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**MUNITIONS
DISTRIBUTION IN
THE THEATER OF
OPERATIONS**

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**HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

Munitions Distribution in the Theater of Operations

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Preface

This manual prescribes doctrine for munitions support. It explains in general terms how munitions units operate and interact to provide munitions to the user. It is the basis for munitions doctrine, materiel, training, and organizational development. This manual addresses munitions unit missions, operations, and interactions between the various levels of munitions support.

This manual explains to combat arms (CA), combat support (CS), and combat service support (CSS) commanders and their staffs how and where they receive munitions support. It establishes guidelines and procedures for munitions unit commanders and their staffs while operating the munitions support structure.

This manual also discusses the modular ammunition platoon concept. There are two types of modular platoons: heavy lift and medium lift. The heavy lift platoon (HLP) is best suited for port, theater storage area (TSA), and corps storage area (CSA) operations. The medium lift platoons (MLPs) operate in TSAs and CSAs when needed, and are designed to operate ammunition supply points (ASPs). These platoons are capable of deploying and operating independently from their company headquarters, but require external support for sustainment. They allow the Army to effectively take advantage of technology such as the palletized loading system (PLS), configured loads (CLs), and containerized roll-on/off platforms (CROPs). These palletized loads can be shipped to TSAs, CSAs, and ASPs. The type and number of platoons deployed is based on mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available, time available, civil considerations (METT-TC) and the commander's intent. Modular units provide a flexible design tailorable to the theater commander's intent. They allow the theater commander to expand and contract the ammunition supply capability when and where needed to meet operational requirements.

This publication implements the following standardization agreements (STANAGs):

- STANAG 2034 – Land Forces Procedures for Allied Supply Transactions, Edition 4, 20 December 1982.
- STANAG 2135 – Procedures for Emergency Logistics Assistance, Edition 3, 12 February 1982.
- STANAG 2827 – Materials Handling in the Field, Edition 2, 12 February 1980.
- STANAG 2829 – Materials Handling Equipment, Edition 2, 20 March 1978.
- STANAG 2834 – The Operation of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technical Information Center (EODTIC), Edition 2, 26 March 1990.
- STANAG 2928 – Land Forces Ammunition Interchangeability Catalogue in Wartime, Edition 3, 9 June 1995.
- STANAG 2961 – Classes of Supply of NATO Land Forces, Edition 1, 11 December 1984.

The proponent for this publication is United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 (*Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms*) (or in 2028 format) directly to Commander, CASCOM, Directorate of Combat Development, DCD-OD, 3901 A Avenue, Fort Lee, VA 23801-1713.

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

Chapter 1

Munitions Operational Environment

The digitized, force projection Army of the future requires efficient logistics organizations that are quickly adaptable to the warfighter's needs. Our Army has moved from a threat-based force to a capabilities-based force able to dominate across the spectrum of conflict. Leading this will be the digitized Army XXI division—the backbone of the Army's capabilities-based force. It eventually will be supported by a hybrid of forces (special operations, strike, contingency light, and contingency heavy forces). Our logistics organization must be capability-based, modular for flexibility, able to anticipate and predict logistics requirements sooner, have pipeline visibility, focus limited logistics resources at the point of need, and able to react faster than ever before. The recent creation of forward support companies in the digitized Army XXI division will employ many of these attributes. Our overarching objective is to achieve a single CSS [combat service support] operator at each echelon to facilitate maximum throughput and follow-on sustainment.

Army Logistician

The ammunition logistics system provides the right type and quantity of ammunition to the force in any contingency from general war to military operations other than war (MOOTW) engaging the “full spectrum of operations.” The challenge is to move required amounts of modern high lethality ammunition into a theater from the continental United States (CONUS) sustaining base and other prepositioned sources in a timely manner to support a CONUS-based contingency response force. The system must also be flexible enough to meet changing ammunition requirements in simultaneous operations around the world. The objective of the system is to provide configured Class V support forward to the force as economically and responsively as possible with a minimum of handling or reconfiguration. Effective and efficient ammunition support requires integrated information and distribution management at all levels from the national provider/industrial base to the combat user.

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