



ASC HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Evolution of ASC

(Continued) The new, improved command headquartered at Rock Island, the Operations Support Command, immediately entered the fight on 9/11/01. While the first response was issuing ammunition (an OSC mission until the spin-off of JMC in 2006), the APS and Logistics Assistance Program also rapidly came on line. By November 2001 LAP elements were operating out of Karshi-Khanabad Airbase, Uzbekistan. By December Logistics Support Elements were in Bagram and Kandahar, Afghanistan supporting the force there. LOGCAP followed soon behind relieving the operation units' stretched organic combat service support forces at the locations above. This relatively quiet and unknown support mission began the process of establishing OSC as the go-to logistics support organization for deployed forces. In 2002 while continuing to support efforts in Afghanistan and

mature that area of operations, the OSC was called upon as a major player in the preparation phase of the March 2003 invasion of Iraq. While preparing for a mass issue of APS stocks to the forces that would attack into Iraq, the OSC elements in SWA were also used as a diplomatic tool- a warning that the US meant business. Each time the Saddam government delayed, more APS was ordered to Kuwait. The AMC Forward SWA and employees simply did what had to be done to prepare for issue. AMC Fwd SWA had been renamed Logistics Support Element SWA in December 2001 as they supported operations in Afghanistan. In 2002 the HQ moved from Qatar to Kuwait to better manage the build-up. Eventually Camp Doha was full of equipment and decisions were made to shift operations and download more equipment into Camp Arifjan, despite the fact

that Arifjan was not yet complete. LOGCAP moved in to create living areas and provide water and food support. All elements of OSC worked together to prepare for the next step. In January 2003 LSE SWA began to issue equipment to the 3rd ID. The division then moved equipment north towards to Iraqi border for final training and preparation. At the same time another OSC unit, Combat Equipment Group - Europe, assisted the 173rd Airborne Brigade by doing final maintenance on their vehicles and moving them to port. In Europe, CONUS, and SWA LAP personnel were fully committed to ensuring the force was ready to move into Iraq. By the time the invasion began in March, OSC was about to change names and see further mission changes. Next month the evolution of ASC continues.



Camp Arifjan, KU in mid-2003

This Month in Military History

1781: The Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation

1862: St. Augustine, FL, the oldest city in the US, captured by Union forces

1863: USS Georgiana, the most powerful confederate cruiser, destroyed on maiden voyage

1865: The Battle of Wyse Fork commenced near Kinston, NC

1876: Birthday of the Civil Engineer Corps

1886: The Carrollton Massacre in Mississippi occurred and 20 African Americans were killed

1917: The US government releases the unencrypted text of the Zimmerman Telegram to the public

1954: The 1st rocket-driven sled on rails was tested in Alamogordo, NM

1991: US Military specialists surveyed and then detonated a bunker in Kamisiyah, Iraq.

Historical Heroes

1 March 1941- The term patriotic would hence forth be associated with one person: Captain America. This was the date of this super hero's initial appearance in Marvel comic books; a company then known as Timely Comics. Concurrent real world affairs blatantly tie into the hero's creation. Adolph Hitler had been in power since 1933 and although World War II was officially underway, the U.S. had not yet entered the war. This position of neutrality was not favored by all, especially by the creators of the comic, Joe Simon and Jack Kirby. Clearly a symbol of hyper-patriotism, Captain America's creation was based on the idea that America needed a hero that could be the face of intervention in a war the hero's creators believed was necessary. The pair of cartoonists were not subtle about their beliefs either, as indicated by the cover of the primary issue. Here, Captain America can be seen punching Hitler. The idea that an American presence was necessary in the war was further supported by the creation of the fan club "The Sentinels of Liberty" after the initial release of the comic. The story behind the creation of the American hero has its own tale of woe and rejection, events which accompany most super hero creations. Steven Grant Rogers, the famed Captain America, thwarted evil villains by night and played the role of lowly Army Private by day. Much of his fame came from the

audience's identification with the Captain, due to the real world "villain thwarting" happening overseas. The story of Rogers began as he was denied from joining military service due to being too frail and not measuring up to the standards desirable for recruitment. After several failed attempts to join up, he was given a chance by General Chester Phillips to become a test subject in a top-secret biological experiment, Operation: Rebirth. Rogers accepted this as his chance to do his part and help in the war effort. Rogers was then injected with the Super Soldier Serum and exposed to low-level radiation to enhance the formula's



effects. Out of this process, Captain America was born, and, without delay, went to work fighting off the Third Reich, the Japanese, and his arch nemesis, Red Skull. The comic ran until 1949, and was revived again in the early 1950's so the Captain could fight off America's new evil enemy, Communism. Some bumps and inconsistencies in the road gave the Captain America comics a less than cohesive feel, with one issue even ending in his death. Things got back on track with the 600th issue, and the Captain's storyline has been moving along ever since. As seen in the recent film adaptations, Captain America became a member of The Avengers. This happened as a result of Captain America's apparent demise. As World War II was coming to a close, so was the need for the Captain. The comics depict the events of the Captain being thrown into the icy waters of the Atlantic from a plane that had a bomb on it which exploded mid-air. As a result of the chilling temperatures and the Super Soldier Serum, he entered a state of suspended animation which froze him into solid ice. Years later he is discovered by the Avengers. From this point, he became the unofficial leader of the crime fighting Avengers and to this day defends America!