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# Transportation Operations

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**U.S. Marine Corps**

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FOREWORD

Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 4-11.3, *Transportation Operations*, addresses the fundamental principles required for the planning and execution of Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) transportation operations. This manual provides an overview of transportation support and motor transport organizational structure, transportation task organizations, movement fundamentals, procedures, and capabilities.

MCWP 4-11.3 provides a broad doctrinal overview for commanders and their staffs on transportation support and motor transport tasks and functions in support of the MAGTF. Specifically, it gives general planning requirements, command relationships, support requirements and considerations, and capabilities.

MCWP 4-11.3 supersedes FMFM 4-9, *Motor Transport*, dated 27 April 1992 and FMFM 4-3, *MAGTF Landing Support Operations*, dated 25 January 1994.

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

/s/

EDWARD HANLON, JR.  
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# TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS

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# CHAPTER 1. TRANSPORTATION OVERVIEW

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## Sub-Functions

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The sub-functions of transportation include—

- Motor Transport.
- Materials Handling.
- Landing Support.
- Embarkation.
- Freight/Passenger Transportation.
- Aerial Delivery.
- Port and Terminal Operations.

## Motor Transport

Motor transport is surface transportation using wheeled vehicles. It is the most versatile mode of transport. It links the aerial ports, ocean ports, supply centers, rail, and inland waterway terminals. During combat operations, motor transport links combat service support (CSS) units and combat units. It is an all-weather mode of transport that the MAGTF commander can use over any trafficable terrain, to include off-road. Motor transport units can move nearly any type of cargo. They can provide local, line or zonal hauls. The commander may use organic, attached, contracted or supporting motor transport assets to support operations.

The Marine Corps motor transport system provides an effective means of meeting the requirements of the landing force for ground transportation. The tactical motor transport fleet is specifically designed to provide ground mobility to combat, combat support, and CSS units. The restructured CSS organization has resulted in a change in motor transport operations philosophy, a reorganization of motor transport units, and a reallocation of associated resources within the Marine Corps.

### *Function*

The function of motor transport is to provide elements of the MAGTF with tactical and logistical motor transport support. This support includes the

transportation of personnel, weapons, communications equipment, general cargo, specialized cargo, and shelters/containers conforming to American National Standards Institute/International Standardization Organization (ISO) specifications.

### *Capabilities*

Marine Corps motor transport units are organized and equipped to perform missions under all environmental conditions. Only minor changes in equipment are required for extreme conditions of climate and terrain. In most cases, these changes are made by the installation of special kits. Motor transport equipment includes vehicles that are designed to meet all assigned motor transport missions. Increased efficiency of authorized motor transport assets is achieved through—

- Equipment standardization with fewer types of vehicles.
- Centralized control of vehicles assigned combat service support missions to ensure effective, on time delivery of support.
- Decentralized control of vehicles providing tactical mobility missions to combat units to ensure maximum flexibility.

## Materials Handling

Materials handling is the movement of materials to, through, and from productive processes; in warehouses and storage; and in receiving and shipping areas. (Joint Publication [JP] 1-02, *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*) Materials handling equipment (MHE) is a group of mechanical devices for handling of supplies with greater ease and economy. (JP 1-02) Effective use of available MHE is essential to movement control and maintaining the throughput of supplies and equipment.

## Landing Support

Landing support is the assistance provided to effect the efficient and responsive throughput of personnel, supplies, and equipment during the ship-to-shore