Change 1
Army Techniques Publication
No. 4-12

Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, DC, 29 July 2013

Army Container Operations

1. This change updates the Glossary, Section II- Terms for ATP 4-12.

2. A plus sign (+) marks new material.

3. ATP 4-12, May 2013, is changed as follows:

Remove Old Pages Insert New Pages

page i through page ii
page 3-1 and 3-2
pages Glossary-1 through Glossary-3
page Reference-1

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page 3-1 and 3-2
pages Glossary-1 through Glossary-3
page Reference-1

4. File this transmittal sheet in front of the publication for reference purposes.

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Army Container Operations

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Preface

Army Techniques Publication (ATP) 4-12 augments the sustainment doctrine established in Army Doctrine Publication (ADP) 4-0, Sustainment. It constitutes the Army’s view of how the Army manages containers on land and sets the foundation for developing additional tactics, techniques, and procedures. It also forms the basis for Army training and education system curricula.

The principal audience for ATP 4-12 is all members of the profession of arms. Commanders and staffs of Army headquarters serving as joint task force or multinational headquarters should also refer to applicable joint or multinational doctrine concerning the range of military operations and joint or multinational forces. Trainers and educators throughout the Army will also use this manual.

ATP 4-12 uses joint terms where applicable. Selected joint and Army terms and definitions appear in both the glossary and the text. Terms for which ATP 4-12 is the proponent publication (the authority) are marked with an asterisk (*) in the glossary. Definitions for which ATP 4-12 is the proponent publication are boldfaced in the text. For other definitions shown in the text, the term is italicized and the number of the proponent publication follows the definition.

Commanders, staffs and subordinates must ensure their decisions and actions comply with applicable United States, international, and, in some cases, host nation laws and regulations. Commanders at all levels ensure their Soldiers operate in accordance with the law of War and the rules of engagement. (See Field Manual 27-10)

ATP 4-12 applies to the Active Army, Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and United States Army Reserve unless otherwise stated.

U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) is the proponent for this publication. The preparing agency is the Doctrine Division, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command. Send written comments and recommendations on a DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to Commander, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee, ATTN: ATCL-TDD (ATP 4-12), 2221 Adams Avenue, Fort Lee, VA 23801, or submit an electronic DA Form 2028 via email to usarmy.lee.tradoc.mbx.lee-cascom-doctrine@mail.mil.
Chapter 3

Theater Container Management

This chapter discusses theater container management within the distribution system. The container system must have sufficient capability to meet required delivery dates and requirements for mobilization, deployment, employment, distribution, sustainment, and redeployment. Containers facilitate and optimize cargo carrying capabilities via intermodal transport without intermediate handling of the container’s contents. This method of cargo distribution provides fast and flexible preparation, employment, deployment, sustainment of forces in a theater of operations and extends operational reach.

CONTAINER MANAGEMENT IN THEATER

3-1. The DMC establishes the procedures for Army container management and sets priorities for container movement control within a theater. It maintains information on the location, status, type (government, leased, carrier) and condition of containers within the theater. The DMC coordinates with sustainment brigades, the movement control battalion (MCB) and their movement control teams (MCT) on container movement and location at nodes within the distribution system. The MCTs provide visibility on containers that are ready to be returned to the theater for reuse.

3-2. Commanders throughout a theater are responsible for management of containers within their possession. They must plan and synchronize use and movement of containers in accordance with the procedures from the TSC distribution management center (DMC). Commanders are required to return commercial/carrier containers once they have been emptied. Failure to return these containers may result in detention charges against an organization with leased or commercial container past their allowable time for use.

3-3. Commanders are responsible for the timely and accurate reporting of container event information. Container event information includes:
   - When the container was delivered.
   - When the container was discharged.
   - When the container was released to the container owner.
   - When the container was picked up by the container owner.
   - When the container status changes (empty/full).
   - When the container is exported.
   - When the inventory status is updated.
   - When a notification to the carrier that the container is available for pickup.

3-4. The purpose of having visibility of container events is to ensure that cargo is delivered to the consignee as rapidly as possible and returned to the distribution system in a timely manner. Return of containers within the contracted period eliminates detention charges to the government. Maintaining visibility also reduces the diversion of containers for other purposes such as permanent storage.

JOINT DEPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONS CENTER

3-5. The CCDR may decide to establish its joint deployment and distribution operations center (JDDOC) to assist with information management and container control in theater. The JDDOC provides the CCDR with critical information on container movements within the distribution system. It provides assistance with containers and intermodal assets entering and leaving the theater. The JDDOC provides assistance in receiving,
diverting, and staging of container within the theater. It supports the CCDR requirements by working with MCTs to de-conflict container movement priorities in theater.

COUNTRY CONTAINER AUTHORITY

3-6. The country container authority (CCA) is the appointed staff element that is responsible for enforcement of theater container management policy and procedures established by the CCDR. Service Component and/or Joint Task Force commanders may establish a CCA to assist in providing theater container management. The CCA works with the TSC and/or expeditionary sustainment command in managing the container control officers (CCOs) throughout the theater.

CONTAINER CONTROL OFFICER

3-7. The container control officer (CCO) is a designated official (E6 or above or civilian equivalent) within a command, installation, or activity who is responsible for control, reporting, use and maintenance of all Department of Defense—owned and controlled intermodal containers and equipment. This officer has custodial responsibility for containers from time received until dispatched. The CCO is responsible for control, reporting, use, maintenance and custodial control of intermodal containers and equipment in the Army Container Asset Management System (ACAMS). The CCO is an additional duty within an organization or unit. The position may be best suited for a property book officer and supply or maintenance sergeants. The CCO must have an account within the Army Container Asset Management System (ACAMS) and the Integrated Booking System-Container Management Module (IBS-CMM) to assist with recording and reporting container events within 48 hours. The CCO is responsible for reporting container receipt and shipment events in ACAMS.

3-8. The CCO’s greatest responsibility is conducting and assisting in inventories of containers within their area of responsibility. Inventory information is passed through the chain of command and directly to the CCA for theater container accountability. The CCO must update container condition code information within ACAMS and assist in deployment/redeployment planning. This information assists the CCA in maintaining a container status for containers in theater. It also provides visibility of commercial/leased containers that have moved forward in theater.

CONTAINER OPERATIONS WITHIN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

3-9. Unit equipment can be transported using 20-foot containers and flatracks. The goal is to deliver unit equipment directly to units in their assembly areas. This is dependent on the desired destination in theater and the arrival of the unit. Unit equipment might transit the same channels as sustainment on the way to the assembly area. Sustainment shipments in containers may be sent directly to its final destination (supply support activity or unit). Ammunition shipments are sent directly from the port of debarkation (POD) to the theater storage area. The ammunition is then broken down and sent to forward areas, as required.

PORT OF DEBARKATION

3-10. SDDC and/or a terminal battalion execute the CCDR’s plan for ship arrival, discharge, and onward movement of containers and cargo arriving at seaport of debarkation (SPODs) in theater. As containers are discharged, they are scanned into container tracking and in-transit visibility systems prior to movement to the container marshalling yard. The MCT supports a container marshalling yard for receiving containers and coordinating transportation requirements. The MCT will arrange for onward movement of containers to receiving units and supply support activities in theater. The MCT will maintain documentation of containers and cargo discharged at the POD. At a minimum, the MCT will:

- Provide inbound container information to consignees.
- Report the receipt of unscheduled containers to the theater.
- Release empty containers and coordinate the pickup.
Glossary

The glossary lists acronyms and terms with Army or joint definitions. Where Army and joint definitions differ, (Army) precedes the definition. Terms for which ATP 4-12 is the proponent are marked with an asterisk (*).

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACAMS</td>
<td>Army Container Asset Management System</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIDPMO</td>
<td>Army Intermodal Distribution Platform Management Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIT</td>
<td>automatic information technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMC</td>
<td>Air Mobility Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANSI</td>
<td>American National Standards Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>APOE</td>
<td>aerial port of embarkation</td>
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<tr>
<td>APOD</td>
<td>aerial port of debarkation</td>
</tr>
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<td>ARFOR</td>
<td>Army Force</td>
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<td>ARNORTH</td>
<td>Army North</td>
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<td>ASP</td>
<td>Ammunition storage point</td>
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<td>BCS3</td>
<td>Battle Command Sustainment Support System</td>
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<td>CADS</td>
<td>Containerized Ammunition Distribution System</td>
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<td>CCA</td>
<td>Country container authority</td>
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<td>CCO</td>
<td>Container control officer</td>
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<td>CDDR</td>
<td>Combatant Commander</td>
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<td>CHE</td>
<td>container handling equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONUS</td>
<td>continental United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>CROP</td>
<td>containerized roll-in/out platform</td>
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<td>CRSP</td>
<td>centralized receiving and ship point</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSC</td>
<td>international convention for safe containers</td>
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<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>Department of the Army</td>
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<td>DLA</td>
<td>Defense Logistics Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>DMC</td>
<td>distribution management center</td>
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<td>DOD</td>
<td>Department of Defense</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOT</td>
<td>Department of Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>DODAAC</td>
<td>Department of Defense activity address code</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPO</td>
<td>distribution process owner</td>
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<td>DTR</td>
<td>Defense Transportation Regulation</td>
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<td>DTS</td>
<td>Defense Transportation System</td>
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<td>ESC</td>
<td>expeditionary sustainment command</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEPP</td>
<td>foreign excess personal property</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCC</td>
<td>geographic combatant commander</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCM</td>
<td>global container manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPM</td>
<td>global pallet manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>hazardous material</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Glossary

HN  host nation
IAW  in accordance with
IBS-CMM  Integrated Booking System-Container Management Module
ICODES  Integrated Computerized Deployment System
ISO  international organization for standardization
ITO  installation transportation office
ITV  in-transit visibility
JDDOC  joint deployment and distribution operations center
JP  joint publication
LOTS  logistics over-the-shore
MCB  movement control battalion
MCT  movement control team
MHE  material handling equipment
PBO  property book officer
POD  port of debarkation
POE  port of embarkation
QUADCON  quadruple container
REEFER  refrigerated container
RFID  radio frequency identification
SDDC  Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command
SPOD  seaport of debarkation
SPOE  seaport of embarkation
TC-AIMS II  Transportation Coordinator’s Automated Information for Movement System II
TPFDD  time–phased force and deployment data
TRICON  triple container
TSA  theater storage area
TSC  theater sustainment command
UIC  unit identification code
U.S.  United States
USACASCOM  United States Army Combined Arms Support Command
USAMC  United States Army Materiel Command
USC  Universal Services Contract
USTRANSCOM  United States Transportation Command

SECTION II – TERMS

Carrier-owned containers
Containers owned or leased by the ocean liner carrier for the movement of intermodal cargo. (ATP 4-12)

Container control officer
A designated official (E6 or above or civilian equivalent) within a command, installation, or activity who is responsible for control, reporting, use and maintenance of all Department of Defense–owned and controlled intermodal containers and equipment. This officer has custodial responsibility for containers from time received until dispatched. (JP 4-09)
**Container management**
The process of establishing and maintaining visibility and accountability of all cargo containers moving within the DTS. (ADRP 4-0)

*COUNTRY CONTAINER AUTHORITY*
The appointed staff element that is responsible for enforcement of theater container management policy and procedures established by the combatant commander. (ATP 4-12)

**Detention**
A charge made on a carrier conveyance held by or otherwise delayed through the cause of the United States Government. (ATP 4-12)

**Government-owned containers**
Containers purchased by the U.S. Government identified by ISO numbers starting with USAU or USAX. (ATP 4-12)

**In-transit visibility (ITV)**
The ability to track the identity, status and location of Department of Defense units and non-unit cargo (excluding bulk petroleum, oils, and lubricants) and passengers; patients and personal property from origin to consignee or destination across the range of military operations. (JP 4-01.2)

**Standardization**
The process by which the Department of Defense achieves the closest practicable cooperation among the Services and Department of Defense Agencies for the most efficient use of research, development, and production resources, and agrees to adopt on the broadest possible basis the use of: a. common or compatible operational, administrative, and logistics procedures; b. common or compatible technical procedures and criteria; c. common, compatible, or interchangeable supplies, components, weapons, or equipment; and d. common or compatible tactical doctrine with corresponding organizational compatibility. (JP 1-02)

*THEATER CONTAINER MANAGEMENT*
The supervision and control of containers as they move through the distribution system to ensure they are delivered, discharged and returned in accordance to the combatant commander’s concept of operations. (ATP 4-12)
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References

REQUIRED PUBLICATIONS
These documents must be available to intended users of this publication.
ADRP 1-02, Operational Terms and Military Symbols, 31 August 2012
JP 1-02, Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms, 8 November 2011

RELATED PUBLICATIONS
These documents contain relevant supplemental information.

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Most Army doctrinal publications are available online:
ADP 3-0, Unified Land Operations, 10 October 2011
ADP 4-0, Sustainment, 31 July 2012
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DD Form 1387, Military Shipment Label.
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