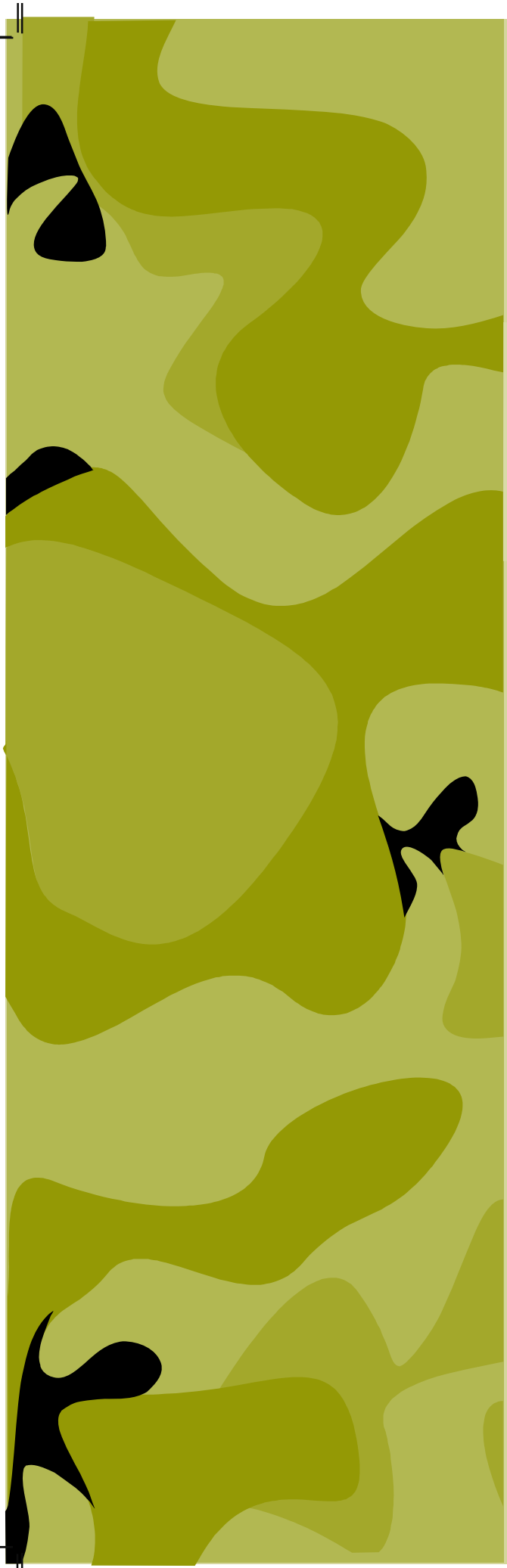

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THEATER SUPPORT COMMAND

APRIL 2003

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THEATER SUPPORT COMMAND

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Preface

This manual provides authoritative doctrine by which the theater support command (TSC) supports a full range of military operations. This manual serves as the basis for TSC training, organization, and materiel development. It describes how the TSC provides operational-level support, and how it interfaces with strategic-level organizations and tactical forces.

Commanders and staffs assigned to a numbered Army, an Army service component command (ASCC), a TSC headquarters, or their subordinate units, are the intended audience for this field manual (FM). Because no two theaters of operation are the same, and conditions in any theater can change quickly, commanders must adapt the doctrine in this manual to the needs of the given theater. TSC staff members can use these guidelines to develop theater-unique procedures to support operations in their theater.

This FM implements relevant joint doctrine and incorporates lessons learned from recent operations. It conforms to Army capstone doctrine. Where appropriate, the manual references other doctrinal publications, such as FM 3-0 (FM 100-5), FM 3-93 (FM 100-7), FM 4-0 (FM 100-10), FM 4-01.4 (FM 100-10-1), FM 3-100.15 (FM 100-15), and FM 3-35 (FM 100-17) series manuals, as well as other Army capstone and joint manuals.

The proponent for this publication is Headquarters, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to Commander, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM), ATTN: ATCL-CCD, Fort Lee, Virginia, 23801.

Throughout this publication the term “combat service support” is used in the context of the definition found in FM 3-0 (FM 100-5) and FM 4-0 (FM 100-10). This definition includes combat health support, personnel support, finance management operations, religious support, legal support supply, maintenance, explosive ordnance, transportation, and field services.

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

Chapter 1

The TSC Role in Army Operations

In full spectrum operations the theater support command (TSC) and other Army forces operate as part of a joint force and often within a multinational and interagency environment. This chapter discusses areas of operations (AOs) and the basic responsibilities of the Army in the theater, including joint and multinational considerations.

SECTION I – THEATER OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

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1-1. TSC planners first learn the geographic combatant command (COCOM) commander's intent and how he has structured the theater in which they are operating. They also understand the responsibilities the geographic combatant commander directs to the Army service component command (ASCC) commander and how he intends to support the geographic combatant commander's plan. The ASCC commander is specifically responsible for service-related U.S. Code (U.S.C.) Title 10 tasks to prepare, train, equip, administer, and provide combat service support (CSS) to Army forces assigned or attached to combatant commands. The ASCC may also have many lead service responsibilities, which entail common-user logistics (CUL) support to other services, multinational forces, government agencies (OGAs), and/or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). This section discusses these topics in general terms. FM 3-93 (FM 100-7) contains details about ASCC responsibilities.

THEATER STRUCTURE

1-2. A theater is a geographical area outside the continental U.S. (OCONUS) for which a geographic combatant commander is assigned military responsibility. The command views a theater from the theater-strategic context, the level of international military cooperation required, or the degree of dedicated U.S. military resources necessary. These influence perspective Army operations in each theater. The theater is also referred to as the geographic combatant commander's area of responsibility (AOR).

1-3. To conduct operations within his geographic area of responsibility, the geographic combatant commander may designate a specific area within his AOR as a theater of war, theater of operations (TO), or a joint operations area (JOA). Commanders may use these terms independently or in conjunc-