



CHAPTER I A QUARTERMASTER CORPS OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Since 1775, the QMC has provided logistical support to the United States (US) Army's combat forces. During its long history, it has developed a special one-to-one relationship between quartermasters and supported soldiers. This has been a critical factor in the success of the Corps and the keystone to its heritage. QM soldiers and units have a dual responsibility. They must be technically proficient and prepared to provide supply and field service support to the force. And, they must be tactically proficient and prepared to deploy as quickly as the combat and combat support forces. Once deployed, they must be able to fight and defend themselves. At the same time, they must concurrently provide logistical support on an extended battlefield.

The QMC is one of the more complex and diverse branches of the Army. It has personnel pronency for 11 enlisted military occupational

specialties (MOSs) in three career management fields, four warrant officer MOSs, and five officer areas of concentration. QM personnel serve in every type of unit--from units at the forward line of own troops (FLOT) to the theater rear boundary. These units range from light infantry to armor units, from special operations units to personnel and administration units, from artillery to signal units, and from ordnance to transportation units. We can also see the QMC diversity in the six tactical logistics functions described in Table 1-1.

RESPONSIBILITIES

QMC diversity can also be seen by a review of its mission and functions. The QMC, throughout the range of military operations, procures, provides, manages, and distributes supplies and field services. These support and sustain units, soldiers, and related materiel.

Table 1-1. CSS tactical logistics functions related to the QMC

FUNCTIONS	RELATIONSHIP TO QMC
Manning the force	The mortuary affairs function is responsible for the recovery and identification of soldiers killed in battle. This information feeds both the casualty notification and the personnel replacement systems.
Arming the force	Ammunition transfer points are organic to divisional supply companies.
Fueling the force	Total QMC responsibility.
Fixing the force	QMC is responsible for Class IX supply support and repair of airdrop equipment.
Moving the force	QMC is responsible for airdrop, development of deployment and storage systems, operation of pipelines, and movement of petroleum in tankers within divisions and separate brigades and ACRs.
Sustaining the soldier and his systems	QMC provides field services such as feeding, laundry, shower, clothing repair, and mortuary affairs, as well as supply support for all classes of supply except medical.

Supply Responsibilities

The QMC supply mission is to provide the doctrine, training, leader development, organizations, materiel, and soldier support in the following areas:

- **Class I:** Subsistence, including health and welfare items (health and comfort packs). See Chapter 9.

- **Class II:** Clothing, individual equipment, tentage, tool sets, and administrative and house-keeping supplies and equipment. See Chapter 10.

- **Class III:** petroleum, oils, and lubricants (POL) including petroleum fuels: lubricants, hydraulic and insulating oils, preservatives, liquid and compressed gases, chemical products, and coolants. See Chapters 10 and 11.

- **Class IV:** Construction materials, including installed equipment and all fortification and barrier materials. See Chapter 10.

- **Class VI:** Support to tactical field exchanges. See Chapter 12.

- **Class VII:** Major end items. See Chapter 13.

- **Class IX:** Repair parts. See Chapter 14.

- **Water:** Storage and distribution. See Chapter 15.

Field Services Responsibilities

The QMC field services mission is to provide doctrine, training, leader development, organizations, materiel, and soldier support in the following areas:

- **Airdrop:** Parachute packing, air item maintenance, and rigging of supplies and equipment for airdrop. See Chapter 17.

- **Feeding:** Providing the soldier with three quality meals a day, served hot, to include supplements. See Chapter 9.

- **Laundry:** Soldiers will be provided with 15 pounds of laundry support a week. See Chapter 19.

- **Shower:** The Army standard is one shower a soldier a week. The goal is two showers a week. See Chapter 19.

- **Water production:** The water purification process is a field service. Storage and distribution are supply functions. See Chapter 15.

- **Mortuary affairs:** Recovery, identification, and processing of human remains. See Chapter 18.

- **Clothing and light textile repair:** Minor repairs will be made on clothing being laundered. See Chapter 19.

Developmental Responsibilities

The QMC also has various developmental responsibilities. These include contingency contracting, split-based operations, supply and field services automation, selected materials handling equipment, tents and shelters, and various planning factors. It also provides significant support in the development of nonproponent doctrine and organizations. This support includes property disposal operations, materiel management centers, division redesign efforts, and command and control headquarters (such as the corps support battalion).