
Defense Report

AUSA



The Unrecognized Benefactor

When today's housewife buys freeze dried foods, canned bakery products, or instant beverages, she may wonder who made these convenience foods possible, but she would probably not guess the answer. The United States Army.

The Army's 201st Birthday on 14 June 1976 will not only honor a force which has fought nine major wars involving 167 campaigns, but also a force which has provided many non-military benefits to the U. S. citizen.

Through the years, the Army has made significant contributions to the fields of medicine, education, economics, sociology, civil works, technology and disaster relief. A few examples:

—Army physicians have assisted materially in providing the cure for digestive system disorders, improving hospital hygiene, treatment of mental illness, prevention of malaria and hookworm, and finding cures for many other illnesses.

—Today's National Weather Service is a direct descendant of the weather service founded by the Army's Signal Corps, and the Corps developed much of the instrumentation that has gone into modern weather forecasting.

—The Army Corps of Engineers is the Nation's foremost water resources development and management agency, to include being a prime mover in the current drive for clean water. Its successes also include developing the waterways and harbors which today link our country to the ports of the world.

—The Army has traditionally played a major role in disaster relief to include such disasters as the Alaskan earthquake of 1964, Hurricane Agnes in 1972, and the recent earthquakes in Nicaragua and Guatemala. Not well known are its yeoman efforts to help the tens of thousands of Civil War refugees who were without means of support. The Army's Bureau of Refugees at that time fed the needy, monitored labor contracts to assist in providing jobs, resettled people on Bureau acquired land, and operated many hospitals.

The spillover of military research into the civilian sector continues today. For example, Army scientists and engineers have devised a system to convert many kinds of waste into glucose sugar, and it is technically feasible that this process will be in operation on a large scale by 1980, thus solving one of our Nation's major ecological problems.