



## THIS MONTH in MILITARY HISTORY

- 1937 Amelia Earhart's fated flight takes place from New Guinea to Howland Island.
- 1941 U.S. Marines relieve a British garrison stationed in Iceland.
- 1945 The Trinity test takes place when the Gadget detonates at Alamogordo, New Mexico.
- 1947 The iconic AK-47 goes into production in the Soviet Union.
- 1950 The first ever combat strike by jet aircraft takes place in the Korean War.
- 1951 Joseph Stalin formally unveils that the Soviets have an atomic bomb.
- 1957 John Glenn makes the first transcontinental supersonic flight in his F8U-1 *Crusader*.
- 1969 Apollo 11 launches from the Kennedy Space Center, the Americans are first to the moon.
- 1989 The B-2 *Spirit* Bomber makes its first public flight at Palmdale's Air Force Plant 42.
- 1997 The USS Constitution sets sail for the first time in 116 years.

## TRIVIA

- Who is often referred to as "the father" of Rock Island Arsenal?
- What area contained two paths which the Western Allies worried could be used to establish a Soviet crossing of the Rhine?
- What was the last U.S. ship sunk during World War II?

### ANSWERS FOR JUNE 2021 QUESTIONS

- Check on learning: who was the commander of Operations Support Command when it stood up in 2000?  
➤ **MG Joseph W. Arbuckle**
- In what war did the first self-propelled (not horse-drawn) gun make its appearance?  
➤ **World War I**
- Which gun tubes were spec'd to be used with the U.S. Army's "Triple Threat Weapon" system in the 1960s?  
➤ **175, 203, and 240mm guns (T76E1 Carriages)**



**Valkyrie, The Lady in White.** On 8 June 1966, XB-70 Ship #2 piloted by NASA Test Pilot Alvin White collided with an F-104 piloted by Chief Test Pilot Joe Walker during a photoshoot flight for General Electric. White was the only survivor of the collision and subsequent crash. XB-70 Ship #2 was a total loss. The only remaining XB-70 is on display at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio.



For answers to trivia, information on this month's artifact spotlight, digital copies of old newsletters and more, visit the ASC History Office website at:

<https://aschq.army.mil/About-Us/History>



## Field Support Command

The Field Support Command is the product of several transformations that began in 1995. In FY95 the U.S. Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM) and the U.S. Army Depot System Command (DESCOM) merged to form the U.S. Army Industrial Operations Command (IOC). The U.S. Army War Reserve Support Command (AWRSC) was then assigned as a subordinate of IOC. In FY2000 the IOC transformed into the Operations Support Command (OSC) to accentuate its support to military operations. At this time, the AWRSC then became the Field Support Command (FSC) under the command of BG Jerome Johnson. During this time, the FSC was a subordinate command to the OSC. These changes were more than just names. The FSC added missions that shifted the OSC focus more and more to operational logistics readiness with OSC/FSC as the central manager of horizontal integration within AMC.

The FSC mission, beginning with its provisional establishment on 31 March 2000, was to provide a single face for logistical support to the theater Commander in Chiefs by maintaining, accounting for, issuing, and reconstituting Army pre-positioned stocks. It also provided command and control for all AMC field elements as well as provided a single point for Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) operations. The FSC took on the added responsibilities of managing the LOGCAP, and the

Army's Logistics Support Elements that provided field sustainment support during times of crisis. Lastly, FSC provided horizontal information integration across AMC, and a seamless anticipatory logistics link between the sustaining base and the theater CINCs in peace and in war.

The FSC was established as the leader in power projection by advocating for the absorption of U.S. Army Europe's mission to store and maintain their Immediate Reaction Force. The FSC also successfully integrated the LOGSA Field Support Center into FSC operations. At the end of 2001, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the FSC began planning the shipment of various equipment from each of the overseas Army Prepositioned Stocks sites and several Continental United States locations to Southwest Asia. Throughout the existence of FSC, the command worked to support operations in Afghanistan as well as support the wide range of contingency operations executed by the U.S. Army.

As FSC's missions gained stature it was renamed the U.S. Army Field Support Command (AFSC). At a change of command ceremony on 2 July 2003, BG Vincent E. Boles relinquished control of the FSC to MG Wade H. McManus. Simultaneously with the name change, AFSC was transformed into a Major Subordinate Command of AMC.

## The Arsenal Siblings

On 11 July 1862 Congress passed legislation that required the establishment of certain national arsenals. The 37th Congress first debated the issue on 5 June 1862 and passed the act just five weeks later. After deliberation and politicking, need was determined for arsenals to be used for the deposit and repair of arms and other munitions of war. The amount of \$100,000 was allocated to establish each of these arsenals.

The most commonly recognized arsenal from this Act is the Rock Island Arsenal; yet it was not the only arsenal birthed from the legislation. Arsenals were also developed in Columbus, Ohio and in Indianapolis, Indiana for purposes similar to those of Rock Island. In Columbus, the arsenal became active in 1864 following the completion of the shot tower. It continued under its original mission of munitions depot only until 1875. From this point it was renamed the Columbus Barracks and transferred to the General Recruiting Service. This was its primary function until its second name and function change. In 1922 it was re-designated Fort Hayes and used for recruiting intake and as a training facility. This assignment lasted until 1947 when it was transferred to the Department of Defense, under the same name. The final assignment

was the shortest of all, lasting a brief three years before being shuttered.

As for the third member of this arsenal trio, the Indianapolis Arsenal was constructed in 1862, and utilized by the Army beginning in 1863. Operations and functions remained static until 1902 when the Arsenal was exscessed. It was then quickly purchased by the Winona Agricultural and Technical Institute in 1903. Almost as quickly as the company had purchased the former arsenal, in 1909 it went bankrupt. Once again on the market, the previous arsenal was then purchased by the local school board and from there transformed into the Arsenal Technical High School. It remains a school today in the Indianapolis Public Schools District.

Only Rock Island remains an active arsenal, and retained the majority of its original mission sets to this day. Expansion projects on this arsenal occurred leading up to the Spanish American War, during World War's I and II, Korea, and Vietnam. The most recent expansion projects took place in 2018 with the renovations and expansion in the on-installation housing which took place at the installation's center and on the northern shore.

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Presented to you by your friendly ASC History Office. Feel free to call or stop by our office for any of your history needs.

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