



## Force Projection Capability for a Transforming Army

The Theater Support Vessel (TSV) is a vital part of the Army's plans for Transformation. This new high-speed vessel will greatly enhance intratheater deployment and logistics support for Army units worldwide. The TSV's planned capabilities—speed (over 40 knots), capacity (1,250 tons) and flexibility (shallow draft)—will provide the Army with a new and potent capability for rapidly responding to crisis situations anywhere in the world.

### The Mission: Getting to the Fight

"Getting troops to the fight" is a simple idea but a complex and difficult mission to achieve. Today, the Army chiefly relies on airlift or large vessels to get where it needs to go. Both air and conventional sealift have limitations. Strategic airlift requires air superiority and reasonably good runways. Traditional sealift requires time and mature ports. In contrast, the TSV will be capable of using austere facilities to provide rapid and flexible intratheater transportation and support for U.S. Army troops and equipment.

The TSV will provide:

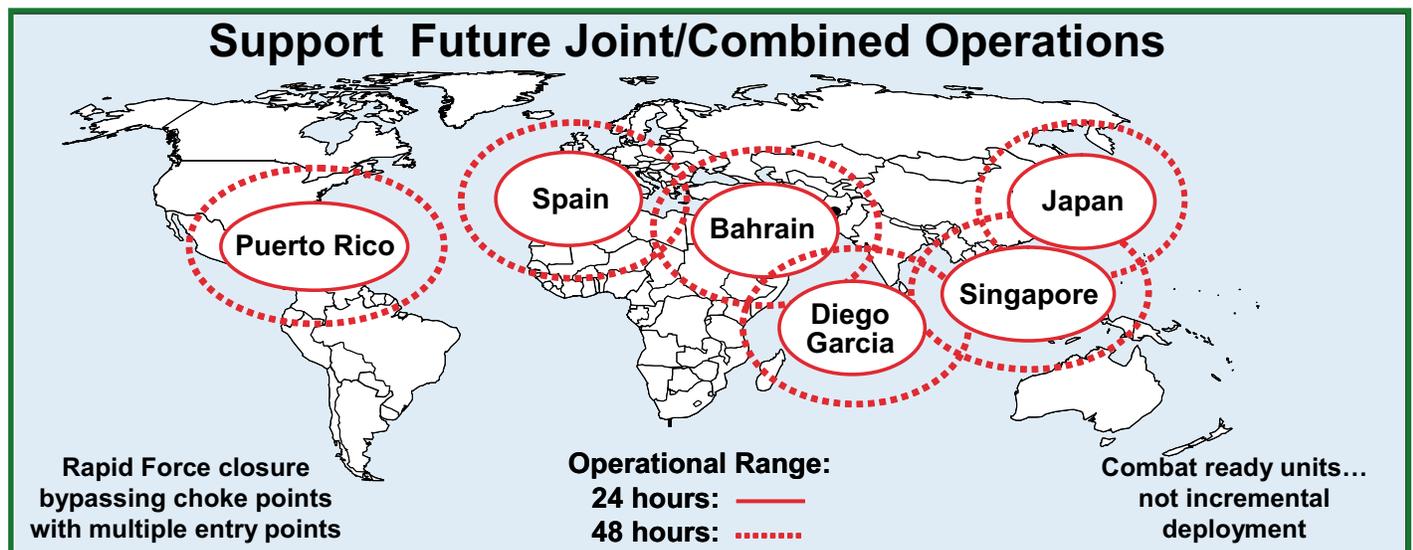
- Intratheater movement of combat-ready units and follow-on sustainment to coastal areas with limited port infrastructure;
- On-board joint interoperable command, communications and intelligence facilities (en route planning);
- 1,250 tons of carrying capacity;
- 40+ knot speed (current logistics support vessel speed is 10 knots);
- 4,700-mile range;
- The ability to transport troops and equipment together;
- Increased number of usable ports (by a factor of five);
- The ability to offset airlift shortages.



### Enabling Access Assurance for Army Forces

The Theater Support Vessel's ability to rapidly transport combat-ready troops and equipment to a wide range of austere locations will make it a highly valuable asset to theater commanders. Forward-stationed TSVs will allow commanders to bypass large ports, which are likely targets of enemy terrorist or long-range missile attack.

### Support Future Joint/Combined Operations



This is the fifth in a series of discussion papers on key issues relevant to strategic imperatives for the U.S. Army.



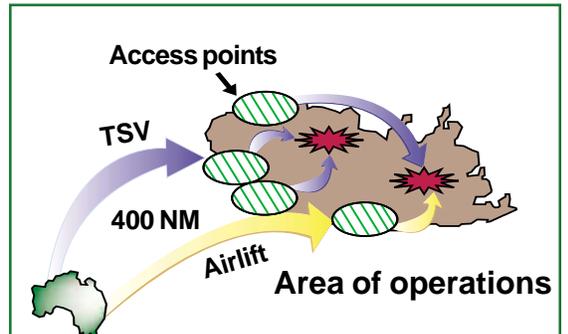
## The TSV—Supporting the Legacy Force, Ready for the Interim Force, Enabling the Objective Force

The Theater Support Vessel will provide important capabilities as the Army transforms. The Legacy, Interim and Objective Forces will be a part of the Army for many years, and the Theater Support Vessel can support them all. A 1,250 ton-capacity TSV fleet will be capable of rapidly deploying powerful elements of all three kinds of forces.



### The Scenario: 400-mile deployment from an intermediate support base to the operational area

	12 TSVs 2 sorties each 47 hours' transit	=	480 C-17 sorties
Legacy Force Brigade (28,913)			
	12 TSVs 1 sortie each 10 hours' transit	=	254 C-17 sorties
Interim Brigade (12,751 tons)			
	12 TSVs 1 sortie each 10 hours' transit	=	613 C-130 sorties or 239 C-17 sorties
Objective Brigade (12,000 tons)			



#### Intermodal transfer point

*Airlift coupled with fast landing craft really gives the CINC the flex to insert highly mobile forces for operational maneuver. When the forces have an inherent quality of high mobility, they can be dropped off at operational stand off and move tactically over 300 kms to the objective area.*

— General John N. Abrams  
CG, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

- Troops and equipment moving together
- En route mission planning and rehearsal
- Reduced logistics footprint
- Access to austere shallow-draft ports
- Multiple-point simultaneous entry

### The Joint Venture—Future Capabilities Demonstration

The Army, Navy and Marine Corps have leased the Australian fast sealift catamaran *Joint Venture* as a demonstration vessel. Exercises with this single vessel are demonstrating the range of capabilities that a fleet of similarly designed Theater Support Vessels will provide the joint force commander.



*The Theater Support Vessel—  
Rapid Deployment for the Army of Today and Tomorrow*