



Association of the United States Army

Voice for the Army—Support for the Soldier



Army Strategic Responsiveness ... Concept to Reality

During the 1990s, the Army resolved numerous deployment problems highlighted during Operation Desert Shield. The Army has made—and continues to make—improvements that will enhance Army strategic responsiveness for decades to come.



Despite the success of Operation Desert Shield, strategic deployment of U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf took too long—about 150 days for five divisions and 205 days for the entire deployment. After Operation Desert Storm, Congress charged the Department of Defense (DoD) to reassess strategic mobility requirements in light of the changing world environment. The 1992 Mobility Requirements Study and the follow-on 1995 Bottom-Up Review Update concluded that the military could increase deployability only through investment in airlift, sealift, equipment prepositioning, deployment infrastructure, and related initiatives. Consequently, DoD decided to acquire 120 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and 20 large medium-speed roll-on/roll-off ships (LMSRs), and to preposition additional military equipment both ashore and afloat.



To implement study recommendations, the Army alone has invested over \$5 billion to upgrade its capability to deploy a five-division contingency corps (with combat service support) from the continental United States (CONUS) to overseas locations within 75 days.

The Army has also recognized that the world environment will continue to change. In 1999, the Army articulated a new Vision (Army Transformation) calling for a future capability to put a brigade combat team anywhere in the world in 96 hours after liftoff—both for stability and support operations and for warfighting. This Objective Force will build to a warfighting division on the ground in 120 hours and five divisions in 30 days—a capability that will further increase the Army's ability to fight as part of a joint force and win the nation's wars.

The Army was able to leverage ongoing initiatives to begin to move toward meeting the Army Transformation goals. Additional funding will be required to enable the Army to meet these new goals. Here are brief descriptions of some key ongoing initiatives:

Infrastructure To improve the flow of people, equipment and supplies from CONUS origins to ports of embarkation, the Army has invested over \$800 million in infrastructure and deployability enhancements to its designated CONUS power-projection platforms—15 installations, 14 airfields, 17 strategic seaports, and 11 ammunition plants and depots. Upgrades have focused on installation departure airfields, road networks, railheads and port facilities. Included are:


- modernized arrival/departure airfield control group facilities at Fort Bragg, Fort Lewis, and other installations;
- improved facilities for rapid rail loading at all major CONUS power-projection installations, such as Forts Stewart, Hood and Campbell;
- upgraded and expanded facilities to support the Army's Afloat Prepositioning Program at Charleston Naval Weapons Station;
- upgraded containerized ammunition port facilities on the West Coast.



Funding to complete remaining “baseline” infrastructure improvements continues through Fiscal Year 2003.

Railcars and Containers To speed movement of units and ammunition to CONUS seaports, the Army has purchased 1,090 additional railcars for prepositioning at ammunition plants, depots and power-projection installations. To expedite outloading, the Army has purchased over 2,500 additional containers (and a commensurate number of container handlers) for early-deploying units. The Army has also developed a concept for tailored ammunition loads to enhance ammunition distribution in overseas theaters. Strategic Configured Loads will be containerized in CONUS and shipped directly to units overseas. To further speed deployments and minimize cargo handling, the Army is procuring approximately 13,000 container roll-in/roll-out platforms—intermodal flatracks that fit inside standard 20-foot containers.

Overseas Prepositioning



New land-based unit sets in Kuwait, Qatar and Korea

The equipment prepositioning program is so important to strategic responsiveness that the Army established a general officer command to manage and maintain this equipment and to integrate prepositioned equipment into Commander in Chief (CINC) warfighting plans. The Army has restructured its Cold War program for land-based prepositioning of unit equipment. Two heavy armor brigade sets have been added in Southwest Asia—one in Kuwait and one in Qatar. Also added in Qatar has been equipment

to support a division headquarters. One heavy armor brigade set has been added in Korea. Three heavy brigade sets remain in Europe—two in central Europe and one in Italy. The Army has significantly expanded its afloat prepositioning program. Currently stationed in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, a fleet of chartered and government-owned ships is loaded with equipment for an armor brigade and selected combat support and combat service support units. This fleet also carries port-opening equipment. A second armor brigade set will be prepositioned afloat.



Afloat program expanded from 4 to 15 ships

Logistics-Over-The-Shore and Army Watercraft

Logistics-Over-The-Shore (LOTS) operations provide DoD the ability to rapidly discharge vessels even when ports are rendered unusable by natural disasters or enemy action. To improve operational effectiveness, the Army will eliminate its older, less effective craft, and procure larger and faster watercraft capable of operating in higher sea states. To improve responsiveness to the geographic CINC requirements, the Army will position watercraft in overseas locations.

Power-Projection Automation Support

DoD is applying modern information technology to deployment planning and execution. The Army has the lead for developing several systems essential for end-to-end deployment command and control:

- The Transportation Coordinators' Automated Information for Movements System II will allow the warfighter to participate directly in unit movement planning and execution. It will also provide in-transit visibility through the Joint Operational Planning and Execution System and the Global Transportation Network.
- The Worldwide Port System supports operation of common-user water terminals worldwide, providing cargo documentation, accountability and management. This capability speeds cargo through ports, enabling more rapid combat operations of the deployed Army forces.

Doctrine and Training

The Army and the joint community have updated their deployment doctrine to keep pace with emerging capabilities. The Army has upgraded individual and unit deployment training and has made deployment a more integral part of its exercise program. Realistic training is gained through sea emergency deployment readiness exercises that validate improved fort-to-port movement and ship-loading capabilities. Also, units deploying to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, fall in on prepositioned equipment and practice standardized, streamlined equipment issue procedures.

Airlift


The Army has been a staunch advocate for Air Force procurement of C-17s. The C-17's ability to carry outsized and oversized Army cargo to remote and austere airfields affords America the unmatched ability to rapidly deploy military forces or humanitarian supplies virtually anywhere on the globe. Operation Phoenix Scorpion II illustrated this capability when C-17s supported the movement of personnel and equipment to augment forces previously built up in Southwest Asia.



120 C-17s by 2004

Surge Sealift

With strong Army support, DoD has nearly doubled its surge sealift capacity since 1995, and most ships have the roll-on/roll-off capability critical for moving heavy Army equipment. Key to this result has been Navy procurement of 20 LMSRs, each of which can carry a battalion task force with support. Eleven LMSRs have been dedicated to surge sealift, eight to the Army prepositioning afloat program, and one to the Marine Corps.



Surge sealift capacity nearly doubled

Army initiatives over the last decade have been very effective and have strengthened our position as the finest Army in the world. The Army Transformation effort, together with studies and reviews (such as the OSD Mobility Requirements Study 2005 and the Quadrennial Defense Review), will define future requirements and provide the roadmap for allocation of resources for remaining and future initiatives. The Army will leverage these efforts to provide the National Command Authorities flexibility and capabilities that are essential.