

Army Prepositioned Stock – Fact Sheet

United States Army Central
USARCENT, Chief of Public Affairs



The Army Prepositioned Stock program is a cornerstone of the Army's ability to rapidly project power and send a clear signal of U.S. commitment. Sets of equipment, such as all the tanks and wheeled vehicles of an armored brigade combat team, are strategically prepositioned in climate controlled facilities worldwide. This reduces deployment response times by allowing Soldiers to fly to a theater and fall in directly on all the equipment they need to fight and win.

These stocks—identified as APS-1 (United States), APS-2 (Europe), APS-3 (Afloat), APS-4 (Northeast Asia), and APS-5 (Southwest Asia)—are available to support all combatant commanders' missions, not only in contingencies, but also major exercises and humanitarian missions.

APS equipment has been used as a deterrent in the Middle East since Operations Desert Shield/Storm. During Operation Vigilant Warrior in 1994, the U.S. 24th Infantry Division was issued APS equipment; due to the quick response and training capability afforded by this prepositioned equipment, U.S. forces were able to discourage the Iraqi Army from making a second invasion of Kuwait.

USARCENT Responsibility

USARCENT is responsible for providing managerial oversight and monitoring operational readiness of APS in Kuwait, Qatar and Afghanistan. We Set the Theater; conduct intelligence preparation of the battlefield; conduct detailed planning to determine the Sea Port of Debarkation and the locations for issuing and staging APS equipment; move equipment within the Area of Operations and from the APS site to aerial port of debarkation or sea port of debarkation (if APS equipment needs to be moved from one theater to another); determine unique requirements for download, transportation, and handling of ammunition; coordinate with the unified command, USTRANSCOM, and other supporting agencies to sequence the arrival of unit equipment and personnel for on load to avoid bottlenecks at the aerial port of embarkation; select sites for the assembly area, Tactical Assembly Area, and redeployment assembly area; and assist in filling set shortages using Theater Provided Equipment Planner to identify equipment available from within the USARCENT area of operations.

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402nd Army Field Support Brigade

The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) does the day-to-day management of the APS fleet of equipment at two locations, Kuwait and Qatar and with a contractor work force ensures all the equipment is maintained in such condition that it is survivable for the entire initial phases of a conflict with little or no major repairs by the unit.

The Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait manages APS-5, including Theater Sustainment Stocks and Heavy and Infantry Brigade Combat Team sets from its headquarters at Camp Arifjan. The battalion is also an integral part of retrograde support and theater-wide support to Southwest Asia.

Army Field Support Battalion-Qatar executes contract oversight for the Qatar APS-5 Materiel Enterprise, which is comprised of APS-5, including Theater Sustainment Stocks, Fires and Sustainment Brigades, and an Ammunition Supply Point. In addition, AFSBn-Qatar provides government oversight to the Stryker Battle Damage repair facility.

401st Army Field Support Brigade

The 401st AFSB executes, directs and manages field and sustainment level logistics for U.S. and selected coalition forces in Afghanistan. They serve as the single-entry point for integration and synchronization for acquisition, logistics and technology between the tactical and the materiel enterprise while enhancing unit readiness and improving combat capability in accordance with ARCENT and USFOR-A priorities.

Future of APS

APS equipment will continue to be modernized to match unit home station equipment to reduce training requirements upon deployment. The HQDA APS Strategy will provide combatant commanders with responsive capabilities to execute lesser contingencies and theater security cooperation activities, while reducing lift requirements in the early phases of military operations.

