

# Logistics unit's roots began in 1965

The Army Material Command Logistics Assistance Program, or LAP, began in 1965 with the creation of customer assistance offices in Korea and Europe to support the theater Army commander.

Its mission was to provide early detection and resolution of logistics related problems that affect unit and materiel readiness. The earliest offices were led by a colonel and a small staff augmented by technical representatives from the AMC Commodity commands.

In 1966, an office was established in Vietnam to meet the demands of a rapidly growing theater of war.

In 1970, the name was changed to logistics assistance offices. Over the next several years the LAO's mission began to grow to include supply support, management of modification work orders and select item management.

In 1979, LAOs were instituted at the installation level within the continental United States. By the mid-1980s some LAOs were aligned specifically with tactical divisions. But, not until after Operation Desert Storm were most LAOs aligned to division and major unit levels. Despite being aligned with major units and divisions, the LAOs continued to provide support on a geographical basis.

In 2000, Operational Support Command assumed management of the Logistics Assistance Program. OSC was in the forefront of expanding AMC efforts in unit readiness and became the single point of entry into AMC. OSC was able to push plans forward just in time to support the start of Operation Enduring Freedom in late 2001 and truly support OEF in 2003. As they deployed



## Did you know?

By Col. Paul Hossenlopp  
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into Southwest Asia the name of the LAOs converted into logistic support elements at home station and deployed.

Since 2003, the LAP program has evolved to support deployed forces in the theaters of war while simultaneously supporting units at home stations. Changes continued with modularity as AMC created brigade logistics support teams to provide integrated LAP support down to the heavy brigade combat team elements. The changes also converted the logistics support elements into Army Field Support Battalions with battalion commanders being centrally

selected as are other battalion commanders.

Also during the modularity seven Army Field Support brigades were created that support the Armywide today. These seven are: 401ST AFSB, Afghanistan; 402ND AFSB, Kuwait; 403RD AFSB, Korea; 404TH AFSB, Hawaii; 405TH AFSB, Europe; 406TH AFSB, Fort Bragg, N.C.; and the 407TH AFSB, Fort Hood Texas.

The Fort Sill Logistics Assistance Office in Building 2594 Currie Road was renamed a logistics support element in 2003, and again renamed a logistics support team in 2009. On

Sept. 30, 2010, the LST moved to Building 2286 Randolph Road, previously the old cannibalization point.

On April 15, the LST was realigned as the Logistics Assistance Division, the fifth division of the Directorate of Logistics. The division manages the left behind equipment and pre-deployment training equipment contracts with 17 contract employees and 23 deployable government civilian logistics assistance representatives who support all units located on Fort Sill, as well as, the Oklahoma and Arkansas National Guard and Reserve. The LAP program consist of logistic assistance representatives from the following Life Cycle Management commands:

- Aviation Command,
- Tank and Automotive Command,
- Missiles Command,
- Communications Electronics Command, and
- Joint Munitions Command,

Logistics management specialists support the Army Sustainment Command.

The primary mission of these representatives and specialists is to provide professional technical deployable experts, with the reach back capability to coordinate and collaborate with the Army's acquisition logistics and technology organizations, which are the scientists, manufacturers and engineers of Army equipment, to quickly resolve early detection and resolution of logistics related problems that affect unit and materiel readiness.

While the structure has changed since 1965, the LAP remains the one constant for Soldiers and units to access and leverage the power of the AMC Materiel Enterprise.

# Rules restrict political activity by DoD personnel

By Donna Miles  
American Forces  
Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With election activity steadily picking up, defense officials are in the process of issuing regular election-year guidance to remind military and Defense Department civilians that they're subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

This issue — one the department regularly addresses during election periods, came to light earlier in January when an Army Reserve soldier in uniform appeared endorsing a political candidate.

Several sets of rules help to protect the integrity of the political process, DoD officials

said. DoD Directive 1344.10 applies to members of the armed forces, whether they serve on active duty, as members of the reserve components not on active duty, as National Guard members in a nonfederal status, and military retirees.

In addition, the Hatch Act applies to federal civilian employees, and employees also are subject to widely published DoD guidance that discusses participation in political campaigns and elections.

These rules are designed to prevent military members' or federal civilian employees' participation in political activities that imply — or even appear to imply — official sponsorship, approval or endorsement,

officials said. The concern, they explained, is that actual or perceived partisanship could undermine the legitimacy of the military profession and department.

That's not to imply, however, that military members and civilian employees can't participate in politics. In fact, DoD has a longstanding policy of encouraging members to carry out the obligations of citizenship, officials said. DoD encourages its military and civilian members to register to vote and vote as they choose, they said. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues.

However, officials emphasized, they can do so only if

they don't act as — or aren't perceived as — representatives of the armed forces in carrying out these activities.

Beyond that, the list of dos and don'ts differs depending on whether the employee is a member of the armed forces, a career civil service employee, a political appointee or a member of the career Senior Executive Service, officials said.

Military members, for example, may attend political meetings or rallies only as spectators and not in uniform. They're not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

They also are barred from engaging in any political activities while in uniform.

A combat engineer assigned to the 416th Theater Engineer Company potentially violated these rules Jan. 3 when he stepped onto a stage at Ron Paul's headquarters in Ankeny, Iowa, during the Iowa Caucus to offer a personal endorsement. Although he was wearing his uniform, the soldier was not in an active status at the time, Army Maj. Angela Wallace, an Army Reserve spokeswoman, confirmed.

Wallace emphasized that the soldier "stands alone in his opinions regarding his political affiliation and beliefs, and his statements and beliefs in no way reflect that of the Army Reserve." His chain of command is aware of the issue and is considering appropriate disciplinary action to take, she said.

Most civilian DoD employees, whose political activities are governed by

the Hatch Act, are permitted to be active in and speak before political gatherings and serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups, officials said. These activities, however, cannot involve fundraising.

Civilian employees also are permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

There are, however, exceptions to this, including but not limited to Senior Executive Service. While the dos and don'ts concerning political activity may vary, the basic tenets hold true for all DoD employees.

The bottom line, officials said, is that they should steer clear of any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating DoD or the military with a partisan political activity, or that "is otherwise contrary to the spirit or intent" of the rules described.

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