

## CHAPTER 9 – Section III

### THEATER SUPPLY -- AMMUNITION

#### References

FM 9-6, Munitions Support in the Theater of Operations, 20 March 1998  
 FM 54-30, Corps Support Groups, 17 June 1993  
 FM 63-2, Division Support Command, 30 Sept 1993  
 FM 63-3, Corps Support Command, 30 Sept 1993  
 FM 63-20, Forward Support Battalion, 26 February 1990  
 FM 63-23, Aviation Support Battalion, 6 June 1996

#### Objectives

- Identify the structure and units that support Class V operations
- Understand the key terms used to describe the flow of Class V
- Compare Theater Storage Area (TSA), Corps Storage Area (CSA), Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) and Ammunition Transfer Point (ATP), and make distinctions

#### Background

Resupply of ammunition in a theater of operations is based on a **continuous fill/refill system**. Key conventional ammunition storage and supply facilities include the Theater Storage Activity (TSA), Corps Storage Activity (CSA), Ammunition Supply Point (ASP), and Ammunition Transfer Point (ATP). Figure 9-III-1 illustrates this structure.

| ARM THE FORCE<br>CLASS V |                   |                            |                               |                                |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| XXXX                     | XXX               | XX                         | X                             | II                             |
| <b>COMMZ</b>             | <b>CORPS</b>      | <b>DIVISION</b>            | <b>BRIGADE</b>                | <b>BATTALION/<br/>SQUADRON</b> |
| <b>TSA</b>               | <b>CSA</b>        | <b>ASP (3)<br/>ATP (1)</b> | <b>ATP (1)</b>                | <b>BN SPT PLT<br/>(UNIT)</b>   |
| HQ MOD<br>AMMO CO        | HQ MOD<br>AMMO CO | CORPS<br>HQ MOD<br>AMMO CO | SUPPLY<br>CO (DS)             |                                |
|                          |                   | ( No MSB<br>capability)    | ASB HSC<br>CLASS<br>III/V PLT |                                |
|                          |                   |                            | <b>REGIMENT</b>               |                                |
|                          |                   |                            | <b>ATP (1)</b>                |                                |
|                          |                   |                            | S&T TRP<br>(DS)               |                                |

Figure 9-III-1. Ammunition

The combat battalion's **support platoon** coordinates for ammunition support. The FSB **supply company** operates an **ammunition transfer point (ATP)** to provide Class V support to all combat units in the brigade area. Likewise, the **S&T troop** of the ACR support squadron operates one ATP to provide Class V to its combat units. The ASB HSC operates a Class III/V platoon to support units in the Aviation Battalions. The **Headquarters, Modular Ammunition Company of the forward CSB can operate up to three ammunition supply points (ASP) and one ATP (depending on the number of medium lift platoons assigned)** in the vicinity of the division rear area to provide support to corps and division units operating in the division sector. **The MSB has no Class V supply capability.**

**The Headquarters, Modular Ammunition Company (consisting of medium and heavy lift platoons) located in the COSCOM can operate the Corps Storage Areas (CSA)** to provide Class V support to forward ASPs, ATPs, ASB HSC Class III/V platoons, as well as customer units in the corps area. **The Headquarters, Modular Ammunition Company (consisting of several heavy lift platoons) in the TSC will operate the Theater Storage Areas (TSA)** to provide support to forward CSAs, ASPs, and ATPs, as well as customer units in the theater.

### **Ammunition Transfer Point (ATP)**

ATPs located in the BSA are run by the Class V Section of the Supply Company of the FSB. The goal of an ATP is to provide, as close as possible, 100 percent of the ammunition requirements to all units within its sector. **ATPs receive about 75 percent of their ammunition requirements from the CSA. The remainder comes from an ASP. The Mission Configured Loads (MCLs) issued from the CSA and ASPs together make up 90 to 95 percent of the ATP's assets. The remaining 10 percent is received as single-DODIC (Department of Defense Identification Code) items from the ASP.** Ammunition stored at the **ATP** should **be high density and high use items.**

**ATPs are the most mobile and responsive of all Class V supply facilities.** They must be able to move and provide support to the brigade as it moves. Normally, the ammunition is loaded on PLS flat racks, brought forward to the ATP, and transferred to the receiving units organic vehicles. If gaining units vehicles are not there flat racks are placed temporarily on the ground. The PLS trucks will pick up empty flat racks and return them to a supporting ammunition supply location. **A one-day supply of ammunition is maintained in this manner.**

The Headquarters, Modular ammunition Company will operate one ATP in the division rear, usually in the DSA. The ATP comes from the combining of the REAR ATP SECTION of three MLPs. The REAR ATP SECTION can work as part of an ATP or stay combined with the MLP platoon to run an ammunition point. This ATP, along with the ASPs, will support corps, divisional, and nondivisional units in the division rear.

Corps units, such as corps artillery, ADA, and engineers, employed in the brigade area pick up their ammunition at the forward ATPs. However, ammunition requirements need to be precoordinated with the DAO to determine that stocks exist at those forward ATPs. However, it is possible that the ATP may require augmentation from the support HQ, Modular Ammunition Company in the form of a MLP.

## AMMUNITION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES (ASA)

The remaining types of ammunition operations are collectively called Ammunition Support Activities. The mission of an ASA is to receive, store, issue, maintain the theater's conventional ammunition stocks, and configure ammunition into MCLs.

There are three types of ASAs in a theater: Ammunition Supply Points (ASPs), Corps Storage Areas (CSAs), and Theater Storage Areas (TSAs). An ATP is not considered an ASA due to its temporary nature.

### Ammunition Supply Point (ASP)

Located in the division rear and operated by a Medium Lift Platoon (MLPs) from a Headquarters, Modular Ammunition Company, the ASP provides Class V support to corps, divisional, and nondivisional units. Normally, three MLPs are required to support a division and to provide manning for the division rear ATP. Each ASP is a field site and is operated by one or more MLP. It should be located near an improved road network in order to ensure access by theater/corps transportation assets. **It maintains a one- to three-day supply of ammunition in order meet routine, surge, and emergency requirements supported units.** The actual stockage level and size of an ASP are METT-TC dependent.

The ASP can expand to 5 or 6 square kilometers or even larger depending on the factors of METT-TC. Unlike the CSA and TSA, ASP stocks are most often stored on the ground on unimproved surfaces. Under current doctrine the ASP receives 100% of its requirements from a supporting CSA. **Once in the ASP, the ammunition is issued in single-DODIC loads or as MCLs.**

### Corps Storage Area (CSA)

The CSA is the primary source of high-tonnage Class V ammunition for the division and corps. Operated by a Headquarters, Modular Ammunition Company with a combination of Medium Lift and Heavy Lift Platoons (HLPs). The CSA also provides DS, by area, to units operating in the corps. The stockage objective of the CSA should be from 10 to 15 days of supply (DOS) initially. After the initial combat drawdown, the CSA should maintain a 7-10 DOS. The number, size, and actual stockage objective of CSAs are METT-TC dependent. One CSA is normally required to support ASP and ATP operations for each committed division.

In established theaters, initial stockage of the CSA is 100-percent break-bulk from Army Propositioned Stocks (APS). Once the supply system is established, the CSA receives about 50 percent of its ammunition from the POD. The remainder is from the TSA. Generally, ammunition resupply from the POD is both break-bulk and containerized, **while shipments from the TSA are single-DODIC loads. Ammunition is normally shipped from the CSA to an ASP in single-DODIC and multi-DODIC loads and as Mission Configured Loads (MCLs). The ammunition shipped from the CSA to the ATPs is configured into MCLs.**

The CSA can expand to encompass about 40 square kilometers. The storage environment depends on the tactical situation. It allows for enough room for the CSA to

configure MCLs for onward movement. A medium truck company should be identified to work in DS of the CSA and should be collocated in or near the CSA.

## Theater Storage Area (TSA)

The TSA is the largest ammunition facility in the theater. It is operated by a Headquarters, Modular Ammunition Company with several HLPs (and maybe a MLP) and provides direct support, by area, to units operating in the COMMZ and provides GS to the corps within the theater. The number, size, and stockage objective of a TSA is METT-TC driven and determined by the ASCC.

The TSA is normally a permanent or semi-permanent storage facility. It may also expand like the CSA to cover up to about 40 square kilometers. However, in a combat environment, the TSA may be relocated to a field environment where ammunition stocks are kept in open storage. To ensure smooth shipment operations, the TSA should be located where there is ready access to highway, rail, air, and port facilities. Other units in or near the TSA (such as transportation and terminal support units) help the GS ammunition company conduct railhead operations as well as transload operations when changing from one mode of transportation to another.

**The TSA receives 100 percent of its ammunition from the port of debarkation (POD), whether it is a seaport, airhead, or logistics-over-the-shore (LOTS) operations.** The ammunition and components received are either containerized, break-bulk, or a combination of both. The ammunition arrives at the TSA on theater transportation assets, primarily railcars and trucks. Undercurrent doctrine, ammunition sent from the TSA to the CSA and ASP is generally shipped as **single DODIC loads**. Since a high percentage of the TSA's receipts are containerized, the containers must be effectively managed by both ammunition and transportation personnel to ensure accountability and to retrograde them efficiently for reuse.

## Ammunition Units

Supply Company, FSB. This unit provides one ammunition transfer point (ATP) for transferring 572 short tons of high usage class V (for a heavy division) from corps transportation to supported units' ammunition vehicles daily.

From October 2000 the ammunition community underwent a major doctrinal change in force structure design. **There are no more DS and GS ammunition companies; units are now modular.** This allows for a more flexible distribution system. Modules can be deployed to support forces as required. It also allows for modules to be sent forward to support units when additional support is required.

The concept of modular units permits the building of ammunition units tailored for specific functions. Notwithstanding this capability, modular companies and platoons can be tasked with routine functions such as ASP and ATP missions.

Headquarters, Modular Ammunition Ordnance Company. Provides command, control, administrative, planning and logistical support for two to five geographically separate or centrally located modular ammunition platoons (MLPs, HLPs, or a combination of both) in either the corps or COMMZ areas. Operates the unit supply and provides limited

construction and firefighting equipment for assigned platoons. It will collocate with at least one platoon for logistics support.

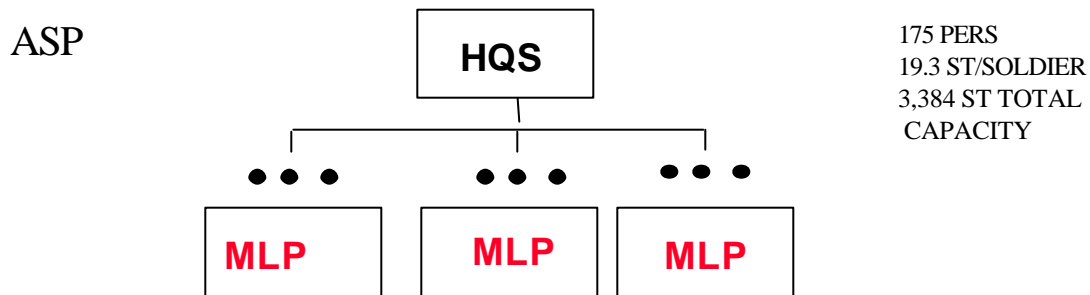


Figure 9-III-2. Headquarters, Modular Ammunition Company for an ASP (Example)

*Modular Ammunition Ordnance, Medium Lift Platoon (MLP).* Receives, configures, inspects, manages, issues, ships, and retrogrades ammunition stocks utilizing the palletized load system (PLS). This platoon operates one (1) ASP and one third (1/3) of a Rear ATP. This platoon will combine with two other MLPs in support of a division. After the platoon provides the 1/3 of a Rear ATP it will have a total lift capability of 1,128 short tons daily. With the 1/3 slide it has a lift capability of 1,521 short tons daily. The MLP can operate independently from the Modular Headquarters, but it will require outside support for sustainment. Can be combined with Heavy Lift Platoons (HLPs) to operate a CSA or TSA.

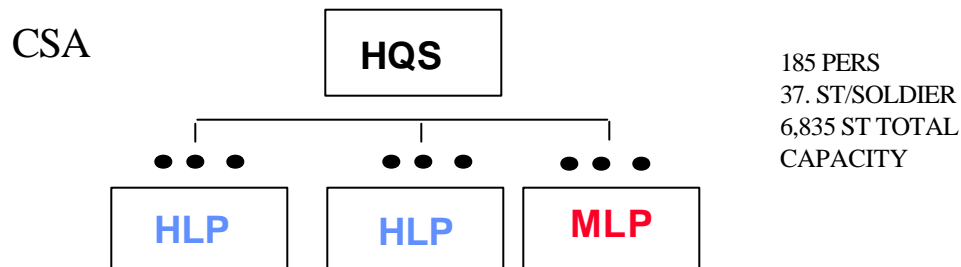


Figure 9-III-3. Modular Ammunition Company for a CSA (Example)

*Modular Ammunition Ordnance, Heavy Lift Platoon (HLP).* Receives, ships, configures, inspects, manages, issues, ships, and retrogrades containerized ammunition. Operates independently or as a part of a larger unit. This platoon has a total lift capability of 2,657 short tons per day. The HLP has a crane section that allows it to load or off-load 20-foot containers. Like the MLP, it can operate independently from the Modular Headquarters, but it will require outside support for sustainment. It does require a Military Police Security Company to provide external security. Can be used to operate CSAs or TSAs.

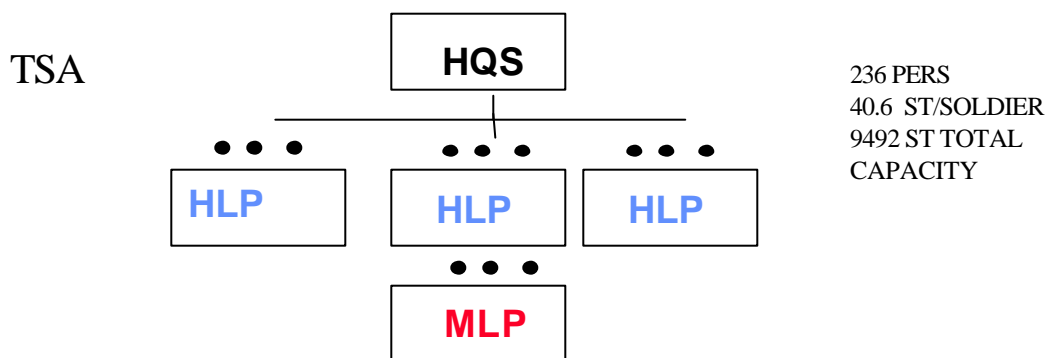


Figure 9-III-4. Headquarters, Modular Ammunition Company for a TSA (EXAMPLE)

## Class V Flow

Ammunition issued to users must be replaced by ammunition moved up from rear storage areas. In turn, ammunition stockage levels at the rear storage areas must be maintained by shipments from CONUS or other out of theater locations. The quantity of ammunition shipped forward is determined by the amount on hand, current and projected expenditures, and the controlled supply rate (CSR).

Each battalion S4 transmits a request for resupply of ammunition (usually MCLs) for organic and attached combat units through the brigade S4 to the Division Ammunition Officer (DAO) in the Division Materiel Management Center (DMMC). The DAO coordinates and controls the use of Class V supplies for the Division and consolidates the Division's requests and submits them to the Corps MMC. The CMMC, in coordination with the Corps G4, reviews all requests and balances them against the CSR issued by theater. It is the CSR that is issued to support the maneuver units by Corps, such that some ammunition requirements are prioritized due to scarcity, or not issued due to unavailability. The DAO and CMMC coordinate for the shipment of ammunition to the designated ATP for pickup by the requesting unit. In some situations, the DAO may designate an ASP rather than an ATP to provide more responsive ammunition resupply to the units in the division rear. Most issues to the brigade (75%) will be done through MCLs from the CSA. Use of MCLs does not preclude ordering single DODIC loads if required for specific missions or contingencies.

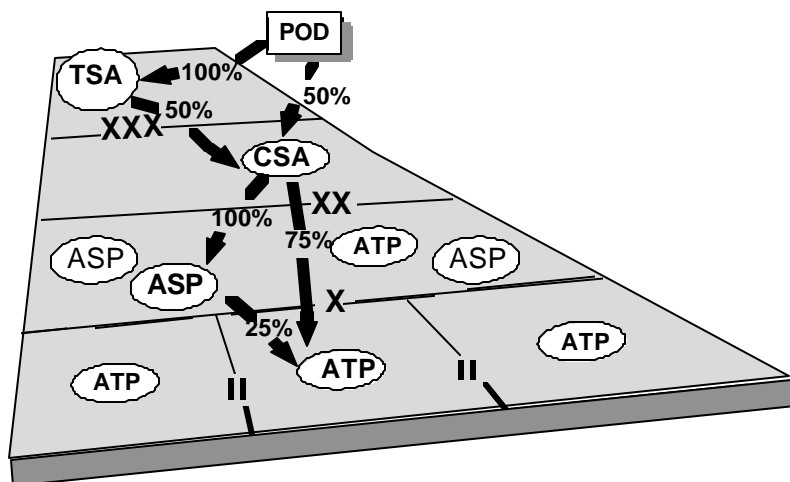


Figure 9-III-5. Class V Supply Flow (MOADS-PLS)

Combat support and CSS units normally do not consume the large quantities of ammunition that MCLs are designed to provide. These units may draw their ammunition requirements from their supporting ASP, CSA, or TSA.

## **Key Terms**

### **Department Of Defense Identification Code (DODIC)**

An alphanumeric designation used to identify a specific item or component part of Class V materiel (for example, D544 is the DODIC for 155mm Projectile, HE).

### **Required Supply Rate (RSR)**

The amount of ammunition expressed in terms of rounds per weapon per day for ammunition items fired by weapons and, in terms of other units of measure per day, for bulk allotment and other items estimated to be required to sustain operations of any designated force without restriction for a specified period. The tactical commanders use this rate to state their requirements for ammunition to support planned tactical operations at specified intervals.

### **Controlled Supply Rate (CSR)**

The rate of ammunition consumption that can be supported, considering availability, facilities, and transportation. It is expressed in rounds per unit, individual, weapon, or vehicle per day. The ASCC announces the CSR for each item of ammunition, and, in turn, the commander of each subordinate unit determines the CSR for its units. A unit may not draw ammunition in excess of its CSR without authority from its next higher HQ.

### **Ammunition Basic Load**

That quantity of conventional ammunition authorized and required to be on hand in a unit to meet combat needs until resupply can be accomplished. The ABL must be capable of being carried in one lift by a unit's personnel and equipment. The ABL is specified by the ASCC and is expressed in rounds for ammunition items fired by weapons and in other units of measure for bulk allotment. ABL is a subset of Unit Basic Load (UBL). UBL includes quantities of Class I to V and VIII (except medical repair parts), which a unit must be able to move in a single lift into combat.

### **Mission Configured Load (MCL)**

MCLs are pre-planned packages of high-density ammunition normally issued to combat units from ATPs. The purpose of MCLs is to simplify planning and coordination for ammunition resupply. Each MCL is configured into complete round mix/weapon system mix to meet a specific theater of operations requirement. They are normally designed to fit on an S&P trailer or PLS flat rack. The design of MCLs should take into consideration both host-nation and US transportation assets.

### **Strategic Configured Load (SCL)**

Ammunition is configured for a weapons system. SCL is configured at a CONUS depot and loaded on flat-racks and loaded into ISO containers for shipment to theater. This will streamline the ammunition logistics system, reduce in theater handling operations, and significantly increase ammunition transportation velocity.



PLS with trailer carrying ammunition built as a Mission Configured Load (MCL)



## **CHAPTER 9 – Section III**

### **THEATER SUPPLY -- AMMUNITION**

Manuals Required to Complete Homework: FM 9-6, FM 54-30, FM 63-2, FM 63-20, and FM 63-3.

1. Describe the flow of ammunition from the corps area to a brigade area.

Ref: FM 9-6, p2-2 to 2-5

2. Name the key ammunition players at corps and division levels and describe how they interface with one another.

Ref: FM 9-6, p 2-23 to 2-27

3. Name the two- (2) types of ammunition supply rates and briefly describe them.

a.

b.

Ref: FM 9-6, p3-2

4. Briefly explain the concept of Mission Configured Loads (MCLs).

Ref: FM 9-6, p1-4 or Glossary-3

5. Explain what a Corps Storage Area is and describe its mission.

Ref: FM 9-6, p 2-2

6. Explain what a Theater Storage Area is and describe its mission.

Ref: FM 9-6, p 2-2

7. The divisions ATPs receive \_\_\_\_\_ of the division's ammunition requirements from \_\_\_\_\_. The remaining \_\_\_\_\_ is received from \_\_\_\_\_. All ammunition is shipped \_\_\_\_\_.

Ref: FM 63-2, p 6-5,

8. At the FSB ATP, resupply from the ASP can be accomplished \_\_\_\_\_ by ground and \_\_\_\_\_ by air. The ATP is typically resupplied by corps transportation assets \_\_\_\_\_ times a day.

Ref: FM 63-20, p 7-16,

9. The Munitions Support Branch of the Support Operations Section in the COSCOM exercises staff supervision over Class V operations. These include \_\_\_\_\_ as well as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Ref: FM 63-3, p 5-1, and p 7-5

10. Depending on METT-TC, CSAs need an estimated \_\_\_\_\_ square kilometers or more, preferably near primary \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. Road networks need to support up to \_\_\_\_\_ trainers arriving daily at the CSA. There should be no more than \_\_\_\_\_ between CSAs and ATPs.

Ref: FM 54-30, p 7-8

## **Notes**