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UNITED STATES ARMY

ASC History Newsletter

ON THE LINE

This MONTH in military history...

- **1754: George Washington surrenders Ft. Necessity to the French**
- **1777: John Paul Jones hoists the Stars and Stripes on Ranger, Portsmouth, NH**
- **1798: Congress reactivates USMC, disbanded in 1784**
- **1863: Battle of Gettysburg**
- **1903: US leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for $2,000 a year**
- **1926: Congress authorizes the Distinguished Flying Cross**
- **1942: First American bombing over Nazi controlled Europe**
- **1944: US ships bombard Iwo Jima and the Bonin Islands**
- **1948: US reinstitutes the draft for the Cold War**
- **1950: First US ground forces arrive in Korea**
- **1955: USAF Academy opens with 300 cadets at Lowry AFB, Colorado**
- **1964: Pentagon announces 5,000 more troops to Vietnam**
- **1971: US turns over responsibility for DMZ in Korea**

Distribution Management Center—Lead Materiel Integrator

The Distribution Management Center serves as the executive agent for the Army's new Lead Materiel Integrator concept. LMI is a new method of managing materiel fielding and redistribution. Under LMI, a single manager will ensure that units and soldiers have the proper materiel at the right time and place to accomplish missions and training. The concept recognizes the efficiency of having a single materiel manager to conduct materiel fielding and redistribution. A single manager has visibility over all stocks and can move or redistribute stocks to where they are needed to meet ARFORGEN requirements.

While LMI is a new concept for the Army, materiel fielding and redistribution have always been fundamental logistics tasks. Historically, the process of fielding end items was managed by the Ordnance, Signal, or Engineering Departments. Multiple Army Departments involved in materiel fielding resulted in redundancies and inefficient support to deployed forces, as no single department knew the availability of on-hand and ready stocks. In later years, program managers within the Army fielded equipment without coordinating with the sustainment side of the logistics system. The lack of coordination was compounded by the fact that fielded stocks were managed at a local level due to the use of hand written, hard copy spreadsheets. Automation technology eventually improved the system, but still left gaps in visibility as to the maintenance ready status of fielded equipment, resulting in inefficiency and waste.

As the Army began drawing down from SWA, and as budget cuts loomed, planners realized that a new system was needed. ASC's Distribution Management Center was already managing readiness and equipment fielding while the AFSB's possessed the ability to identify equipment that can be brought to ready status, repaired, and then issued. The Logistics Support Activity (LOGSA) developed a new Decision Support Tool that pulls data from across the property book and readiness automation systems to provide DMC the total visibility to conduct the mission. LMI merges the capabilities of the DMC and the AFSB's, along with a new automation system, to create a single manager for materiel fielding. For the first time the Army can know not only where equipment is located down to the serial number level, but also know the readiness status of all fielded equipment.

Frontier Life During the American Indian Wars

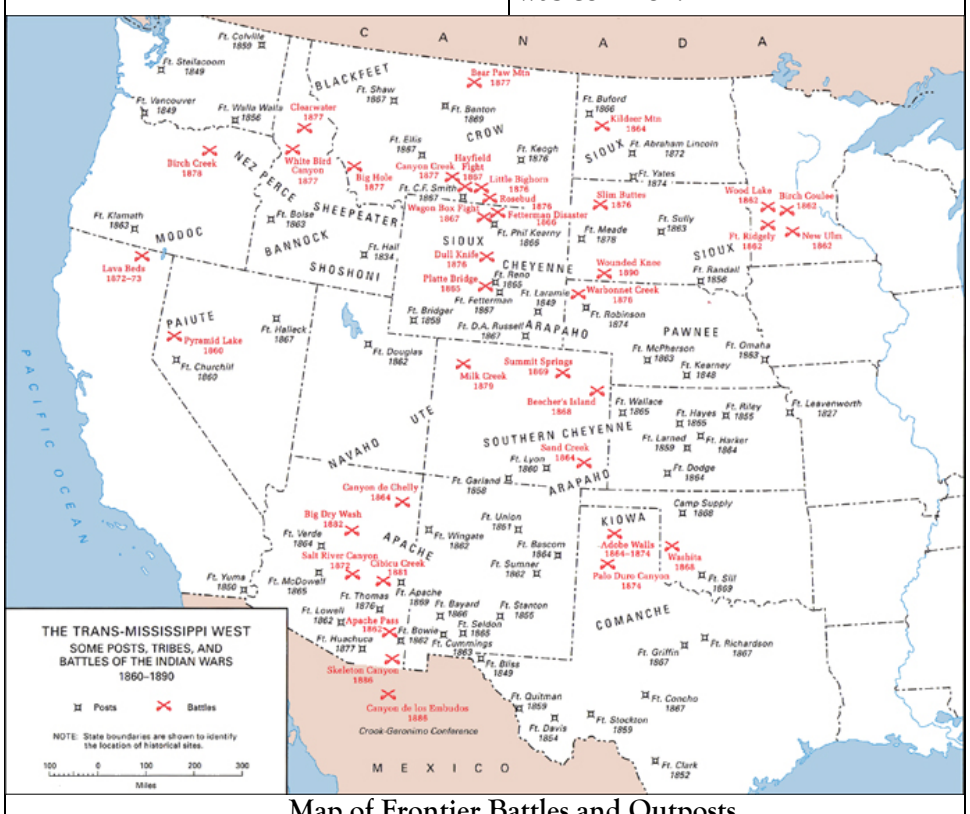
One of the determining factors of life in the U.S. Army on the frontiers of America was the small size of the forces engaged in operations. These forces lived in relative isolation from the country and from the rest of the Army. The Army was scattered throughout hundreds of small forts, posts, outposts, and stations throughout the American West, often with little more than a company of cavalry or infantry at each post.

During the Indian Wars, enlisted men lived in Spartan barracks, with corporals and privates in one large room. Sergeants were separated from their men, in small cubicles of their own adjacent to the men's sleeping quarters. This gave enlisted men a sense of comradeship, but allowed for little privacy.

The soldier of this period spent much of his time engaged in manual labor. Soldiers in the west were called upon to build or repair housing and fortifications, repair roads and bridges, serve as blacksmiths or bakers, perform guard duty, and other tasks.

During the 1870's the Army discouraged enlisted men from marrying. Regulations limited the number of married enlisted men in the Army and required special permission to be obtained if a man in the Army wished to marry. Those men who did marry without permission could be charged with insubordination. They could not live in post housing or receive other entitlements. Still, nature proved stronger than Army desires or regulations. Marriages occurred and posts were transformed into communities.

Married NCO wives had a hard life, often working as laundresses or maids. Their meals consisted of beans, bacon, beef and hardtack, with eggs, sugar and other staples being too high-priced for their budgets. Many lived in dugouts, sod huts or adobe buildings. The luckier wives lived in wooden structures or stone buildings. It was a hard life for all, pay was poor, and desertion was common.



Map of Frontier Battles and Outposts

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