



CHAPTER 13

CLASS VII

INTRODUCTION

Class VII represents the major end items of supply. A major end item is a final combination of end products which is ready to use. Major end items represent a low percentage of the total line items of the Army inventory but a high percentage of its total dollar value. Because of their high dollar cost and overall importance to combat readiness, major end items are usually controlled through command channels. The requisitioning, procurement, distribution, maintenance, and disposal of these items are intensely managed at each support level to ensure visibility and operational readiness. Worldwide requirements for major end items are individually specified, computed, and programmed to meet the requirements of current or future force structures. Major end items are controlled and distributed IAW carefully developed distribution plans and directions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Class VII supply responsibilities are equally critical at all levels of logistics. Some of the major responsibilities are discussed below.

DA Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans (DCSOPS)

The DA DCSOPS is responsible for setting equipment distribution priorities and developing distribution plans for Army modernization items of equipment. Distribution priorities are listed on the Department of the Army Master Priority List (DAMPL) in AR 11-12.

Theater Army

During wartime, the distribution of major end items is delegated to the theater army commander

and staff. These items are managed by the TAMMC. Major end items are command-controlled, and supply requisitions are routed through the TAMMC.

NICPs

The NICPs (commodity commands) acquire and manage major end items. The degree of management depends on the cost and complexity of a particular item. Additionally, if depot maintenance is authorized, it will be managed or controlled by the NICP.

TRADOC

TRADOC develops mission profiles which project daily usage of selected end items. Usage is based on the initial 15 days of combat. It is reported as miles driven, rounds fired, or hours flown. These profiles are used for many purposes, including development of Class IX requirements and maintenance man-hour requirements.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

No two wars or engagements are ever fought under the same conditions. The rate at which items are consumed varies according to the intensity and length of combat. Wartime replacement factors are used to compute combat consumption and to determine war reserve requirements. Replacement factors are based on the type of combat mission and the ways in which equipment might be lost in combat. They include a combat intensity factor tailored to the degree of consumption expected in each area. Class VII items

are stocked and distributed in support of TOEs and TDAs for existing forces. Replacement is based on combat or other type losses. The intensity of the conflict and the criticality of employed systems will dictate the degree of weapons systems management required. These factors will also determine the particular levels of command that will require management offices. The weapon systems managers (WSMs) will ensure that the critical combat systems assets are allocated to the commands with the greatest needs. Weapons systems management is discussed in FM 63-3.

Strategic Class VII Supply

The strategic level of Class VII supply deals with the mobilization, acquisition, force projection, and movement of major end items to the theater in support of combat operations. It is the link between the nation's economic base and the military operations in the theater. The focus is on the determination of realistic, supportable resource requirements; the acquisition, management, and positioning of nationally owned supplies and equipment; and the coordinated displacement of that material in the theater of operations. The resources currently available in the theater of operations for use by friendly forces must be identified and access to them assured. Detailed analysis and prioritization of potential threats are critical to decisions on where our limited war reserve equipment is pre-positioned. Wartime sustainment will be maintained by determining what should be stockpiled and where nontraditional alternatives are available to compensate for the lack of a warm production base.

Operational Class VII Supply

The operational level of Class VII supply concentrates on the distribution and management of supplies and materiel. When Class VII items are managed as controlled items, the TAMMC oversees their distribution. Priority of

distribution is set by the theater army commander. It is essential that asset visibility and operational status be maintained. This will provide the information required to increase the combat power provided by the major end items of equipment. Weapons systems replacements may be issued from pre-positioned war reserve stocks. Items must be ready for issue within a few hours. There is a requirement to manage both the supply and the maintenance aspects of major items. Items that enter the GS level of maintenance and are repaired are returned to the supply system through the heavy materiel supply company (HMSC). This process allows for the theater to regenerate assets and, thereby, reduce the impact on the strategic level. Weapons systems are also sent from CONUS to the HMSC. From there, they are shipped to the division or directly to a unit.

Tactical Class VII Supply

The property book officer (PBO) in the DMMC is the weapons system manager in the division. Based on command guidance and through coordination with the G3, G4, and the DMMC, the PBO redistributes assets in the division to reduce shortages and weight the combat power of a particular portion of the force. Nondivisional units in the corps submit requests to their supporting DS supply company. The DSU sends the requests to the CMMC. The CMMC also receives Class VII requests from DMMCs and separate brigade and regimental MMCs. The CMMC submits a daily battle loss report to the TAMMC. If an item is on-hand in the theater and authorized for issue to the requesting unit, the TAMMC produces a materiel release order (MRO) directing the issue. Depending on transportation assets, the item will be scheduled for delivery to the requesting unit. If the item is not controlled by the TAMMC, the CMMC or TAACOM MMC can generate the MRO. The requisition and materiel flow of Class VII is shown in Figure 13-1 (page 13-3).

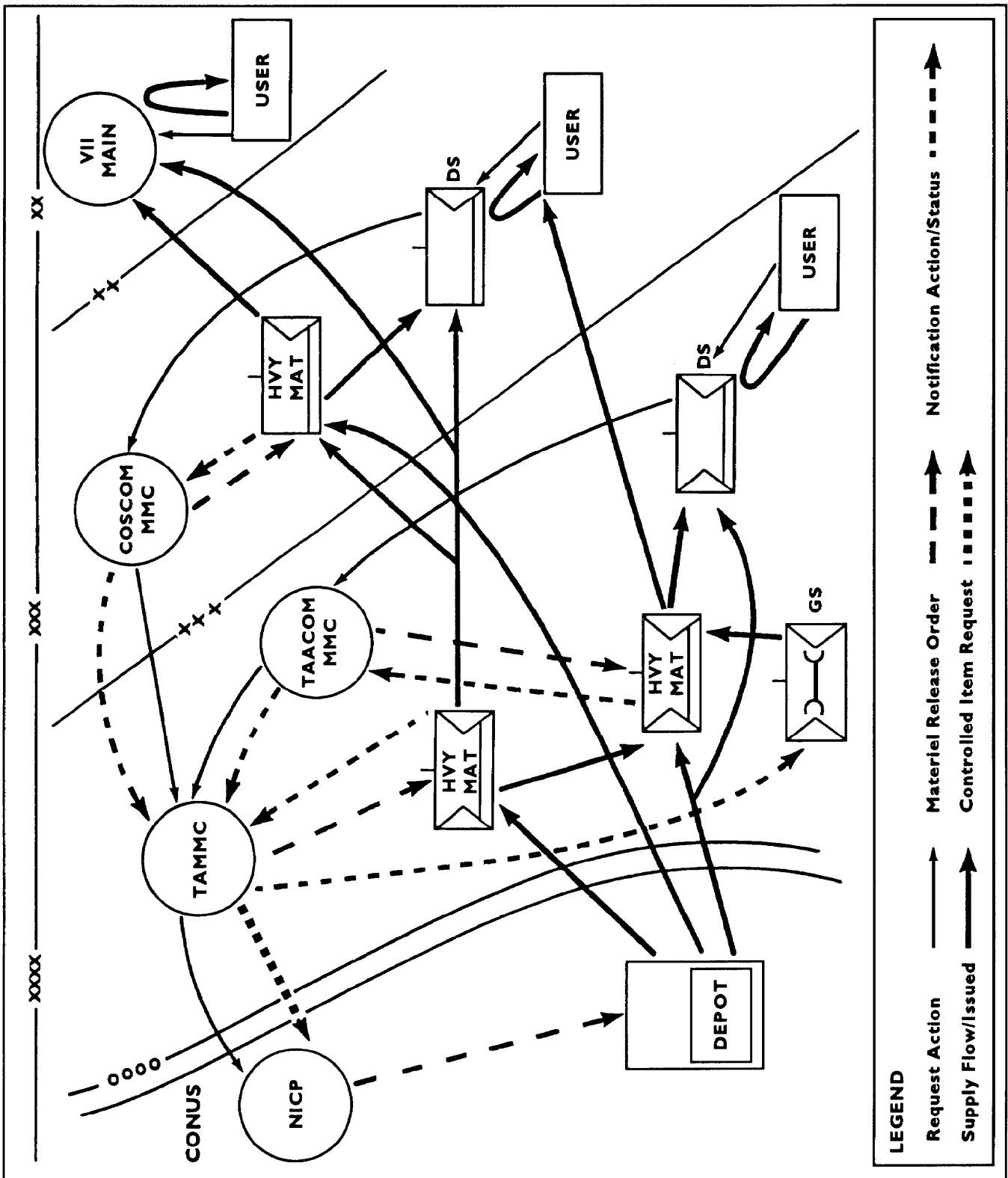


Figure 13-1. Class VII requisition and materiel flow

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The supply and resupply of a major end item are linked to the acquisition process and must be closely managed throughout the life cycle of the item. This will be especially important during the force modernization process. Systems and processes must be in place to ensure that new items being introduced will have minimum impact on readiness and the overall combat effectiveness of a unit. New items are introduced with a total package that includes the item, spares to support it, maintenance capability, and training for operators and maintainers. Operational readiness and accurate reporting are key to the planning process. The correct status of all items that support the combat mission is critical logistics information for the assessment of units and their possible contribution to the anticipated operation. Due to the size, weight, and cube of major end items, transition to war, for a force projection Army with its reliance on strategic lift, requires careful preparation. Two planning considerations are discussed below.

PPWR

PPWR are critical during the transition-to-war phase to allow for the provisioning of major end items. These reserve stocks are acquired during peacetime to meet sustainment needs until the production base capacity can be expanded to meet wartime requirements. When possible, PPWR should be positioned in locations that best support approved contingency, mobilization, and distribution plans. Maintenance of PPWR is the responsibility of the commander who controls the geographical area of location. Under the force

projection strategy, this responsibility will place an additional work load on the CONUS base.

Operational Project Stocks

Operational project (OPROJ) assets are acquired during peacetime. They are used for initial provisioning of equipment and supplies in support of specific operations, contingencies, and war plans. These items are for initial provisioning in contrast to war reserves that are intended for replacement and sustainment purposes. Operational projects are used to identify equipment above normal allowances to support operations, contingencies, and war plans.

RELATED DOCTRINE

A number of publications expand upon the concepts and material covered in this chapter. Some of these are listed in Table 13-1.

Table 13-1. Publications related to this chapter

Update Publications	Topic
Unit Supply UPDATE	Various ARs & DA Pams related to supply
Field Manuals	Topic
10-27	General supply
10-27-1	QM GS supply operations
10-27-2	QM DS supply operations
10-27-3	QM headquarters organizations