

# AREA SUPPORT GROUP

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**\*This manual supersedes FM 54-40, 29 July 1987.**

## **Preface**

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This manual describes the missions, functions, organization, and operations of an area support group. The basic functions of all ASGs are standard. ASGs perform maintenance and supply support operations for most of the items in the theater. However, each has a unique, tailored organization and set of responsibilities. The capabilities and resources associated with each ASG are tailored to the needs of the local area supported and to the theater.

This manual serves as a basis for understanding the support role of an ASG. It is intended to serve as a guide. It does not attempt to describe all of the possible variations of the ASG mission. It should not be construed as limiting commanders' freedom of action. Commanders should apply the doctrine and information presented in this manual in any manner appropriate to their particular situation and mission.

### **AUDIENCE**

This manual is intended to assist commanders and staffs assigned or attached to an ASG. It delineates ASG headquarters staff responsibilities and their relationships with staff officers and subordinate battalions. Interrelationships and interdependencies between the ASG and other organizational elements in the theater are identified. Personnel assigned to other organizations can use this manual to increase their understanding of ASG missions.

### **RELATED DOCTRINE**

This manual is based on doctrine in FMs 100-5, 100-10, and 100-16. FM 100-5 is the Army's keystone doctrinal manual on Army operations. FM 100-10 is the Army's keystone logistics support manual. FM 100-16 describes army operational logistics.

To plan for support arrangements when ASG elements are attached to a corps support group's multifunctional corps support battalion or to a rear corps support group's functional battalion, refer to FMs 54-30 and 63-3.

ARTEPs 63-622-MTP and 63-622-30-MTP provide a mission-oriented training program for ASG headquarters staff. They provide guidance on how-to train staff to perform ASG critical wartime missions.

### **PROPONENT AND RECOMMENDED CHANGES**

The proponent for this publication is HQ TRADOC. Submit changes for improving this publication on DA Form 2028 and forward it to Commander, US Army Combined Arms Support Command, ATTN: ATCL-AL, Fort Lee, Virginia 23801-6000.

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

Chapter 1

# Operational Environment

The range of military operations encompasses operations in peacetime, conflict, and war. ASG units support operations across the range of military operations. The basic principles addressed in FM 100-10 apply across the operational continuum. Though ASG elements function in a peacetime environment, they must be ready to quickly transition from peace to operations other than war and war.

ASG units may provide support to combat-ready forces in their crisis support or power projection role. Selected ASG elements may augment the COSCOM or DISCOM when support requirements exceed their support capabilities. They may deploy from a forward presence site in response to a crisis or remain at that forward site to receive and process follow-on forces.

ASGs may tailor a slice of support to set up a forward support base or provide support at an intermediate staging area. ASG units may also locate in a friendly nation outside the supported CINC's region or operate a support base from amphibious shipping or mobile sea bases.

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## ASG EMPLOYMENT ACROSS THE CONTINUUM

Conflicts can prompt US intervention. Even nonhostile situations can require the use of military forces in some form. Operational level support is required when the size of the force exceeds the capability of the deployed force's logistics support structure. OLS is also required when a significant support structure is required offshore, in a lodgment area, or in a third country support base. If prestock supply points or facilities are located in a third country or afloat, ASG elements may deploy during the initial stage of deployment.

ASGs, through the Logistics Support Element, connect the nation's industrial base to its combat power. ASG staffs must plan to meet the requirements across the range of military operations of conflicts that span the continuum of military operations noted on Figure 1-1, see page 1-2. They must maintain the ability to respond globally to contingencies across the scope of military operations.

### LEVELS OF LOGISTICS

ASGs establish and coordinate logistics support at the operational and strategic level of war. This allows the tactical commanders to focus on the conflict, rather than on support requirements. Figure 1-2, see page 1-3, depicts the levels of war and the corresponding overlaps.

Three levels of logistics support, tactical logistics, operational logistics, and strategic logistics, correlate to

the three levels of war: tactical, operational, and strategic.

### Tactical Logistics

The tactical logistician focuses on sustaining soldiers and their systems and manning, arming, fueling, fitting, and moving the force to win tactical battles in the combat zone. He is concerned with getting the right support, at the right time and place, to the soldier in the field. Depending on the size of the deployed force and the environment, tactical commanders may assume responsibility for logistics functions performed at both operational and strategic levels.

### Operational Logistics

Operational logistics provides the tactical commander staying power. It encompasses activities required to support the force in theater in support of campaigns and major operations. When more than one corps is deployed, operational logistics is normally provided by the Army component command.

Operational logisticians focus on those areas listed on Figure 1-3, see page 1-4. FM 100-16 describes operational logistics. Because they must support extended operations, operational logisticians require longer planning time. They need to balance current consumption requirements with the requirement to extend LOCs and build up support for subsequent major operations. The