

ARMY PRE-POSITIONED AFLOAT OPERATIONS

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Preface

The changing world environment has led to significant changes in how the United States defines its need for a standing military, dictating that the US Army convert primarily to a CONUS-based force with limited forward presence. The 1993 edition of FM 100-5 gave definition to this new philosophy. Its keystone is the need for an Army that can maintain a vigilant posture—ready and able to project forces into areas of hostilities or of major concern to national interests.

The centerpiece of the new philosophy is having the capability to project CONUS-based forces to the area of operations (AO), requiring the involvement of numerous services, agencies, departments, and organizations. Its credibility depends on our capability to deploy, in a timely manner, an appropriate military force that is capable of accomplishing the mission—from a military operation other than war to war.

This manual establishes the doctrinal framework for a major element of that critical, initial force projection capability the Army pre-positioned afloat (APA) heavy brigade with theater-opening combat support (CS)/combat service support (CSS) units. It describes the missions, duties, and responsibilities of all parties involved in moving a predesignated heavy brigade to an operational area. The term heavy brigade includes the essential APA theater-opening CS/CSS units required for sustained operations. Successful APA planning and execution require synchronization of all APA combat, CS, and CSS units. APA supports the US Army's force projection concept. Any commander in chief (CINC) will have APA ships and equipment available for employment during any contingency across the range of military operations.

The proponent of this manual is HQ TRADOC. Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 directly to Commander, US Army Training and Doctrine Command, ATTN: ATDO-A, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-5000.

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns or pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

Introduction

It is time to redesign the force to better leverage the power of people and the power of technology.

General Gordon Sullivan

The changing world environment has led to significant planned reductions in Department of Defense (DOD) budgets and force structure. These reductions, along with evolving worldwide threats facing the US, have caused a revision to Army doctrine as reflected in FM 100-5. The new philosophy dictates smaller forward deployed forces and more reliance on CONUS-based contingency forces. The centerpiece of this new philosophy is rapid force projection from CONUS or other, outside-CONUS locations to meet the growing regional threats and crises. Its credibility depends on our ability to deploy, in a timely manner, an appropriate military force that is versatile, lethal, and sustainable.

The Army must be prepared to rapidly deploy up to a five-division contingency force, to include required support and follow-on forces in support of national military objectives. Initial sustainment of this force will be accomplished through the use of Army war reserve (AWR) stocks. Formally called Army reserve stocks, AWR stocks are identified as AWR-1, CONUS; AWR-2, Europe; AWR-3, APA; AWR-4, Pacific; TR-7, WRSA-Korea; AWR-5, Southwest Asia. These stocks, less AWR-3, are focused on regional contingencies and are available to support any combatant CINC's mission.

APA is a new and evolving mission for the US Army that presents challenges for all levels of command and requires the involvement of numerous agencies. Commanders and staff from the unified command level down to the heavy brigade employing the equipment that had been pm-positioned afloat must understand the intricacies and peculiar requirements of this new mission. Each service and echelon of command must be involved in affected areas, including training, organization, accountability, interoperability, communications, and employment. APA equipment provides the combatant commander a "reinforcement capability to enhance an established lodgment." It does not provide the equipment necessary to conduct an amphibious assault operation—a mission of the US Marine Corps.

APA provides the combatant CINCs with deployment flexibility and increased capability to respond to a crisis or contingency with a credible force. APA operations contribute mobility and flexibility to this strategy. The existence of this force projection capability is a deterrent to potential adversaries.

CHAPTER 1

Principles of APA Operations

APA operations are global in nature, joint in character, and suitable for employment in a variety of situations. As such, they provide an essential element in the conduct of force projection missions outlined in FM 100-5. As part of the Army's pre-positioning capability, APA provides the Army a new warfighting capability. Along with airlift and sealift, it is the third element of the strategic mobility triad. An APA operation may employ one ship in support of a humanitarian assistance mission or all of the APA vessels required to support a campaign plan. Equipment pre-positioned afloat has universal utility for CINCs: It represents critical weapons systems, equipment, and supplies common to all theaters. A mobile force package, it can be repositioned quickly in response to a crisis anywhere in the world.

CONCEPT

APA is the expanded reserve of equipment for an armor brigade, theater-opening CS/CSS units, port-opening capabilities, and sustainment stocks aboard forward deployed pre-positioned afloat ships. APA operations are predicated on the concept of airlifting an Army heavy brigade with logistics support elements into a theater to link up with its equipment and supplies positioned aboard APA ships and subsequently to conduct combat operations. Their purpose is—

- To project a heavy force early in a crisis that is capable of complementing other early-arriving forces.
- To rapidly reinforce a lodgment established by Army early-entry forces and/or by amphibious assault elements, for example, an Army light division or a Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF).

- To protect key objectives.
- To open a port in theater for surging follow-on forces.
- To be prepared to conduct subsequent operations across the range of military operations.

In execution, an operation extends from alert through reconstitution and regeneration of the contingency force and the APA equipment. It involves the organic elements that constitute the APA and supporting forces, which include the US Army Materiel Command (USAMC), local transportation and deployment support agencies, host nation and supported/supporting CINC assets, and other support whose identity depends on mission, enemy, terrain, troops, and time available (METT-T.)

CRITICAL INITIATIVES

The Army Strategic Mobility Program (ASMP) was initiated to address the Mobility Requirements Study (MRS), which concluded that the military can only increase its

deployability through an expanded investment in sealift and airlift, pre-positioning, and transportation infrastructure. The ASMP Action Plan, published on 2 March 1993, resulted in the