Army Prepositioned Operations

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^{*}This publication supersedes FM 100-17-1, 27 July 1996 and FM 100-17-2, 16 February 1999.

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Preface

This manual establishes the doctrinal framework for the Army prepositioned stocks (APS) program. It describes the missions, duties, and responsibilities of all parties involved in moving APS to an operational area and handing it off to designated Army units. This manual supersedes Field Manual (FM) 100-17-1 and FM 100-17-2.

The changing world environment has led to significant changes in how the Army structures its forces. No single solution will succeed when confronting an adaptive adversary. The Army must retain a wide range of capabilities while significantly improving its agility and versatility. Building a joint and expeditionary Army will require versatile forces that can execute smaller, shorter duration operations without degrading its traditional role in a major combat operation.

At the core of this philosophy is having the ability to rapidly project predominately continental United States (CONUS)-based forces to an area of operations (AO), requiring the involvement of numerous military Services, agencies, departments, and organizations. Its credibility depends on the capability to deploy, in a timely manner, an appropriate military force capable of accomplishing the mission.

The APS program is a cornerstone of the Army's ability to rapidly project power. The Army has dedicated significant priorities and resources to ensure the readiness and availability of APS. APS has become a significant deterrent for potential enemies in recent contingencies. These stocks—identified as APS-1 (CONUS), APS-2 (Europe), APS-3 (Afloat), APS-4 (Northeast Asia), and APS-5 (Southwest Asia)—are available to support all combatant commanders' (CCDR) missions, not only in contingencies, but also for major exercises.

FM 3-35.1 applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the United States Army Reserve.

Headquarters, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, is the proponent for this manual. The preparing agency is the Deployment Process Modernization Office. Send comments and recommendations directly to the Director, Deployment Process Modernization Office, ATTN: ATZP-DP, Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5000 or by email to dpmodoc@conus.army.mil.

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Chapter 1

Introduction to Prepositioned Operations

Near-simultaneous employment and deployment increasingly characterize Army operations, and those operations are increasingly diverse in both purpose and scope.

Mr. Les Brownlee (Acting Secretary of the Army) and General Peter J. Schoomaker (U.S. Army Chief of Staff) Parameters, Summer 2004

The expeditionary qualities of APS were demonstrated in the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) when APS constituted the majority of the equipment used by the 3rd Infantry Division (ID) and many other units. APS make Army equipment available to early deploying units to support full spectrum operations occurring throughout the world while reducing the requirement for strategic lift. These prepositioned sets of equipment are essential to our National Military Strategy and enable the United States to provide timely support in areas involving U.S. national interest or humanitarian needs.

IMPORTANCE OF ARMY PREPOSITIONED STOCKS

- 1-1. The United States has been reducing its forward presence overseas, and a centerpiece of the national defense strategy has become force projection. Force projection is the ability to rapidly and effectively deploy and sustain U.S. forces in and from multiple, dispersed locations. Complementing our diminishing overseas presence, force projection strives for unconstrained global reach. Force projection assets are tailored to regional requirements and send a clear signal of U.S. commitment. To project power we must have the ability to act even when no permanent presence or infrastructure is available in the region. If necessary it means fighting our way into a denied theater, or creating and protecting forward operating bases. The ability to assemble and move to, through, and between many environments, often while reconfiguring to meet specific mission requirements, is essential to offsetting an adversary's advantage in mass or geographic proximity. Rapid global force projection provides our national leaders with options needed to respond to crises.
- 1-2. The Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) established stringent deployment objectives in a memorandum titled "Operational Availability Action Items," dated 18 August 2003, in which the Services were provided with the Department of Defense (DoD) Joint Swiftness Goals: deploy to a distant theater in 10 days, defeat an enemy within 30 days, and be ready for an additional fight within another 30 days. The Army has aligned its objectives within this guidance. APS supports these objectives by-
 - Allowing for the rapid build of the theater reception capability in advance of the deployment of heavy units from CONUS.
 - Providing the capability to overcome anti-access, especially in northeast and southwest Asia.
 - Providing a flexible deterrent option capability.
- 1-3. The Strategic Mobility Triad (prepositioning, airlift, and sealift), shown in figure 1-1, is essential for meeting force projection timelines. Historically 10 percent of materiel sent to a theater arrives via airlift, while the remaining 90 percent arrives via sealift. However, due to multiple, and possibly conflicting demands for strategic lift, sealift and airlift may not be able to guarantee immediate delivery of large amounts of equipment to meet short-notice crises. Therefore, APS stored around the world play a critical