



U.S. ARMY

U.S. ARMY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

ARMY FIELD SUPPORT BATTALION - CHARLESTON

A subordinate unit of the 404th Army Field Support Brigade, the Army Field Support Battalion-Charleston is the home of the Army's Prepositioned Stocks Programs, APS-3. The National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal 1994 required the U.S. Army to establish a prepositioned maintenance facility in Charleston, South Carolina. As a result of this act the U.S. Army Strategic Mobility Logistics Base officially stood up on the Naval Weapons Station in Charleston on Oct. 13, 1995. The initial set of APS-3 equipment was a 2 x 2 brigade, consisted of two armor battalions, two mechanized infantry battalions, ammunition, sustainment cargo, and a port opening package. APS-3 provides the U.S. Army the capability to rapidly deploy and respond to any worldwide contingency by maintaining combat and combat support equipment, and essential supply commodities aboard ship for rapid download and handoff to a unit on order of the National Command Authority. AFSBn-CHS has been operating at the Naval Weapons Station, Charleston (now Joint Base Charleston), since 1995, and currently occupies a 330-acre maintenance and logistics facility, plus a 25-acre staging lot and deep water pier on the Cooper River.

Today, APS-3 equipment is configured to unit sets and is staged aboard Large Medium Speed Roll on/Roll off Ships that are then staged at ports around the globe. Ships return APS-3 equipment to AFSBn-CHS for maintenance and servicing, and to update/reconfigure unit sets to revised authorizations with the latest available equipment. All APS-3 LMSR and sustainment ammunition operations for inspection, resupply and reconfiguration are performed at the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point in Southport, North Carolina. Currently the APS-3 program has seven ships afloat: an Infantry Brigade Combat Team (2 ships), A Sustainment Brigade (2 ships), the Theater Opening/Port Opening package (1 ship), and two container ships with ammunition. AFSBn-CHS

APS-3 missions are conducted by 565 logistics contractors, 31 Department of the Army Civilians, and seven active-duty Soldiers. Other team members include the Military Sealift Command (Ship Operations), Fort Gordon (Calibration Services), Fort Bragg (Oil Analysis), the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (ammunition maintenance and storage), the 841st Transportation Terminal Battalion (ship discharge and upload), and Joint Base Charleston (security and facilities support).

ECONOMIC IMPACT – Over \$82 million annually: AFSBn-CHS employs over 600 personnel from the Charleston area – including contractors, government employees, and active-duty military personnel – and executes an average annual budget of approximately \$45 million. The AFSBn-CHS operating contractor subcontracts to small businesses in the local historically underutilized business zone and throughout South Carolina, for both material acquisitions and labor. Every AFSBn-CHS job creates an average of 1.27 jobs in the local community, and every AFSBn-CHS dollar spent creates an average of \$1.83 of regional economic activity.

