



CHAPTER 12

CLASS VI

AND TACTICAL FIELD EXCHANGES

INTRODUCTION

Class VI supplies (personal demand items) are Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) items for sale to troops and authorized individuals. Army personnel are usually required to deploy with the required health and comfort items. The ASCC may authorize the issue of health and comfort packs (HCPs) through the supply system. As requested by the theater commander, AAFES provides Class VI supply support beyond HCPs. Class VI supply support can be limited to basic health and comfort items or expanded to include food and beverages and entertainment items. The availability of Class VI items can enhance morale.

AAFES Class VI supply support to locations without established Post Exchanges is provided by tactical field exchanges (TFEs) or AAFES imprest fund activities (AIFAs). Both are operated by military personnel. This chapter refers to TFEs and AIFAs collectively as TFEs.

Class VI supplies may be available through procurement, through transfer from theater stocks, or through requisitioning from AAFES in CONUS. Available shipping space dictates allocation and shipment of Class VI supplies to the theater. This chapter describes the procedures for providing Class VI supplies on the battlefield.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Class VI supply responsibilities differ significantly from the other classes of supply. Some of the major responsibilities at the strategic,

operational, and tactical levels of supply are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Strategic Level of Supply

The strategic level of supply equates basically to the CONUS base or what was formerly referred to as the wholesale base. In the case of Class VI supplies, the strategic level has been extended to Germany (AAFES-Europe Region) and to the Pacific area (AAFES-Pacific Rim Region). Major responsibilities at this level are discussed below.

AAFES. AAFES provides worldwide planning and monitoring of all tactical field exchanges. Tactical operations within the NATO area of responsibility are planned and monitored by AAFES-Europe Region. In the Pacific area, operations are planned and monitored by AAFES-Pacific Rim Region. Other regions are the responsibility of HQ AAFES (Dallas, Texas). In coordination with the theater commander, AAFES determines requirements; procures, stores, and distributes supplies; operates resale facilities; designates the parent exchange; and determines if an operational site general manager will be appointed for the particular operation.

Parent Exchange. Tactical field exchanges are designated as branches of a parent exchange (by one of the three AAFES headquarters elements discussed above). Tactical field exchanges are assigned a unique facility number which is used on all transactions. All transactions are routed through the parent exchange. The parent

exchange orders the merchandise to be sold, prepares the equipment and supplies required, and prepares a change fund and petty cash fund. These will then be issued to the tactical field exchange officer (TFEO). In coordination with AAFES, the parent exchange arranges to train the TFEO and personnel identified to operate the TFE.

Operational Level of Supply

The operational level equates to the communications zone in a theater. Some of the major responsibilities are described below.

Theater commander. The theater commander must give AAFES planning guidance and logistical support. The theater commander establishes the transportation priority for Class VI supplies and the extent of support (from basic necessities through entertainment items). Transportation of Class VI supplies into the theater is the responsibility of the military in those instances where AAFES does not have established means of transportation. The theater commander is responsible for ensuring that subordinate commanders provide the required support. These support requirements are outlined in Exchange Service Regulation (ESR) 8-4.

Operational site general manager. When a particular tactical operation involves a large number of TFEs, AAFES may assign a civilian manager as the operational site general manager (GM). The site GM, if appointed, assumes many of the responsibilities of the parent exchange. In large operations, it is likely that AAFES will establish a warehouse or chain of warehouses to support the TFEs within the area of operations. Specific responsibilities will be outlined in the military operations plan or exercise directive and the AAFES support directive.

Tactical field exchange liaison officer (TFELO). For major operations, AAFES may appoint a TFELO to assist the site GM. The TFELO is usually a military officer who is assigned full-time to AAFES. The TFELO will travel to the operational site with the

participants and assist the TFEO or site GM. He or she serves as the liaison officer between the military commands and AAFES.

Operational-level commanders. Commanders must give AAFES a wide range of support. This includes transportation, communications, security, postal, finance, veterinary and preventive medicine services, and miscellaneous other support. The commander is responsible for providing the facilities from which the TFEs operate and the support normally associated with "life support." Responsibilities of commanders in supporting AAFES in the provision of Class VI supply support are outlined in ESR 8-4.

Tactical Level of Supply

The tactical level equates to the combat zone or corps operational area. Some of the major responsibilities at this level are shown below.

Tactical field exchange officer (TFEO). The TFEO is an officer or NCO appointed by the ASCC or subordinate commander to manage a TFE. Responsible and accountable to AAFES for all TFE operations, the TFEO is the store manager. The TFEO and the personnel identified to operate the TFE will receive training arranged by the parent exchange. Responsibilities of the TFEO are outlined in ESR 8-4.

Tactical units. The unit being supported by a TFE assigns an appropriate number of military personnel to operate the TFE. The TFEO and all military personnel assigned to the TFE work for the local commander. They are responsible to the commander for normal military functions and daily operations. The local commander provides support for the TFE similar to that described at the operational level. Minimum support requirements are listed in Exchange Operating Procedures (EOPs) 8-1 and 8-6 and ESR 8-4.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

As with any operation, planning is required to ensure Class VI supplies are available to the troops

at the time and place required. The TFE concept of operation is divided into three phases. These phases are described below.

Predeployment Phase

The predeployment phase is also referred to as the loading and shipping phase. During this phase military planners working with AAFES will determine the stock assortments and quantities of each item to be shipped for a particular TFE. The assortment of Class VI items will be tailored to fit the situation. They can include items to entertain the troops and to make daily life more comfortable. These items will be ordered by AAFES and shipped to the parent exchange for consolidation and loading into containers for shipment to the deployment location. Operating supplies required for the TFE will be provided by the parent exchange. Complete details on actions during this phase are contained in EOP 8-6.

Deployment Phase

Containers with the Class VI items are shipped to the operational area. The TFEO deploys as specified in his or her unit's TPFDL. Immediately upon arrival in the operational area, the TFEO must locate the containers shipped from the parent exchange and arrange for their further movement to the TFE site. When the containers arrive at the TFE site, the TFE staff conduct the appropriate inventories and establish TFE operations. Class VI resupply is coordinated between the TFEO and the parent exchange. Complete details on receipt procedures and site operations are contained in EOPs 8-1 and 8-6.

Postdeployment Phase

Once the operation has been completed, remaining inventory and operating supplies and equipment will be packaged and returned to the parent exchange. Returned merchandise and operating supplies and equipment are inventoried, accounted for, and returned to AAFES stocks. In addition, all documentation, sales receipts, and returns are reconciled. At this time, the TFEO is

relieved of accountability for the TFE. Complete redeployment and closeout procedures are covered in EOPs 8-1 and 8-6.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Planning for the use of Class VI supplies and TFEs is somewhat different than for other supply classes. Some basic considerations are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Planning Factors

ESR 8-4 shows a planning factor of 2.06 pounds per person per day (intemperate climates) that can be used for estimating Class VI requirements. The planning factor is adjusted with a multiplier based upon the climate (temperate, arctic, or arid/tropical) in the area of operations. These planning factors will replace those shown in FM 101-10-1/2 during its next update. The consumption rate for various items is shown in Table 12-1.

Projected Staffing

Staffing standards are shown in EOPs 8-1 and 8-6. When possible and practical, an officer or warrant officer should be appointed as the TFEO. If not, then the senior NCO from the TFE staff may be appointed. Table 12-2 (page 12-4) reflects the suggested staffing standard for a TFE supporting 1,000 customers.

Table 12-1. Class VI consumption rates

ITEM	LB/ PERSON/ DAY	THEATER MULTIPLIER
Tobacco products	.05525	
Snacks	.44420	
Beverages	1.46683	
Personal hygiene	.04675	
General	.04395	
Temperate climate total	2.05688	1.000
Arctic climate total	1.7494	.849
Arid/tropical climate total	3.39442	1.650

Table 12-2. Projected staffing

POSITION	NUMBER	MOS	GRADE
TFE Officer	1	92A40*	E7*
TFE Sales Supervisor	1	92A20	E5
TFE Sales Clerk	2**	92A10	E3/4
* This is the suggested MOS and grade if an officer or warrant officer cannot be appointed. ** Two additional sales associates will be added for each additional 1,000 customers supported.			

Health and Comfort Packages

Health and comfort packages (formerly referred to as sundry packages) are Class I supply items managed by DPSC. They have a national stock number and are issued through the standard supply system (normally Class I supply channels) without cost to soldiers during combat operations. They contain items such as disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other personal care items. The female health and comfort package contains additional items for female soldiers such as cleaning creams, tissues, sanitary napkins, and tampons. AR 700-23 contains additional information on health and comfort packages.

EMERGING CONCEPTS

The USAQMC&S is currently developing a new concept for AAFES support to soldiers in the field. This concept generally follows the guidelines shown in this chapter. It ties together the use

of AAFES imprest fund activities, TFEs, and Direct Operation Exchange - Tactical (DOX-T). DOX-T was not discussed in this chapter. The primary difference between a DOX-T and a TFE or an Imprest Fund Activity is that the DOX-T is staffed with AAFES civilian personnel. The decision as to whether to support with a TFE or a DOX-T is situation-dependent. The decision will be made by the AAFES commander in coordination with the theater commander. Another key point in the emerging concept is the need for early selection and training of military personnel selected to operate TFEs.

RELATED DOCTRINE

A number of publications present information on the topics covered in this chapter. Some of the major ones are listed in Table 12-3.

Table 12-3. Publications related to this chapter

Army Regulations	Topic
700-23	Health and comfort items
Field Manuals	Topic
100-16	Operational support
101-10-1/2	Planning factors
AAFES EOP*	Topic
8-1	AAFES imprest funds
8-6	Tactical exchanges
AAFES ESR*	Topic
8-4	Emergency operations
* AAFES publications can be obtained from the local exchange or from HQ AAFES.	