

ARMY LOGISTICIAN

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ABOUT THE COVER

The soldier shown on the cover is typical of those like him throughout the Army who keep the Army's equipment operational. Two stories, beginning on pages 2 and 6, discuss retail and wholesale maintenance support.

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Waste Not, Want Not
—Captain Bryce L. Slabaugh
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Army Logistician's mission is to provide timely, authoritative information on Army and Defense logistics to the Active Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, civilian employees of the Army, and the public. Its purpose is to increase knowledge and understanding of logistics and to assist in achieving the Army's information goals.

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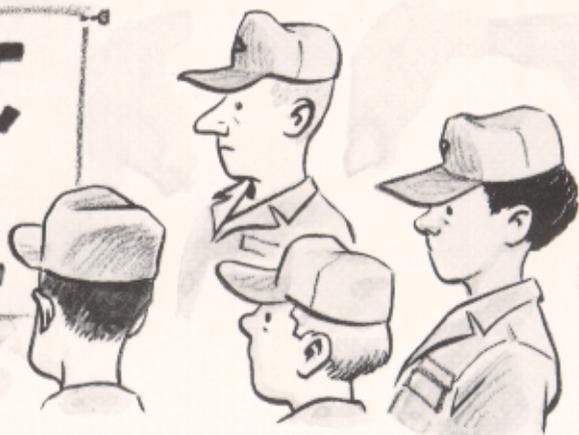
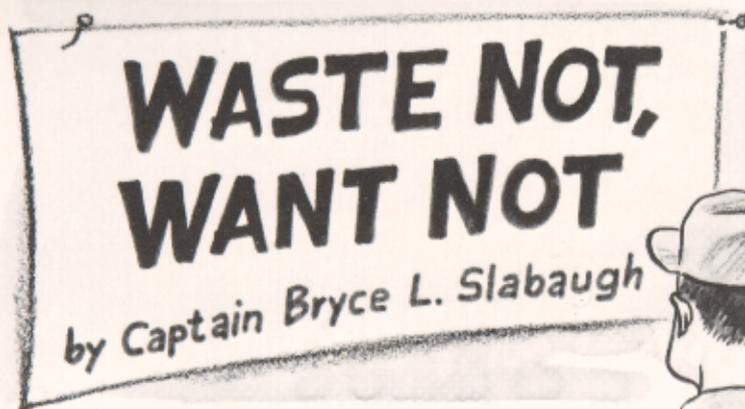
Articles, photographs, illustrations, and items of interest on any facet of Army logistics are invited. Direct communica-

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Responsibility for efficient and economical logistics support rests heavily on the shoulders of the small unit logistician. He must overcome the effects of a value-eating inflation and the fiscal constraints of a shrinking budget, and still provide his section, platoon, company, or battalion with needed supplies and equipment.

The actions and attitudes of the unit logistician are responses to the actions and attitudes of people at every level of the Army. In fact, in a broad sense the base elements concept of military organization insures that every person in the Army is a small unit logistician. Actions by a general officer have an impact on the plans of the company commander, the platoon leader, his sergeant, the squad leader, and the combat soldier. Naturally, this is a two-way process, so it is necessary for all Army personnel to be economical in action and attitude.

At various times the Army has presented programs to aid logisticians in unit supply. Supply economy is the program, or concept, that is most familiar to Army personnel. It deals with the distribution and use of actual items of equipment and supplies.

As a catch phrase, supply economy follows every military member from the first day of his career to the last. The success of this program depends upon the interaction of the various individuals in the unit. If the unit's leader fails to stress economy for his own needs or unit mission, then the principles of economy suffer for want of command emphasis. The individual who actually performs the supply function for the small unit has failed in his obligation to establish supply economy if he never reminds his commander and unit members of using the least amount of supplies to accomplish a job, or never stresses maintenance of individual and unit equipment. Incentive awards, for example, have produced many suggestions for improving supply procedures, cutting acquisition costs, and using current supplies and equipment in new ways to improve mission accomplishment.

Doing the job right the first time is important if supply economy and cost reduction are to be fully

effective. With adequate planning for operations, there should be no logistics support problems. All too often, however, the individual has not done the detailed planning and coordination required, causing crash priority supply actions for unit supply personnel. This problem is compounded all the way up the logistics support channels, causing undue waste of resources in acquiring the "needed" items. In an actual case, the hidden costs for personnel, time, and transportation increased the cost of a "needed" \$20 stop watch by over \$100, far too much to pay for an inconsequential item.

The philosophy of many commanders, noncommissioned officers, and combat soldiers is, "I don't care what you have to do, but get the item!" This detrimental attitude turns the logistician into an errand runner for the entire unit. For this reason, the Army must expand current programs to improve economy awareness from the highest ranking officer to the lowest enlisted person. New personnel must understand how the logistics system works and what their place is in it.

The following general guidelines can be applied by everyone in the Army, and their use could easily lower the cost of day-to-day Army operations—

- Be honest in the evaluation of your job and the amount of supplies and equipment you need.
- Be honest in the evaluation of your urgency of need.
- Do not hoard supplies, and return all unused items to stock shelves. Someone else may need them.
- Maintain and care for your equipment. Keep it usable.
- Eliminate wasteful uses of expendable and non-expendable items.

It can be seen that practicality and honesty are the bases for true supply economy. In fact, to give a practical and honest rule for supply economy, "Waste not, want not!"

ALOG

Captain Bryce L. Slabaugh is a management analyst in the Data Systems Office, 2d Support Command (Corps), in Europe.

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- **Bar Coding for Army Materiel**
- **Relating Rations to Combat Effectiveness**
- **Continental Army Logistics—An Overview**
- **Logistics Unit Training**
- **Long-term Storage of Ammunition**
- **Improving Hospital Logistics**
- **Military Railroading—Past or Future**
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- **Weapon System Support Testing**
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