



Field Support & Prepositioned Stocks: An Enduring Legacy

FROM THE ARCHIVES



The AWRSPTCMD was the forerunner to FSC and AFSC. Here, MG James Monroe unfurls the AWRSPTCMD flag during a change of command and the stand up ceremony for the command on 26 NOV 1996. Monroe had previously been the 28th Chief of Ordnance before assuming command of IOC. BG Wade McManus, Jr. served as the first commander of AWRSPTCMD taking over from acting commander COL David M. Emling.



In 1996, the Army War Reserve Support Command (AWRSPTCMD) was created under the Industrial Operations Command (IOC). The primary mission of the AWRSPTCMD was to unify the field support and reserve components controlled by IOC under a single command structure. This gave control of the Combat Equipment Groups (CEGs) to the newly formed command. The same CEGs were the forerunner to the modern Army Prepositioned Stocks (APS) mission of the current Army Sustainment Command (ASC).

Following IOC's transformation into the Operations Support Command (OSC) in 2000, AWRSPTCMD also underwent a change transforming into the Field Support Command (FSC). FSC retained the mission set of AWRSPTCMD and added Army Materiel Command's (AMC) Logistics Support Elements (LSEs), Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP), and the Logistics Assistance Program (LAP). Most of these missions were later transferred to the higher headquarters at OSC. FSC acted as a single-point-of-entry to AMC for all Army units. This was further amplified by the need for logistics readiness by way of analyzing data input from Logistics Assistance Officers (LAOs) and input from AMC's major subordinate commands (MSCs).

FSC also integrated AMC Forward (FWD) into its structure, setting the stage for the creation of the modern Army Field Support Brigades (AFSBs). Across FSC's global footprint included multiple AMC-FWD's, CEGs, and Combat Equipment Battalion's.

According to FSC's mission that was declared in their FY2000 history on 31 MAR 2000, the FSC's mission was to "provide a single face for the logistical support to the theater [commander's] by maintaining, accounting for, issuing, reconstituting Army prepositioned stocks and materiel globally prepositioned." FSC also provided command and control for all AMC elements in theater while managing LOGCAP operations.

The need for maintaining and support of the prepositioned equipment sets became well apparent during the following fiscal year on the heels of the September 11 attacks. FSC's report stated that the opening acts of the Global War on Terror (GWOT) proved challenging, with the largest emphasis being placed on its APS sites. This included drawdowns, RESET, and distribution management. By FY02, FSC's key areas of engagement came from buyouts managed by the Materiel Management & Readiness Integration for APS brigade sets, Logistics Systems Support Directorate for its managing of the contract for the Army War Reserve Deployment System (AWRDS), and the Acquisition Directorate for its LOGCAP oversight.



By the end of FY02, FSC was designated to supersede OSC as Army Field Support Command (AFSC) as an MSC of AMC. This was done to underscore the significance of AFSC's mission set to include the increased emphasis on logistics readiness and war reserve missions. AFSC was designated provisional in January 2003, and began its life as a subordinate to Joint Munitions Command (JMC), before the two inverted their billeting. This move made AFSC a two-star command, with JMC being a one-star command.

Within the transformation process was also an intent to create unified logistics sustainment command, an eventual evolution, to which AFSC would transform into. This theoretical organization was to compose of a three-star commander, with both continental U.S. theater support oversight in addition to its existing global reach as the Army's logistics integrator and sustainer.

The Crest of OSC, AFSC, and Beyond



The insignia was approved on 20 JUL 2000 and redesignated effective 1 OCT 2006. The three points of the stylized caltrop symbolize resolve, spirit, and professionalism. The silver disc in the middle represents unity, the hollowed triangle alludes to stability and strength. The gear wheel underscores efficient support to the Warfighter. The bomb highlights the ordnance mission, the globe represents the scope of the mission. The sword refers to the combat readiness of the command to support our Warfighters. The reversed chevron symbolizes the command's provision as a single point of entry for all AMC units to field commanders. The teal color of the flag signifies that the command is multifunctional and is not limited to any one branch of the Army.

MONTHLY TRIVIA

- 1 Where was the first established base located using prepositioned stocks during the War on Terror?
- 2 What was the name / acronym of the effort to streamline Army logistics following the Gulf War?
- 3 How many command iterations have used the current ASC crest?

ANSWERS FOR NOVEMBER 2023 QUESTIONS

- 1 What local RIA newspaper did Secretary of War Edwin Stanton deem a disloyal paper?
➤ Rock Island Argus
- 2 What was the post-war name applied to Rock Island Prison Barracks?
➤ Andersonville of the North
- 3 Who technically controlled Rock Island? The Quartermaster or Ordnance Department?
➤ Ordnance Department

WHO WOULD WIN?

The French Army



We tend to draw a lot of our ire in logistics with Napoleon—even doing an entire newsletter on the subject of his logistics train and his army. While his overreliance of foraging for supplies and an overly long supply line contributed to his downfall in Russia, we—as warm blooded historians—can't help but think that the Winter may or may not have had something to do with it.

It gets cold here, and let's be real—if you recently PCS'd here, you haven't seen anything yet. Trust us. It. Gets. Cold. Luckily for us, however, our logistics is solid, and our workforce is warm. We don't even need the funny hats.

A season



History is being made every day at this command.

Cover photo: Individuals assigned to APS-2 work on artillery systems staged in-theater.

FSC did not have a formal crest, instead it had a logo and shared its crest with OSC. The logo is shown at the top left.

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