

MCRP 4-11C

Combat Cargo Operations Handbook



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FOREWORD

Marine Corps Reference Publication (MCRP) 4-11C, *Combat Cargo Operations Handbook*, addresses the tactics, techniques, and procedures for combat cargo personnel, amphibious embarkation planning and execution, ship-to-shore (STS) movement, landing force operational reserve material (LFORM), ammunition, well deck and flight deck operations, and administration of landing force spaces aboard amphibious ships.

Combat cargo officers and combat cargo assistants are assigned with the Navy at Naval Surface Force Atlantic and Pacific staffs; amphibious groups and amphibious squadron staffs; and aboard LFORM-carrying amphibious ships. These Marines are the bridge between the landing force and the Navy in performing their duties.

This publication is intended for staff sergeants through lieutenant colonels having military occupational specialty 04XX assigned combat cargo duties with the Navy. It also provides a broad overview for commanders and their staffs to familiarize them with the responsibilities of combat cargo personnel.

Initial integration of sailors and Marines aboard ship is most challenging; however, the smooth transition lies with the combat cargo officer and combat cargo assistant.

The Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)/amphibious ready group (ARG) is used to establish a point of reference throughout MCRP 4-11C to provide consistency in describing combat cargo duties, responsibilities, and associated reports.

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

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COMBAT CARGO OPERATIONS HANDBOOK

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CHAPTER 1

COMBAT CARGO OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

The MEU/ARG is used throughout this publication to establish a point of reference for describing combat cargo duties, responsibilities and associated documentation.

The combat cargo officer's (CCO's) primary duties are coordinating, planning, and obtaining information from the embarking forces before actual embarkation and debarkation. The combat cargo assistant (CCA) assists the CCO in performing these primary duties.

The CCO is a special staff officer to the naval unit commander, under the cognizance of the executive officer (XO)/chief staff officer, and on a coequal basis with the command's other department heads. The CCO may be assigned additional duties. However, the CCO should not be assigned watches or additional/collateral duties that interfere with performance of his duty, especially during operations. Combat cargo personnel are under the administrative control of Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Atlantic/Pacific (EWTGLANT/PAC) or Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Iwakuni/Marine Corps Bases, Japan.

The ship's CCO is a Marine officer assigned as a member of the ship's crew complement. Ships with CCO billets include the general purpose amphibious assault ship (LHA), multipurpose amphibious assault ship (LHD), amphibious transport dock (LPD), and landing ship dock ([LSD]-49 cargo variant). On other amphibious ships (such as the [LSD, 36/41] where no Marine CCO is provided), a naval officer, usually the ship's first lieutenant, performs this function.

The CCO is responsible for coordination with embarked units and appropriate department heads/staff officers in preparing and executing plans for embarkation or debarkation of landing force (LF) personnel, supplies, and equipment. This includes

assisting in developing billeting and messing plans. The ship's division officers are responsible for LF space maintenance and upkeep.

The CCO must have access to all ship's cargo, vehicle, ammunition stowage areas, and associated cargo documents to perform the following duties:

- Managing the landing force operational reserve material (LFORM)/mission load allowance (MLA) program.
- Ensuring proper stowage, security inspection, accountability, and serviceability.
- Providing the ship's commanding officer (CO) a means of check and balance.

See appendices A and B for amphibious force capabilities.

Levels of Command

Naval Surface Force, Atlantic and Naval Surface Force, Pacific

The CCO/Amphibious Plans Officer—

- Is the assistant force Marine officer and acts as the force Marine officer in his absence.
- Acts as the staff advisor for all matters pertaining to loading and offloading LF personnel, supplies and equipment.
- Monitors the LFORM program.
- Monitors amphibious ship building, overhaul, and conversion programs through close liaison and coordination with the appropriate assistant chief of staff.
- Is the principal advisor for characteristics of amphibious ships, landing craft, amphibious vehicles, and their loading and offloading characteristics.
- Exercises staff supervision over all assigned CCOs and their enlisted assistants.