

FM 8-55

**PLANNING
FOR
HEALTH SERVICE SUPPORT**



HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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PLANNING FOR HEALTH SERVICE SUPPORT

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PREFACE

This manual provides guidance to health service support (HSS) planners at all echelons of care within a theater of operations (TO). It contains a digest of the accepted principles and procedures pertaining to HSS planning. Information in this publication is applicable across the spectrum of military operations. It is compatible with the Army's combat service support (CSS) doctrine. Readers should have a fundamental understanding of Field Manuals (FMs) 8-10, 100-5, 100-10, 100-15, 100-20, 101-5, and 101-10-1/1 and -1/2. The planner must supplement or replace the data in this manual with any known factors to meet the needs of his particular situation.

The staffing and organizational structure presented in this publication reflect information in the most current living tables of organization and equipment (LTOE) as of calendar year 1992. However, staffing is subject to change to comply with manpower requirements criteria outlined in Army Regulation (AR) 570-2. Your table of organization and equipment (TOE) can be subsequently modified.

A series of FMs currently under development will provide techniques and procedures for specific HSS organizations and activities in the TO. These manuals will be published over the next several years.

This publication implements the following North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and American, British, Canadian, and Australian (ABCA) International and Quadripartite Standardization Agreements (STANAGs and QSTAGs, respectively):

NATO STANAG	ABCA QSTAG	TITLE
2068	322	Emergency War Surgery
	291	Interface of Medical Materiel Procedures
	815	Blood Supply in the Area of Operations
	909	Principles of Prevention and Management of Combat Stress Reaction
2135		Procedures for Emergency Logistic Assistance
2500		NATO Handbook on the Medical Aspects of NBC Defensive Operations— AMedP-6(A)
2873		Concept of Operations of Medical Support in Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Environments—AMedP-7(A)
2874		Planning Guide for the Estimation of Battle Casualties (Nuclear)— AMedP-8
2939		Medical Requirements for Blood, Blood Donors, and Associated Equipment

The proponent of this publication is the United States (US) Army Medical Department Center and School (AMEDDC&S). Send comments and recommendations on Department of the Army (DA)Form 2028 directly to Commander, AMEDDC&S, ATTN: HSMC-FCD, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-6123.

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

CHAPTER 1

HEALTH SERVICE SUPPORT IN ARMY OPERATIONS**1-1. The Army's Keystone Doctrine**

Field Manual 100-5, the Army's keystone doctrinal manual, describes how the Army thinks about the conduct of operations. It is a condensed expression of the Army's participation in diverse environments in terms of what the force does in operations other than war (OOTW) and how the Army conducts war.

1-2. Range of Military Operations

a. The US seeks to achieve its strategic aims in three diverse environments.

(1) *Peacetime.* During peacetime, the US attempts to influence world events through those actions which routinely occur between nations. Typical peacetime operations include—

- Disaster relief.
- Nation assistance.
- Security and advisory assistance.
- Counterdrug operations.
- Arms control.
- Treaty verification.
- Support to domestic civil authorities.
- Peacekeeping.

(2) *Conflict.* Conflict is characterized by confrontation and the need to engage in hostilities short of war to secure strategic objectives. Although the American people, our government, and the US Army prefer peace, hostile forces may

seek to provoke a crisis or otherwise defeat our purpose of deterring war by creating a conflict. At the point where diplomatic influence alone fails to resolve the conflict, persuasion may be required, and the US could enter a more intense environment in which it uses the military to pursue its aim.

NOTE

The Army classifies its activities during peacetime and conflict as OOTW.

(3) *War.* The most violent and high-risk environment is that of war, with its associated combat operations.

b. Regardless of the specific type of operation, a return to the environment of peace is a major component of the desired strategic end-state.

1-3. Army Operations

a. Often the Army will find itself operating in all environments at once. The Army's mission is that of—

(1) Projecting land power to distant theaters, The Army supports power projection through force projection. This is a demonstrated ability to rapidly alert, mobilize, deploy, and conduct operations anywhere in the world. Forces are moved from the continental United States (CONUS) or a theater in response to requirements of war or OOTW. Force projection spans from mobilization and deployment of forces to distant theaters, to their redeployment to CONUS or their home theater and, subsequently, to their demobilization. Force projection involves the entire Army, as a forward presence or CONUS-based, both active