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UNIT MOVEMENT OPERATIONS

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HEADQUARTERS,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNIT MOVEMENT OPERATIONS

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This manual is about the movement of units. Movement responsibilities, movement planning and coordination, movement preparation, and movement execution.

Unit movement occurs in a variety of situations. Unit moves can be routine, as part of an exercise, reaction to a crisis or incident to the projection of force.

Army Goal: "With the right technological solutions...allow us to put a combat capable brigade anywhere in the world in 96 hours after liftoff, a division on the ground in 120 hours, and five divisions in 30 days."
— General Shinseki, CSA

The Chief of Staff of the Army has mandated that the Army be able to move a combat capable brigade anywhere in the world within 96 hours. Significant effort is being made to enhance the national ability to more rapidly project force: To more quickly put a viable combat capability on the ground anywhere in the world. This goal is being developed and met in terms of strategic deployment. However, each deployment involves a series or collection of unit movement operations.

The organizational level focus of this manual is the company, battalion, and brigade. This manual is designed to assist the unit commander and his non-commissioned officers in conducting successful unit movement operations. It does not provide step-by-step procedures, and it does not go into the details of the entire deployment process, which is the scope of other manuals. It is intended to define what is involved for the movement of units, and some detailed actions that must occur for the move to be successful, and where the responsibility for them are. The entire deployment process is covered in FM 3-35 (FM 100-17) Army Deployment and Redeployment Operations. Transportation Coordinator’s Automated Information for Movement System II business practices and terms are introduced in this manual, as well as other supporting and related automated information systems. Lastly, it provides a discussion of some of the tools available that are involved in the movement of units. An awareness of the scope of the task, how to plan for it, and how to coordinate it are the essentials of this manual.

This manual is the result of the developments and enhancements of the Army’s deployment capability, and reflects changes in Army transportation doctrine.
Chapter 1

Unit Movement Responsibilities

A unit move is the relocation of a force and its materiel to a desired area of operations. To accomplish a unit move, movement plans are developed and unit movement operations are conducted.

UNIT MOVEMENT OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

1-1. A unit movement operation is the movement of unit equipment, personnel, and accompanying supplies from one location to another. Unit movement operations are conducted during training exercises, mobilization, and deployment. Unit movement operations are planned, coordinated, and executed by four principal modes: rail, motor, air, and sea. The mode of movement determines tactics, techniques and procedures for preparation, planning, coordination and execution of unit movements. This FM discusses unit movement operations by all modes.

1-2. Every movement is unique. These operations seldom begin with a clear idea of the entire package or purpose. Often, they develop by bits and pieces, with a few false starts and subsequent large adjustments. They follow a general sequence, although the stages often overlap in space and time, and can happen simultaneously. The process is flexible and can be abbreviated and adjusted as required. However, the fundamental processes of moving units do not change to support a deployment. They become more complex because of the need to coordinate on a broad scale with other Services and organizations (outside the US Army).

NOTE: Redeployment is a separate phase of force deployment. However, it is a unit move and the principles of unit movement operations discussed in this FM prevail.

UNIT MOVEMENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1-3. The remainder of this chapter outlines the duties and responsibilities of key personnel during the coordination and planning of unit movement operations.

1-4. Unit movement operations involve the command’s staff expertise in personnel, intelligence, operations, and logistics. At the battalion and brigade level, staff proponency for movement operations resides with the S3 and is executed in coordination with the S4. Higher headquarters operations and intelligence staff conduct mission analysis and receive the commander’s intent for accomplishing the mission. The next step is to produce several courses of action to accomplish the mission. These courses of action may involve several task organizations and usually address limitations in transportation capability to support the mission. A course of action and task organization are selected which starts the unit movement planning sequence. Staff planners need to translate operational mission requirements into detailed and realistic unit movement plans. This translation must occur in a short time frame and must be able to capture continuous changes based on the current tactical situation. This process involves task organizing, echeloning, tailoring and movement.
1-5. Brigade level, battalion level, and separate company level organizations select soldiers to be trained in unit movement operations. These tasks are performed as additional duties in support of the unit mission. These soldiers are then appointed on additional duty orders to be responsible for these functions for their units. Unit movement training includes hazardous material certification, aircraft load planning, and unit loading teams. Unit loading teams that execute the load plans by physically loading, blocking, bracing, and tying down the load on the truck, aircraft, or railcar. Additional training is required on automated information systems such as Automated Air Load Planning System (AALPS) and Transportation Coordinators’ Automated Information for Movement Planning System (TC AIMS II). (See Commander's Unit Movement Officer checklist at Appendix K.) Additionally, the staffs in these organizations play an integral part in the unit movement process.

1-6. Commanders responsibilities include:

- Ensuring adequate movement plans are prepared.
- Ensuring proper execution of movements.
- Appointing a unit movement officer (UMO) and providing proper training.
- Ensuring that load teams are appointed and trained.
- Ensuring that hazardous materials (HAZMAT) personnel are properly certified, trained, and equipped.
- Ensuring that personnel responsible for movements receive the required training.
- Ensuring that the proper equipment and supplies are available for movements.
- Ensuring that the unit follows required regulatory and higher command guidance for unit movements.
- Maintaining the morale of the unit.
- Ensuring that unit responsibilities outlined in paragraph 1-11 are performed.

1-7. Executive Officers:

- Assists the unit commander in meeting the commander's movement responsibilities.
- Supervises the unit staff in all matters dealing with unit movements.

1-8. Brigade and battalion S1 and personnel administrative specialists have responsibility for maintaining the personnel and medical readiness information on all soldiers assigned to the unit. The battalion S1 coordinates the soldier readiness processing program. Unit commanders must have a formal review process in place to ensure soldiers meet deployment readiness requirements IAW AR 600-8-101. Soldier readiness is a continuous process that involves unit commanders and staff and the installation staff agencies. Unit commanders are responsible for ensuring their soldiers are prepared for deployment. To assist the unit commander in performing this task, the battalion S-1 and admin specialist must provide current information concerning an individual soldier's completion of the following requirements prior to deployment.

- Personnel - Verify re-enlistment status, family care plan, SGLI-8286, DD Form 93, ID Tags, ID cards, etc.
- Medical - Verify current HIV test, complete medical records, required immunizations, eyeglasses and insert requirements, medical history screening reviewed, existing profiles.
- Dental - Verify current panoramic x-ray on file, existence of pending or incomplete treatment requirements.