



CHAPTER 10

CLASSES II, III (PACKAGED), AND IV AND MAPS

INTRODUCTION

Classes II, III (Packaged), and IV and maps represent a broad range of general supplies that are less visible than other commodities. Nevertheless, they contribute significantly to support of the mission. While the individual item cost is low, the total dollar value that is required and consumed is high. Therefore, controls are necessary to ensure that limited resources are not wasted. Because of cost and the chance of emergency demands, Class IV items (and some Class II) may be placed under controls not normally applied to other general supplies. These controls include selective stockage and command approval of items before they are issued. In a theater of operations, these items would be controlled by the TAMMC in much the same manner as major items. Consumption of these commodities is more predictable. Demand history, together with knowledge of anticipated fluctuations, can provide accurate forecasting of demands.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Supply responsibilities are equally critical at each level of logistics. Some of the major ones are discussed below.

NICPs

The NICPs (commodity commands) acquire and manage these secondary items at the strategic level. The degree of management depends on the cost and complexity of the particular item. A large percentage of these items is also used by other services, government agencies, and the civilian sector. Inventory managers at the NICPs

must be aware of all potential customers and vendors to ensure that adequate stockage is available or obtainable to satisfy service demands on short notice.

MMCs

In a theater of operations, the MMCs manage these items. The MMCs of the division, separate brigade, and regiment accept requisitions from customers. Based on the commodity, cube, and criticality, certain items are also stocked at this level. Requests for items not on hand or not authorized for stockage are passed to the CMMC. The CMMC will fill the requisition if stocks are on hand. If stocks are not on hand, the requisition will either be passed to the TAMMC (for command-controlled items) or sent to a CONUS NICP for action. TAACOM MMCs process requests from EAC DSUs in the same manner as the CMMCs.

Units

Units maintain basic loads of Class II supplies. Basic loads support operations in combat for a prescribed number of days. The normal depth of stockage is 15 days. These loads may be moved into combat if transportation assets are available. The commander maintains control of these items. Hand-receipt procedures are used to assign responsibility for durable goods but are not required for expendable items. For clothing, hand tools, and other like items, personal responsibility may go down to the individual soldier.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

While these commodities are grouped as general supplies, the ways in which they are authorized, managed, and obtained vary widely. Many items, such as clothing, tents, and office furniture, are authorized by CTAs. As an example, requirements for clothing and individual equipment are based on seven climatic zones. These wide variances require the commander and the supporting supply activities to be aware of the mission profile of the unit and to ensure that the right stocks are issued or on order.

The Strategic Level of Supply

Many of the Class II, III (Packaged), and IV items are jointly used by other services and the civilian sector. Normally, this will provide a broad base for acquisition and a capability to increase the production base. This allows the commodity commands to rely on readily available supply sources to satisfy normal and surge requirements. On the other hand, there are items, such as clothing and maps, that are unique to the military and perhaps to the Army. The management of these items is much different, and the maintenance of the production base is much more critical. Generally, these commodities are moved to the theater by SEALOC. This means that the extended shipping times must be incorporated into the the stockage requirements. Also, the use of pre-positioned war reserves and operational project stocks must be considered for the same reasons as for major items.

The Operational Level of Supply

The reserve stocks within the theater are stored and maintained by the supply companies (GS) located at the operational and tactical levels. Initially, this would include theater reserves and operational project stocks. If the items are command-controlled, inventory management would be performed by the TAMMC. Non-command-controlled items would be handled

using normal requisitioning procedures. Requisitions from the corps DSUs and DMMCs will be passed to the CMMCs. EAC DSUs will pass requisitions to the TAACOM MMCs. Requisitions that cannot be satisfied from GS stocks will be passed directly to CONUS. Many of the items may also be available from other in-theater sources, such as HNS and the local economy. Those items must be identified to the lowest levels so as to take full advantage of the resources that are readily available. Many items are repairable at the operational level. Foremost are clothing and other textiles, such as tents and air delivery items. The repair capability must be considered in establishing stockage levels. Any requirements that are satisfied in the theater can offset the requirement for transportation lift from CONUS. Another example is the refilling of compressed gases that are used for various reasons throughout the theater. Both of these functions are also viable candidates for HNS, thereby reducing the in-theater requirement for force structure.

The Tactical Level of Supply

The major GS supplier for Classes II, III (Packaged), and IV and maps is the supply company (GS). It also maintains a portion of the reserve stocks. Forward units are supported by the supply companies and troops of the division, brigade, and regiment. The supply company (DS) supports nondivisional troops located throughout the theater. Supplies are distributed by either the supply point or unit distribution method. The unit distribution method is preferred. However, a combination is usually used to ensure that the required stocks are received as quickly as possible. Items that are returned to the supply system must be classified and turned in for repair or disposed of under established criteria. The requisition and materiel flow of Classes II, III (Packaged), and IV is shown in Figure 10-1 (page 10-3).

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Supply planners track the tactical situation, troop buildup, and equipment readiness. This allows them to request critical supplies without waiting on unit requests. It enables them to reorganize supply elements and request backup support for the most critical requirements. Planners must also coordinate with their supporting MMC to ensure supply of items that are used sparingly or not at all in peacetime. Unique requirements may exist for support of other service elements, allied forces, and enemy prisoners of war. Procedures must also be established for managing items designated as command-controlled. Other planning considerations are discussed below.

Pre-positioned War Reserves (PPWR)

PPWR are critical during the transition to war phase. They allow for supply of items that maybe affected by a surge of requirements. This surge would not allow the supply system or the industrial base to support the anticipated demands. The establishment of supply levels must be carefully calculated. Proper coordination will ensure that the stocked amount represents a quantity that will support combat effectiveness. The amount stocked must be cost effective.

Operational Project Stocks

Operational project stocks are acquired in support of specific operations, contingencies, and war plans. This allows for consolidation and, perhaps, forward projection of stocks. These would be used to support a specific operation or contingency. An example would be the Class IV items required to support a particular barrier plan. These are items that would undoubtedly be needed in the early part of an operation or contingency. Because of their weight and cube, they would require considerable strategic lift to deploy from the CONUS base.

HNS and Contingency Contracting

Both HNS and contingency contracting play a key role in the transition to war phase. Many of

the items may be readily available on the local economy. With proper LPT, vendors can be identified and contracts can be set up. Use of the host nation as a source of supply can significantly reduce the strategic mobility requirements and the impact on the CONUS production base. See Chapters 4 and 5 for more details.

EMERGING CONCEPTS, SYSTEMS, AND MATERIEL

There are several areas being developed that will impact favorably on the distribution of supplies within a theater of operations. The major ones are discussed below.

Packaging of Supplies

Handling of general supplies at the operational level will be enhanced by selective unitization and packaging of supplies to unit loads in the industrial base. Cargo parachutes will be packed by the manufacturer and stored in a vacuum pack. This will reduce volume by half and provide extra protection during storage and shipment.

MHE

More versatile MHE will replace the variety of equipment that now exists in the inventory. This MHE, some of which will have an extended boom capability, will increase our capabilities. This will be particularly significant in stuffing and unstuffing containers. It will also reduce transport requirements as it will be intratheater airlift compatible.

Containers

New containers, in varying sizes, will provide increased capabilities for packaging supplies by unit load. They will also provide protection during storage and movement. Handling of containers on the battlefield, especially in the forward areas, offers a real challenge. In the near term, basis of issue plans will be updated to ensure the correct mix of rough terrain cargo handlers

(RTCHs). The long-term fix will be to explore alternatives to the RTCH. Alternatives include self-loading and unloading trailers, the Palletized Loading System (PLS), and various container mixes.

Maps

The Defense Mapping Agency (DMA) provides standard maps. Engineer cartographic units in the theater update and, as necessary, prepare locally unique nonstandard maps. Requisitions for unclassified maps are handled by a manual process both in the theater and at the DMA NICP. The current systems and requisitioning process will be integrated into the standard supply system. This will allow for more responsiveness to the commander's needs. It will end the manual, stovepipe system.

SAFETY

Since many of the commodities have hazardous and flammable properties, a number of precautions must be observed during storing and handling. Gases may be flammable or explosive.

They are compressed into containers with a pressure exceeding 40 to 104 pounds per square inch. Gases can also induce irritation to skin and other sensitive areas.

RELATED DOCTRINE

A number of publications present information on the topics covered in this chapter. Some of the major ones are listed in Table 10-1.

Table 10-1. Publications related to this chapter

Update Publications	Topic
Unit Supply UPDATE	Various ARs & DA Pams related to supply
Field Manuals	Topic
10-27	General supply
10-27-1	QM GS supply operations
10-27-2	QM DS supply operations
10-27-3	QM headquarters organizations

