



# ASC History Newsletter

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## This Month in Military History

- **1812:** Congress authorizes bonds to finance War of 1812
- **1831:** Edgar Allen Poe expelled from West Point
- **1855:** Congress appropriates \$30,000 to buy camels for the U.S. Army
- **1936:** Hitler breaks Treaty of Versailles and sends troops into Rhineland; Allies fail to act
- **1954:** Puerto Rican nationalists open fire in House of Representatives, 5 wounded.
- **1968:** My Lai Massacre
- **1968:** LBJ announces he will not run for reelection due to issues in Vietnam

## The 406th Army Field Support Brigade

The 406th Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) activated on 16 October 2007 and is one of the newest organizations in ASC with less of the prehistory of the other AFSBs.

In 2005 the Army approved creating AFSB's in CONUS in order to provide the same kinds of service the AFSBs were providing overseas. In the spring of 2005, this concept was put into action with the creation of the TDA Army Field Support Brigades CONUS East (AFSB-CE) and CONUS West. AFSB-CE stood up in March 2005 and was responsible for enhancing the readiness of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Army reserve component units east of the Mississippi River. The original commander of AFSB-CE was also the Commander of Combat Equipment Brigade-Afloat (CEG-A) at Charleston, SC. The commander transitioned his headquarters to Ft Bragg while

CEG-A was reduced to a battalion command equivalent and then shifted to civilian leadership. Despite successful mission accomplishments AFSB-CE had limits because it was officially a non-deployable TDA unit- despite deploying in support of Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts. This changed in October 2007 when AFSB-CE was deactivated and the MTOE 406<sup>th</sup> AFSB stood up in its place.

Since its activation the role of the 406<sup>th</sup> has evolved. Today the brigade executes materiel enterprise operations in support of unified land operations in a garrison, joint, or combined environment and serves as the single face to the field by integrating Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ALT) at the tactical, operational and strategic level. 406th AFSB is the primary AMC synchronization point for all ARFORGEN and

contingency support missions east of the Mississippi River. Recent examples are the FY13 assumption of control of most Logistics Readiness Centers, formerly DOLs, in its footprint. In FY12 the 406<sup>th</sup> was a key agent in recovery efforts for Super Storm Sandy in the New York/New Jersey area.

The 406th AFSB is at the cutting edge of Army logistics transformation and is creating new logistics history every day while providing its AOR

**"Steadfast Support."**



## The Infamy of John Looney

Names such as Al Capone, Johnny Torrio, and Bugs Moran all bring up a common theme: gangsters. These fellows were the kings of Chicago for a time. Rock Island had its own king in the early 1900s in John Looney. Looney, first born son of Irish immigrants, ran the trades of prostitution, gambling, guns, stolen cars, and illegal liquor in Rock Island until the mid 1920s. Originally of Ottawa, Illinois, Looney came to Rock Island in 1885 to work as a train dispatcher. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1889. He had a family of two daughters and one son. In the early 1890's John Looney appeared to be a respectable citizen in Rock Island. However, after his involvement in the fraudulent 24th Street storm drain scheme of 1897, Looney never resumed the façade of respectable life. By 1905, Looney was an established gangster and criminal in the underworld at Rock Island. In order to keep a firm grasp on his illegal operations, he employed violence and extreme yellow journalism through his newspaper, *The Rock Island News*. Using his

newspaper he was able to blackmail community leaders to make money and to ensure his own activities would be allowed.

One of his most infamous acts was against Rock Island's Mayor Schriver. In 1912, Looney printed an article about Schriver that associated him with saloons and brothels, getting specific enough to name a person, Ethel, as his woman. In response, Schriver had Looney rounded up and beaten so severely that Looney required a hospital stay. Of course this action did not sit well with Rock Island's crime boss, and his retaliation escalated the feud. During a subsequent political rally, organized by Looney and his men, the keynote speaker gave a rousing speech that turned into a strikingly personal attack against Mayor Schriver. The situation quickly digressed and rioting broke out in the streets. Panicked by the events, local law enforcement put in a call to the Illinois Governor. This resulted in 600 National Guardsmen being deployed to, and remaining in, Rock Island for almost a month after the incident. Two people died, eight people



were shot, and a dozen others were wounded as a result of the uproar.

Looney continued his illegal endeavors throughout the rest of his life, until he died in 1947. Even with Looney's crimes being on the lesser known side of organized crime and big time mobsters, his presence and actions tie Rock Island to the heyday of organized crime in the early 1900s.