



# THE ASC HISTORY NEWSLETTER

## THE 402D ARMY FIELD SUPPORT

The 402d Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) was officially activated as a MTOE unit on 16 Oct 2006 at Balad Air Base, Iraq. While the official lineage of the 402d AFSB started on 16 October 2006, for many the date was just another small change in the evolution of an ever changing command. The Army may only trace the 402d lineage back four years, but there was a significant period of mission support prior to that. In October 2006 the structure and standing in the Army changed, but not the missions on the ground in Iraq.

In late May 2003 nine Logistics Support Elements (LSE) provided operational logistics support to their customers in Iraq. All 9 LSEs were under the command and control of the LSE-SWA. However, LSE-SWA was also responsible for all other AMC operations in SWA and the mission had already out-paced effective span of control. LSE-Iraq was established in late May 2003 to provide mission command (MC) for all LSEs in Iraq. The unit was established in Logistics Support Area-Anaconda, now known as Balad Air Base, in order to be centrally located as well as co-located with the Corps Support Command headquarters. LSE-Iraq took an administrative burden off LSE-SWA allowing LSE-SWA to

focus on Kuwait, Qatar, and Afghanistan.

As the theater matured the missions of LSE-Iraq expanded. By Sept 2003 CECOM and TACOM had forward repair activities in Iraq, with the largest concentration in Balad. These forward units remained under the C2 of LSE-SWA. In late 2004 Logistics Support Activity-Iraq was established to provide C2 on Balad for these units. At the same time AMC was increasing support to the Army in Iraq with the establishment of up-armoring programs and retrofit. At times these activities competed with the LSEs in Iraq for space. Diverging chains of command further confused the situation on the ground.

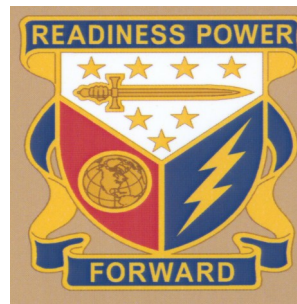
In January 2005 LSE-Iraq was transformed and renamed the AFSB-Iraq. In addition to the name change, AFSB-Iraq also assumed C2 of all AMC operations in SWA, once again establishing a single point of entry for all AMC operations in Iraq. In 2005 AFSB-Iraq's mission set continued to grow with the addition of Retrograde Property Accounting Team, Theater Property Book, Route Clearance support, and increasing

number fielding missions.

In October 2006

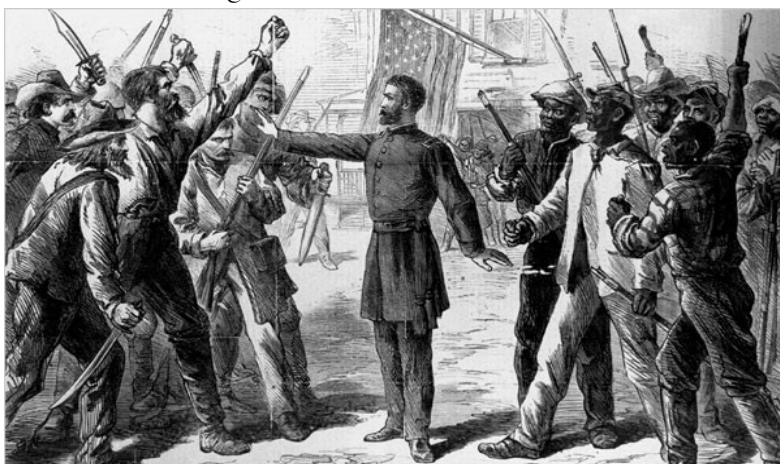
the 402d AFSB was activated in Balad assuming all of the mission sets of the AFSB-Iraq. The 402d continued to execute all AMC missions in Iraq, including transitioning to retrograde operations in 2009 as the Army began to withdraw from Iraq and shift focus to Afghanistan. In 2010 the 402d AFSB assumed responsibility for AFSBns Kuwait and Qatar giving it control over the entire retrograde process and freeing up the 401st AFSB to concentrate on the Afghanistan surge. The 402d AFSB also assumed direct responsibility for LOGCAP operations in Iraq and Kuwait.

Until 2011, they continued to focus on Iraq drawdown while still providing continuing support to forces remaining in Iraq. The unit shifted headquarters to Kuwait in 2011 as force structure in Iraq further drew down. In 2012 the 402d retrograded 180,000 items of equipment from SWA and completed three APS 5 draws. 402d AFSB continues to provide "Readiness Power Forward."



*This MONTH in military history...*

- **1765:** British Stamp Act passed to fund defense of N America
- **1817:** First Seminole War begins in Florida
- **1863:** Dr Mary Walker, first female Army surgeon, awarded Medal of Honor.
- **1885:** George Patton born
- **1918:** Meuse-Argonne Campaign ends
- **1921:** Washington Naval Conference begins.
- **1940:** Willys introduces the "Jeep"
- **1944:** First B-29 raid on Tokyo
- **1961:** Kennedy orders increased military aid to South Vietnam
- **1979:** 63 hostages taken captive at the US Embassy in Teheran
- **1993:** Vietnam Veterans Memorial unveiled in Washington DC
- **2004:** Second Battle of Fallujah



*The Army protects freed slaves in this 1867 drawing*

After the Civil War, the Army was the prime enforcer of Reconstruction Policy in the South and ran the Freedman's Bureau. Over time, in order to enforce Reconstruction against increasingly violent groups who were trying to intimidate ex-slaves, Radical Republicans in Congress increased the Army's law enforcement powers in the defeated South. Southerners, increasingly members of the revitalized Democratic Party, saw the US Army as an Army of

Occupation. In the Election of 1876 the mainly Southern Democrats maintained control of the House. The Senate was nearly evenly split. Beginning in 1877 the Democrats used the Congressional Power of the Purse to revoke Reconstruction policy and cripple the Army. In 1877, the fiscal year still ended 30 June. The Democrat controlled congress did not pass an appropriations act for the army until 21 November due to fights with the Hayes Ad-

## THE SHUTDOWN OF 1877

ministration over the power of the Army. No Army employee received pay. During this time enlisted men received quarters and food, but officers and civilians received no support and struggled for nearly five months. Why did the Democrat controlled Congress delay passing the Army Appropriations Act in 1877? They used the power of the purse to change National Policy and to reduce the President's Authority. From the end of the Civil War, US Army officers and troops enforced contract law, assisted law enforcement, and protected polling stations during elections. In essence, the US Army ensured equal protection and rights to the newly-freed-former-slaves in the southern states. Refusal to approve a budget in 1877 was part of a strategy to shut down the government to force the President to approve the "Posse Comitatus Act" which forbade the use of the Army to

enforce domestic laws in the U.S. The original intent of the Act was to remove and prevent the US Army from protecting the rights of the former slaves in the south. This ushered in the era of Jim Crow in the south, and delayed the fulfillment of civil rights envisioned during reconstruction for nearly a century.

Despite the medias' and politicians' portrayal of what has happened in our Nation's Capitol in September and early October, refusing to fund part or all of the Federal Government is a tactic that seems to have been envisioned by the framers of the Constitution. However, the Democrat Party in 1877 was the first to use this tool in a manner to prevent part of the government from functioning, and to "hold the government hostage" in order to change federal policy and reduce the President's executive authority.