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ABOUT THE COVER

Army Logistician 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.
Logisticians Must Be Leaders

by Major Joe C. Creel

The mission of the logisticians 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 logisticians be dynamic, innovative, and resourceful. It is normal for the logisticians to function in isolated areas where he is solely responsible for the support provided. The logisticians 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 logisticians has a direct influence on success or failure on the battlefield.

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

The logisticians 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 logisticians support the combat mission by allocating assets and anticipating requirements before they occur. No human can anticipate all requirements, so the logisticians must be responsive to unexpected missions and maintain the flexibility to quickly satisfy all requirements. This flexibility can only be maintained by 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 logisticians’ leadership ability.

The logisticians must be dynamic and capable. If the intangible asset called “leadership” is lacking, then all the trucks, supplies, and personnel under the logisticians’ command become wasted resources.

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

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