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Logistical Aspects of Out Maneuvering the Enemy

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### Abstract

Today's modern Logistician is a flexible, multifunctional combat supporter that is vital to the war fighter. The Logistics' system is currently undergoing a major transformation, not only within its community; it is also supporting the Army in the transformation of Legacy units into a modular force structure. This also creates many changes in the force support packages that meet the demands of particular units and its wartime mission. The Army Prepositioned Stock (APS) is an example of modern transformation that allows us the logistical support to out maneuver the enemy.

## Logistical Aspects of Out Maneuvering the Enemy

The purpose of this research paper is to bring awareness to the role logistics' plays in out maneuvering the enemy. We will examine the following topics throughout this paper:

Transformation of the Quartermaster Corp, transformation of legacy units into a modular force, and The Army Prepositioned Stock (APS). As the Army stands firm in its commitment to fight the Global War on Terrorism, simultaneously we are transforming our legacy units to become a modular force. Not only do we support our units, we as logisticians ourselves are transforming into a multifunctional combat service support element. Today's logistician must be flexible in order to adapt to become a multifunctional supporter for the war fighter.

"You will not find it difficult to prove that battles, campaigns, and even wars have been won or lost primarily because of logistics." - General Dwight D. Eisenhower

As logisticians, we are adapting to the needs of the Army, mission requirements, and its Soldiers. We provide mission critical materials to America's Warfighter, in doing so today's logisticians supports over 600,000 men and women serving around the globe. According to MG Mitchell H. Stevenson, the Commanding General for the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command today's logistician must be: "A strategic and creative thinker. Builder of leaders and teams, complete full-spectrum war fighter or accomplished professional who supports the Soldier, effective in managing, leading and changing the business side of the Army, skilled in governance, statesmanship and diplomacy, understands cultural contexts and works effectively across them" (Devine, 2007). These key elements are critical in the overall success of the Quartermaster Corp, what it stands for and provides throughout the Army.

Army Logistician, the professional bulletin of United States Army logistics introduced the Logistics Branch in the July – August 2007 edition, as follows: "A new era for the Army's

logistics officers is beginning with the scheduled establishment of the Logistics branch on 1 July 2007. The notion of a basic branch for logistics, bringing together officers from the Quartermaster, Ordnance, and Transportation branches, has long been discussed among Army logisticians and leaders. Now, as a reflection of the increasingly multifunctional nature of support on the modern battlefield, the Logistics branch is becoming a reality.” The Chief of Staff of the Army approved the creation of all three entities on 2 May 2006.

In order to ensure the war fighter has all Combat Service and Support issues addressed and covered to best of the Army’s ability, in July of 2007 the Army announced the following Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) would combine forces and train as one at Ft Lee, VA and become the Sustainment Center Of Excellence (SCoE). This will combine the following: Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School, Transportation Center and School, Combined Arms Support Command, Quartermaster Center and School and the Army Logistic Management College.

Logistics is supporting the Army in it’s transformation from legacy units to a modular force. Modular conversion will enable the Army to generate force packages optimized to meet the demands of a particular situation, without the overhead and support previously provided by higher commands. Modular units are tailored to meet the Combatant Commanders' requirements. These units, known as Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs), are more robust, require less augmentation, and are standardized in design to increase interoperability. They are, in essence, a self-sufficient, stand-alone tactical force, consisting of 3,500 to 4,000 Soldiers, that is organized and trains the way it fights (Harvey, 2005).

The benefits of modularity is for force projection, a modular structure means that support capabilities can be phased into a theater of operations by sending modules autonomously of the

parent unit until the support requirements grow. Units designed under the modularity concept give the strategic planner the tools to make support elements responsive, economical, effective, flexible, selective, and identifiable. The basis for selecting a module, a group of modules, or a whole unit for a mission depends on the particulars of the missions' requirements. In creating the modular force structure, now we need only to deploy the capabilities needed under the mission profile criteria instead of a whole unit. This reduces the requirement for personnel and equipment coming into or operating in a theater, this will also enable us to reduce the logistics footprint in the battlespace (Manns, 2003).

Army Prepositioned Stock (APS) proved its value in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On 5 April 2003, when elements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ID (M) rolled through Baghdad on Thunder Runs, the equipment performed as advertised. In 1990-1991, during Desert Shield/Desert Storm (ODS/S), the buildup of troops and equipment required months and shipment of extensive equipment and supplies from CONUS and Europe. In OIF, the APS program provided enough prepositioned equipment to support a division for 30 days. This enabled the 3<sup>rd</sup> ID (M) to fly into Kuwait, deploy rapidly, train in the desert, and to strike into Iraq quickly (Kelly, 2003).

Ultimately, APS equipment has proved to be one of the Army's most valuable assets. Not only did it provide a complete Infantry Division (M) with fully mission capable equipment, it has also provided equipment as low as a platoon element worth of requirements. APS along with Theater Provided Equipment (TPE) continues to provide equipment required for a mature theater of operations.

In conclusion, we have looked at how the Army is transforming the Quartermaster Corp by combining Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School, Transportation Center and School, Combined Arms Support Command,

Quartermaster Center and School and the Army Logistic Management College by creating the Sustainment Center of Excellence. The Quartermaster Corp has been a tremendous supporter of the Army's concept in transforming units from a legacy force to a modular. In addition, the Army Prepositioned Stock (APS) has made a detrimental contribution in supporting America's war fighter by providing equipment necessary to combat the War on Terror.

## References

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