



ARMY LOGISTICIAN

JULY-AUGUST 1976



ARMY LOGISTICIAN

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 4
JULY-AUGUST 1976

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF UNITED STATES ARMY LOGISTICS

Assistant Secretary
of the Army
(Installations and Logistics)
Harold L. Brownman

Deputy Chief of Staff
for Logistics
Department of the Army
**Lieutenant General
Jack C. Fuson**

Commanding General
U.S. Army Materiel Development
and Readiness Command
General John R. Deane, Jr.

Commandant
U.S. Army Logistics
Management Center
Colonel Don A. Wilkinson

Editor-in-Chief
Thomas A. Johnson

Associate Editors
**Terry R. Speights
Jacqueline Patterson**

Assistant Editors
**Greg Todd
Thomas Gelli
William Finnegan
Richard Ford**

Art Director
Charles F. Marie

ABOUT THE COVER

Army Logician salutes the United States on its 200th birthday with an original cover by Charles F. Marie, symbolizing the spirit of '76. The concluding article of the Continental Army Logistics series begins on page 12.

ARTICLES

- 2 **Bar Coding**—Beverly B. Joyce
- 6 **Desk to Desk**—Colonel James L. Wohlfahrt, USAR
- 8 **Training of Logistics Units**—Lieutenant Colonel James Bickley and Captain Kenneth J. Utecht, Jr.
- 12 **Continental Army Logistics—An Overview**—ALOG Staff Feature
- 14 **Ask For It Clearly**—Lieutenant Colonel Donald M. Keith and Charles A. McCarthy
- 17 **'Roadeo'**—ALOG Staff Feature
- 18 **Improving Hospital Logistics Support**—Wilbur J. Balderson
- 22 **It's Your Move!**—ALOG Staff Feature
- 24 **The 'Mess Sergeant' Goes Shopping**—Captain John M. Campbell
- 28 **Weapon Systems Support Testing**
—Lieutenant Colonel William L. Lytle
- 31 **Managing Major End Items**—John P. McCormick
- 34 **Long-Term Storage of Ammunition**—Howard M. Weiner

DEPARTMENTS

- 1 **Emphasis**
- 37 **Logform**
- 38 **Digest**
- 42 **Research Reports**
- 42 **Coming Events**
- 43 **Career Programs**
- 45 **Recently Published
Logisticians Must Be Leaders**
—Major Joe C. Creel
(inside back cover)

Army Logician's mission is to provide timely, authoritative information on Army and Defense logistics to the Active Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, civilian employees of the Army, and the public. Its purpose is to increase knowledge and understanding of logistics and to assist in achieving the Army's information goals.

Army Logician is an official Army periodical published bimonthly and sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Logistics), the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, and the Commander, Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command. Photographs are U.S. Army unless otherwise noted. Material may be reprinted if credit is given to *Army Logician* and the author. Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Department of the Army.

Articles, photographs, illustrations, and items of interest on any facet of Army logistics are invited. Direct communica-

tion is authorized to: Editor, *Army Logician*, Army Logistics Management Center, Fort Lee, Va. 23801.

Use of funds for printing *Army Logician* was approved by Headquarters, Department of the Army, on 31 October 1975.

Active Army units receive distribution under the pinpoint system outlined in AR 310-2. DA Form 12-5 must be sent to CO, AG Publications Center, 2800 Eastern Boulevard, Baltimore, Md. 21220. Army National Guard and Army Reserve units must submit requirements through state adjutants general or Army Reserve channels.

Subscriptions are available through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Annual rates are \$7.65 for mailing to a domestic or APO address and \$9.60 for mailing to a foreign address. Single copies are \$1.35. Checks should be payable to the Superintendent of Documents.

Logistics and logisticians are viewed in different ways by different people. Over the years, a variety of views have been published in Army Logistician magazine. In this article, Major Creel concentrates on the leadership role of the logistician.

—Editor

Logisticians Must Be Leaders

by Major Joe C. Creel



The mission of the logistician is to "win the first battle," by meeting the need, whenever and wherever it is required. The success of each combat mission is directly related to the quality and timeliness of the support provided.

Success on the battlefield demands that the logistician be dynamic, innovative, and resourceful. It is normal for the logistician to function in isolated areas where he is solely responsible for the support provided. The logistician must provide positive, innovative solutions to situations or questions that arise. Frequently, there is no one else to turn to for guidance. Immediate action must be taken as the situation dictates, for to delay may jeopardize the mission. The logistics decisions are equal in importance to the tactical decisions in terms of mission accomplishments. The leadership ability of the logistician has a direct influence on success or failure on the battlefield.

As a leader, the logistician must weld the personnel under his command into a strong, dedicated, cohesive military organization.

The logistician must be so versatile that a wide variety of combat tasks such as rear-area and convoy security can be accomplished as expertly as the logistics mission, permitting the tactical commander to center his attention on the battlefield.

The logistician supports the combat mission by allocating assets and anticipating requirements before they

occur. No human can anticipate all requirements, so the logistician must be responsive to unexpected missions and maintain the flexibility to quickly satisfy all requirements. This flexibility can only be maintained by a thorough, professional knowledge of the logistics system.

The support element must provide the required support in a timely manner. Using today's supplies to fill yesterday's requirements is not accomplishing the mission! A sense of urgency must prevail in all the support elements. Everyone from the truck driver, mechanic, personnel clerk, or warehouseman to the chaplain's assistant must be imbued with the basic truth that he exists to support the combat arms. The support units' sense of urgency and dedication is a direct reflection of the logistician's leadership ability.

The logistician must be dynamic and capable. If the intangible asset called "leadership" is lacking, then all the trucks, supplies, and personnel under the logistician's command become wasted resources.

History records that the logistician has always been equal to any task. Let the future be assured that the tradition will remain unbroken.

ALOG

Major Joe C. Creel is an instructor in the Logistics Career Department, U. S. Army Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Virginia. He is a graduate of Jacksonville State College, Alabama, and holds an M.B.A. degree from the University of Alabama.

