMI, assigning the mission to the DMC. This function placed the DMC as the management center responsible for ensuring that the Army, both CONUS and OCONUS, has the right equipment, at the right place, in the right readiness condition to support training, deployment, recovery and reset missions. In March 2011, the Secretary of the Army published a memo assigning AMC as the LMI for the Army. AMC then delegated the mission to the Army Sustainment Command (ASC).

The DMC spent the rest of 2011 preparing for the transition of authority from HQDA G-8 which took place in February 2012. The transition of authority has allowed several key materiel management operations to transfer to Rock Island Arsenal. This was evi-

dent in the DMC receiving the mission to distribute and re-distribute HQDA G-8 managed LINs, prepare Army Senior leaders on the Strategic Update Brief (SRU), and brief sourcing solutions for all Army LINs at Unit Equipping and Reuse Working Groups. As AMC's executing agent for LMI, the DMC has become the Army's Materiel Management Center, and its mission is critical to the materiel readiness of the Army at home station and during deployments, bringing material management back to the Army. The DMC is considered by many the "Eighth Brigade" of ASC.



THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY...

- ◆ **1780:** Bravery of Swamp Fox wins recruits at Blue Savannah
- ◆ **1864:** Confederate cavalry leader John Hunt Morgan is killed
- ◆ **1877:** Crazy Horse is killed
- ◆ **1918:** American troops land at Archangel
- ◆ **1940:** The USS Greer is fired upon
- ◆ **1943:** US forces seize more of New Guinea
- ◆ **1945:** Japanese surrender on Wake Island
- ◆ **1957:** Little Rock becomes a Cold War hotspot

Early Arsenal Labor Disputes

On 10 November 1870, the Davenport *Daily Democrat*, the local newspaper, noted that the federal government employed about 1,000 men to work on various Arsenal construction projects including Shops B and C, and the Commanding Officer's quarters. In addition to the men, there were, of course, a large number of horse and mule teams engaged in the construction activities.

A labor force of this size did not operate without some problems, and on occasion labor disputes slowed construction of the arsenal. Events happening elsewhere also had an impact on General Rodman's progress at Rock Island. For example, congressional legislation passed during the construction of Shops B and C established an eight hour work day for all laborers, workmen, and mechanics employed by, or on behalf of, the government of the United States. The wages paid under the old and new work plan were:

	10-hr day	8-hr day
Laborers:	\$1.80	\$1.44
Masons:	\$4.50	\$3.60
Carpenters:	\$3.00	\$2.40
Machinists:	\$3.00	\$2.40
Teamsters:	\$3.50	\$2.80

The daily wages of master workmen, which ranged from \$4.00 to \$6.00, were not affected by the new law. After being paid according to the new wage plan many laborers refused to continue to work on the building projects. The island temporarily became nearly deserted. The Rock Island *Union* newspaper expressed the opinion that, "The government pays pretty liberal wages, and if the old employees refuse to work under the rulings of the Secretary of War, it is probable that their places will soon be supplied by others."

This being true, the workers either came back or were replaced. However, General Rodman met with the stone-cutters and raised their wages so that they would be compatible to those offered to stone-cutters

for an eight hour work day in Chicago, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri. The rebuilding of Chicago after the great fire of 1871 drastically increased the demand for stone and stone craftsmen. The Arsenal, therefore, was forced to increase its pay to skilled labors due to the flight of Arsenal workers to Chicago.

Along with contract issues, budget appropriations, and procurement of building supplies, the labor disputes were just one hiccup of many in the process of building the Rock Island Arsenal.

