



## A Brief History of the Quartermaster Corps



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“Supporting Victory”  
Since 1775



## QUARTERMASTER GENERALS 1775-2018



MG Harry L. Rogers 1918-1922  
MG William H. Hart 1922 -1926  
MG B. Frank Cheatham 1926-1930  
MG John L. DeWitt 1930-1934  
MG Louis H. Bash 1934-1936  
MG Henry Gibbins 1936-1940  
LTG Edmund B. Gregory 1940-1946  
MG Thomas B. Larkin 1946-1949  
MG Herman Feldman 1949-1951  
MG George A. Horkan 1951-1954  
MG Kester L. Hastings 1954-1957  
MG Andrew T. McNamara 1957-1961  
MG Webster Anderson 1961-1962  
MG Harry L. Dukes, Jr. 1981-1984  
MG Eugene L. Stillions, Jr. 1984-1987  
MG William T. McLean 1987-1989  
MG Paul J. Vanderploog 1989-1991  
BG John J. Cusick 1991-1993  
MG Robert K. Guest 1993-1996  
MG Henry T. Glisson 1996-1997  
MG James M. Wright 1997-1999  
MG Hawthorne L. Proctor 1999-2001  
MG Terry E. Juskowiak 2001-2003  
BG Scott G. West 2003-2005  
BG Mark A. Bellini 2005-2007  
BG Jesse R. Cross 2007-2010  
BG Gwen Bingham 2010-2012  
BG John E. O'Neil IV 2012-2014  
BG Ronald Kirklin 2014-2016  
BG Rodney D. Fogg 2016-2018  
BG Douglas M. McBride Jr. 2018-Present

## QUARTERMASTER GENERALS 1775-2018

MG Thomas Mifflin 1775 -1776  
COL Stephen Moylan 1776 - 1776  
MG Thomas Mifflin 1776 -1777  
MG Nathanael Greene 1778 - 1780  
COL Timothy Pickering 1780 - 1785  
Samuel Hodgdon 1791 - 1792  
James O'Hara 1792 - 1796  
MG John Wilkins, Jr. 1796 - 1802  
BG Morgan Lewis 1812 - 1813  
BG Robert Swartwout 1813 - 1816  
COL James Mullany 1816 - 1818\*  
COL George Gibson 1816 - 1818\*\*  
BG Thomas S. Jesup 1818 - 1860  
BG Joseph E. Johnston 1860 - 1861  
BG Montgomery C. Meigs 1861 - 1882  
BG Daniel H. Rucker 1882 - 1882  
BG Rufus Ingalls 1882 - 1883  
BG Samuel B. Holabird 1883 - 1890  
BG Richard N. Batchelder 1890 - 1896  
BG Charles G. Sawtelle 1896 - 1897  
BG George H. Weeks 1897 - 1898  
BG Marshall I. Ludington 1898 - 1903  
BG Charles F. Humphrey 1903 - 1907  
MG James B. Aleshire 1907 - 1916  
MG Henry G. Sharpe 1916 - 1918

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\* Quartermaster General Northern Division

\*\* Quartermaster General Southern Division

## QUARTERMASTER CORPS U.S. ARMY

### *Origins*

On June 16, 1775, just two days after sanctioning the formation of an Army, the Continental Congress authorized the position of Quartermaster General for the new Army. Shortly afterwards it also authorized a Commissary General. As the new Soldiers were gathering outside of Boston, they required food, shelter, clothing, and all of the necessities for sustaining an Army in the field. Two months later, George Washington appointed Thomas Mifflin to be the first Quartermaster General.

Despite their recognition of the need for a Quartermaster General, Congress and the nation were poorly prepared for the task of supporting the Continental Army. Without a viable national government the Army depended upon contributions from the states, which were uneven at best. Even when food and supplies were available the Quartermasters often lacked the means to transport the goods to the troops. The miserable winter at Valley Forge is perhaps the best remembered example of hardships suffered by the Revolutionary War Soldiers, but other winters were comparably bad.

Nevertheless, Thomas Mifflin, and later Nathanael Greene, created some semblance of order within the supply system. By establishing a system of depots, or advance supply points, they sup-

ported the Army for most military operations. The French alliance further eased shortages of money and supplies.



*Valley Forge was one of many hardships endured for lack of supplies during the Revolution.*

Following the Revolution, the position of Quartermaster General was considered to be appropriate only for wartime, and it was allowed to lapse. At that time Quartermasters were authorized for specific Indian expeditions. Later a civilian Quartermaster General was employed during the Adams' administration only to have the position replaced by purchasing agents during the Jefferson administration. Shortly before the War of 1812, Congress re-instituted the position of Quartermaster General as a military rank, with military subordinates. However, these changes came too late to allow for a satisfactory supply system. The logistical problems of this war convinced the government of the need for a permanent Quartermaster Department.

### ***Quartermaster Department 1818-1912***

In 1818, Thomas Jesup became Quartermaster General. During his long tenure he established enduring policies and practices that earned him the moniker as "Father of the Corps." Jesup envisioned the role of the Quartermaster as a military position rather than a business position in order to ensure priority for support to the operations. Jesup

## **Past and Present Quartermaster Warfighter Sustaining Functions**

- **Supplies**
- **Textile repair**
- **Laundry & bath**
- **Petroleum**
- **Aerial delivery**
- **Food services**
- **Water**
- **Mortuary affairs**

\*The black text denotes present functions still preformed by the Quartermaster Corps. The red text denotes past historical functions.

- **Transportation**
- **Installation construction**
- **Remount depots**
- **Forage**
- **Cemeteries**
- **Club management**
- **Heraldry**





## QUARTERMASTER INSIGNIA



The sword is characteristic of military forces and symbolized the Quartermaster Corps control of military supplies. The key is representative of the Corps traditional storekeeping function. The wheel is styled after a six-mule-wagon wheel and represents transportation and delivery of supplies. The wheel has thirteen spokes, a red and white hub and a blue felloe (the outer edge of the wheel) embedded with thirteen gilt (gold) stars. The thirteen stars and spokes of the wheel represent the original colonies and the origin of the Corps which occurred during the Revolutionary War. The gilt (gold) eagle is the national bird and is symbolic of our nation. The colors red, white and blue are the national colors.



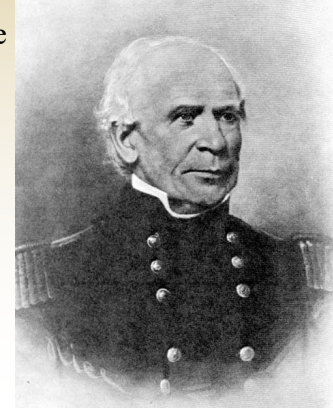
**Quartermaster School  
insignia and motto  
approved on  
7 May 1925.**

**"We spread our  
Fame by our Deeds"**

also insisted upon strict accountability for all transactions. Officers and NCOs were assigned to the Quartermaster Department for extended periods of time, often for the duration of their careers.

Unlike today, the Quartermasters of that era relied upon civilian labor or detailed Soldiers to perform the actual labor.

Finding teamsters to drive the wagons proved to be one of the greatest challenges in keeping the widely dispersed Army properly supplied. The Quartermaster Department continued to manage a wide variety of commodities ranging from getting food for the horses, procurement of uniforms, construction of quarters (where feasible), plus tents and field equipment. Various Indian



***Thomas Jesup  
Father of the  
Quartermaster Corps.***

campaigns, including the Seminole Wars, kept the Quartermaster Department fully engaged.

From 1846 to 1848 the Mexican War provided the U.S. Army's first experience at major overseas campaigning. The Quartermaster Department kept the Army supplied in this challenging environment, often relying upon local agents to purchase supplies.

Massive mobilizations created by the Civil War challenged the Army's logistical systems in ways not previously imagined. Unprepared for the hundreds of thousands of troops mustered into the Union Army, the system could not provide suffi-

cient supplies during the first few months of the war. In their haste to meet the demands of the Army, Quartermasters allowed bad practices including price gouging, defective merchandise, and outright fraud. Initially, tactical logistics also suffered from problems caused by inexperience and sudden growth.

Over time the supply systems improved. As the new Quartermaster General, Montgomery Meigs, instituted discipline into the system. Commanders learned how to plan their operations within the logistical constraints. The scale of the logistical operations was massive, especially for personnel accustomed to a small, stable Army, but the logisticians learned to adapt. They used forward depots to support operations and employed new technologies including railroads and steamboats. During the Petersburg Campaign, the Union depot at City Point became one of the busiest



*City Point Depot*

ports in the world. For the first time the Army cared for the remains of the casualties in a systematic manner. The War Department initiated a net-

As the world nears the year 2020, the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other parts of the world have taught our Army that the face of battle and nature of war will remain unchanged, but the continuum of conflict must be understood in the current and future context. The Army will continue to evolve organizationally and become even more lethal to the nation's enemies. A constant will be the necessity to support the warfighter and Quartermaster Soldiers will do the necessary work to provide, food, supplies, petroleum, mortuary operations, aerial delivery, laundry, showers, and other functions not even considered at the present.

Since June 1775, Quartermaster Soldiers have provided the logistical wherewithal to enable success in combat and non-combat operations. No other branch of the service can begin to rival the Quartermaster Corps for its diversity of tasks and the many functions it provides the Army. Despite all the changes, the fundamental mission of supporting the individual combat soldier in the field has remained an imperative. The United States can rest assured that current and future Quartermaster Soldiers will live the Army Values and proudly uphold the regimental motto of "Supporting Victory."



By 2020, the Army will field driverless trucks that will conserve manpower, reduce accidents, and remove soldiers from dangerous situations. Aerial delivery drones are also being tested that can transport vital supplies to soldiers where traditional aerial distribution is not possible.



*Autonomous & semi-autonomous tactical wheeled vehicles.*



*Joint Tactical Aerial Resupply Vehicle (JTARV).*

On March 16, 2017, Global Combat Support System–Army (GCSS-Army) Increment-1, moved to its permanent office facility on Fort Lee, Virginia. GCSS-A is a state-of-the-art, web-based, logistics and finance system based upon commercial best business practices and off-the-shelf (SAP) software. It will serve as an automated combat enabler for Soldiers. Integrated with Department of Defense financial systems, GCSS-A provides highly accurate cost management and financial visibility for tactical materiel and sustainment.



work of national cemeteries under the supervision of the Quartermaster General to provide an honorable burial for Soldiers who died serving their country. This marked the beginning of the mortuary affairs mission, which continues as a primary mission today.

Following the Civil War the Army returned to its former duties of enforcing the peace within the trans-Mississippi West. This work consisted primarily of extended campaigns against Native Americans in areas ranging from the plains of the Dakota territory to the mountains of Arizona. The Quartermaster Department arranged for the supply support throughout these dispersed campaigns thus providing a vital advantage to the Army.



*Gettysburg Cemetery was one of the Civil War cemeteries established by the Quartermaster Department.*

Unfortunately, the experience of supporting major military operations was forgotten while the Army was operating in the West. The lapse in logistical expertise proved to be a serious deficiency once the United States entered war with Spain in 1898. Once again, purchasing practices created a climate for waste, fraud, and abuse. The temporary camps created to hold the rapidly expanding Army were so poorly designed that Soldiers died from disease in shocking numbers.

For the U.S. Army this was the first overseas deployment since the Mexican War; but as of this time the Quartermaster Department had no orga-



nized military units. The support structure was still supported by contracted labor, which did not work well outside the United States. The Army had no knowledge of how to load or unload the ships used for the invasion of Cuba. Resupply operations in Cuba were plagued with difficulties, especially for medical supplies. Spain surrendered before the logistical deficiencies created even more problems.



*Spanish American War veteran & future president of the U.S. Teddy Roosevelt.*

### ***Quartermaster Corps 1912-1962***

Learning from its bitter experience in the Spanish American War, the Army instituted a number of reforms that encompassed almost all aspects of its organization. This included the creation of an Army Staff and establishing a system for professional education. The Army was becoming a professional force and the Quartermaster Corps was changing too.

Beginning in 1912 the Quartermaster Department became the Quartermaster Corps, with a new way of operating. For the first time the Army recognized that trained Soldiers were required to support military operations, especially in combat or overseas situations. It created entire units of Quartermaster Soldiers performing support activities. Sustaining the Army became an integral military function.

Other changes came at the same time. The Commissary and Paymaster Departments were

Since 2011, eight major hurricanes have hit the U.S. mainland and the Army played a role in the nation's healing and recovery from these natural disasters.



*Quartermaster Soldiers and the hurricane relief.*

For example, in 2012, Fort Lee's 108th Quartermaster Company was a part of the Hurricane Sandy assistance effort to pump water out of flooded areas. In 2017, Soldiers of the 973rd Quartermaster Company deployed to Puerto Rico to purify water in Hurricane Maria relief operations.

### ***Innovative Technological Advancements***

The Army is keeping up with the rapid evolution of technology and its important application for modern force development.



*The Army's Self-Driving Trucks Hit the Highway.*



### *Forces of Nature*

During the 2000s, the Quartermaster Corps supported several Humanitarian Disaster Response operations from the eastern states along the Atlantic Coast, the southern states in the Gulf of Mexico, to U.S. protectorates and partner nations in the Caribbean. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina affected over 93,000 square miles of the U.S., created over \$96 billion in property damage, destroyed an estimated 300,000 homes and killed approximately 1,800 people.



*Damage assessment of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.*

In response, Fort Lee's 54th and 111th Mortuary Affairs units



*Mortuary Affairs operations.*

companies deployed to New Orleans, Louisiana to support recovery efforts. In fact, over the last 15 years Army Mortuary Affairs have deployed around the world to assist in such places as Bosnia, Somalia, Croatia, the Middle East, Oklahoma City, Hurricane Andrew, Hurricane Katrina and Operation Unified Response in Haiti (2010) to recover American citizens.

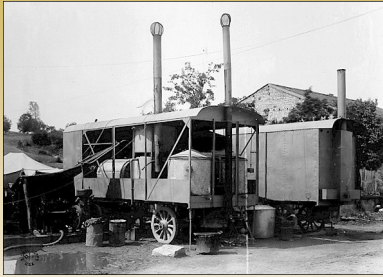
consolidated into the Quartermaster Corps (although the Paymaster became Finance in 1920). A school in Philadelphia trained Soldiers in their duties. Along with other supporting branches the Quartermaster Corps came to be called one of the “technical services.”



*Quartermaster Supply Depot Philadelphia  
First home of the Quartermaster School (1920)*

When America entered World War I, these reforms proved their value. Although the mobilization was not perfect, problems were far fewer than the Spanish American War, especially in view of the size of this war. The new organization proved more adept at supporting the Army overseas. Quartermasters established a support structure in France that included port operations, advanced depots, and salvage depots. This conflict also marked the beginning of modern war with the introduction of petroleum and repair parts to the logisticians' load. Recognizing that personal cleanliness reduced the spread of disease, the Quartermasters introduced laundry and bath operations, including lice removal.

World War II was unlike all previous conflicts in the size, geographic dispersion, and modern nature of the war. The Army expanded to over eight million Soldiers by 1945, and all of them required support from the Quartermaster Corps. The Quartermaster General supervised the initial construction for the war effort including training camps



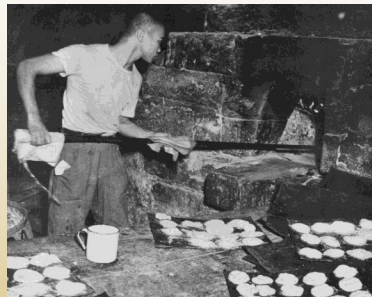
*A World War I laundry truck.*

and ammunition production facilities. Within the United States the Quartermaster Corps procured clothing and equipment for climates ranging from arctic to tropical.

It also managed the distribution of supplies. Until the Transportation Corps became a separate organization in 1942, the Quartermaster General supervised movements of personnel and materiel.

Overseas, Army logisticians learned to support large armies in a swiftly moving offensive. The rapid advances in Europe in 1944 stretched the ability of the supply lines to keep up with the offensive. Eventually, shortages of petroleum produced a pause in the attack. Winter weather required distribution of heavy uniforms during offensive operations. In the Pacific, logistical support depended upon delivering the correct quantities of supplies to units on islands scattered throughout the various areas of operations.

Modern warfare produced its own set of challenges during World War II, and military logisticians responded. Petroleum and repair parts first appeared as logistical issues in



*Baking biscuits during the battle for Bataan, February 1942.*

### *A New Headquarters for the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command*



*Combined Arms Support Command*

In January 2009, The Sustainment Center of Excellence Headquarters building replaced Mifflin Hall and became the new home for the Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOC), and Command Group Headquarters for the Quartermaster, Ordnance, and Transportation Corps. This new structure is over 218,000 square feet, houses all of the headquarters U.S. Army Logistics Corps, covers eleven acres, and sits on what was Sergeant Seay Field. The modern design of the building is reflective of the ever-evolving mission of the Quartermaster Corps at home and abroad.

in the high altitudes, such as a low cost, disposable parachute that delivered supplies to small outposts.

Even as the Quartermaster Corps evolved during these prolonged conflicts, other changes were coming to all the logistical branches. Increasingly logistical units at battalion or higher levels consisted of Ordnance, Transportation, and Quartermaster units performing multiple logistical functions, and field grade officers needed to be competent in multiple logistical disciplines.

On November 27, 2007 the Army decided to create a Logistics Branch for field grade officers and senior captains. New officers within a sustainment career field still enter the service as Quartermaster, Ordnance, or Transportation officers.

Upon completing the twenty week Combined Logistics Captains Career Course (LOG C3) they become members of the Logistics Branch. The change comes as part of a larger recognition of the growing interdependence of the logistical functions.



World War I, but this time they were critical to operational success. Because the Air Corps was still part of the Army, the Quartermaster Corps supplied the specialized



*A hot meal in the Ardennes.*

needs for air crews. Aviation also opened the possibilities for airborne operations and aerial delivery of supplies. In 1950, rigging and aerial delivery became another mission for the Quartermaster Corps.



*Unloading supplies in Europe.*

Hopes for an enduring peace following World War II were illusory, as the United States entered into a protracted period of armed tensions with the Communist Bloc known as the Cold War. The Army

and the Quartermaster Corps adapted to the new requirements. No longer able to rely on time for mobilization, the Army needed to be prepared for war on short notice, including materiel readiness, forward deployed units, and forward depots in case of war. Quartermaster Soldiers performed the work within almost all levels of Army organizations.



On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, and the U.S. Army led the international effort to halt communist aggression. Once again the Quartermaster Corps entered the fighting. By locating and delivering excess World War II supplies, logisticians overcame the problems of initial supply shortages. Aerial delivery officially became a part of the Quartermaster mission. Rigger units proved their value in delivering supplies when other transportation was not available, including air delivery of bridging equipment that enabled the Marines to evacuate from the Chosin Reservoir. During the conflict the Quartermaster Corps began returning remains of fallen Soldiers to their families during the conflict, rather than waiting for the end of hostilities.



*Aerial delivery during the Korean War.*

### ***Present times 1962 – forward***

In 1962 another reorganization significantly changed the way that the Quartermaster Corps functioned. Until this time the Quartermaster General, like the other chiefs of the technical services, exercised control over all Quartermaster activities from acquisition to distribution, along with personnel oversight. Now a new organization, designated as Army Materiel Command, assumed responsibility for the acquisition and materiel management functions of all the technical services. Fur-

government in Afghanistan.



*Moving bottled water in Afghanistan.*

was followed by prolonged insurgencies, which challenged all aspects of the coalitions' operations, including the logistics. In Iraq, convoy operations and movement of supplies in the face of enemy attacks and explosive devices proved to be a constant danger, especially for isolated bases.

In March 2003 the United States led a coalition force to remove the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Early success in both operations



*Convoy operations in Iraq.*

In Afghanistan the mountainous terrain, lack of infrastructure, and distance from ports presented even more formidable challenges. Soldiers developed innovative ways to reach isolated units even

plies, Americans henceforth would rely upon precise delivery of the required item on a timely basis. Other improvements in equipment and processes allowed for better support with fewer resources. Greater cooperation with other Army logistical branches, with other services, and with other nations further enhanced the efficiency of Quartermaster operations.

### **Into The 21st Century**

The focus on all military operations changed on the morning of 11 September 2001, when terrorists used hijacked airliners as weapons against America, causing thousands to die in the World Trade Center, United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon. Immediately it became apparent Islamic extremists based in Afghanistan conducted this attack. The United States responded by leading the international effort to topple the Taliban



*Members of the 49th Quartermaster Group operated an Inland Petroleum Distribution System.*

thermore, the Quartermaster General position was temporarily abolished until the mid-1980s. This change marked a paradigm shift away from stove-piped logistical functions and towards integrated logistical functions within the Army.

Nevertheless, Quartermaster remained as a career branch for Soldiers of all grades. Quartermaster Soldiers continued to provide supplies and services, in coordination with Army logisticians from the other branches. The Quartermaster School, now at Ft. Lee, Virginia, remained the centerpiece for branch activities. In 1981, the commandant of the Quartermaster School assumed the re-instituted title of Quartermaster General. Also, in 1981 the Quartermaster school took over water purification, storage, and distribution from the Army Engineers. The activation of the Quartermaster regimental affiliation in 1986 gave further recognition of the enduring nature and rich history of this branch.

Containing the growth of Communism remained the dominant military threat until 1989. American forces continued to maintain a deterrent in Europe and Northeast Asia, with the Quartermasters providing the logistics.

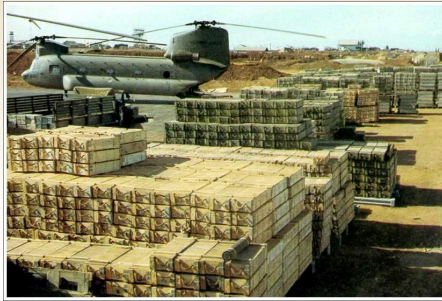
In Southeast Asia the Vietnam Conflict dominated American military activity for the late 1960s and early 1970s. Over time the logistical infrastructure developed to create one of the best supported military operations in the history of the Army. The static



*Mifflin Hall, Ft. Lee  
Home of the Quartermaster School  
1961-2010.*

nature of the conflict, combined with short distances to ports, enabled the Army to construct an elaborate system of depots that supplied front line units. American troops seldom lacked supplies.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 the Cold War came to an end; but military activities continued and even accelerated. Each new contingency operation presented its own logistical challenges and Quartermaster Soldiers supported each operation as part of the Army's logistical team, often working with other services or other nations.



*Depots enabled superb support in Vietnam.*

When Iraq unilaterally annexed Kuwait in August 1990, the United States led the coalition to liberate Kuwait. Movement of forces to this theater presented an enormous logistical challenge with the movement of XVIII Airborne Corps and VII Corps to Saudi Arabia along with the logistical infrastructure.

Supporting this conflict presented some unusual problems for Quartermaster units. The latest generation of vehicles consumed huge quantities of fuel. Total fuel consumption exceeded two billion gallons, and required construction of new petroleum facilities in addition to use of host nation facilities. The high temperatures and arid environment created unprecedented demands upon water purifi-

cation units. Tragically, a water purification unit suffered the highest proportion of casualties when a rocket struck members of the 14<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Detachment (an Army Reserve unit) hours before the truce.

Throughout the 1990s American military intervention continued for reasons ranging from humanitarian assistance, to peacekeeping, to political interventions. Immediately after the fighting in Iraq ended, coalition forces delivered relief supplies to

Kurdish refugees in the rugged mountains along the Iraqi-Turkish borders, relying heavily upon aerial delivery.



*A water purification specialist during Desert Storm, 1991.*

Then peacekeeping

within the Balkan nations, followed by the Kosovo War, again challenged the Quartermaster Soldiers to keep our forces properly supplied while minimizing the American footprint. Intervention in Haiti came with a logistical price, although support from contractors reduced the burden.

Even as the Quartermaster Corps supported a wide range of military operations, its leaders initiated improvements to the efficiency of logistical support. New means of information management and automated tracking of supplies offered the promise of precision logistics. Instead of maintaining large quantities of repair parts or other sup-