



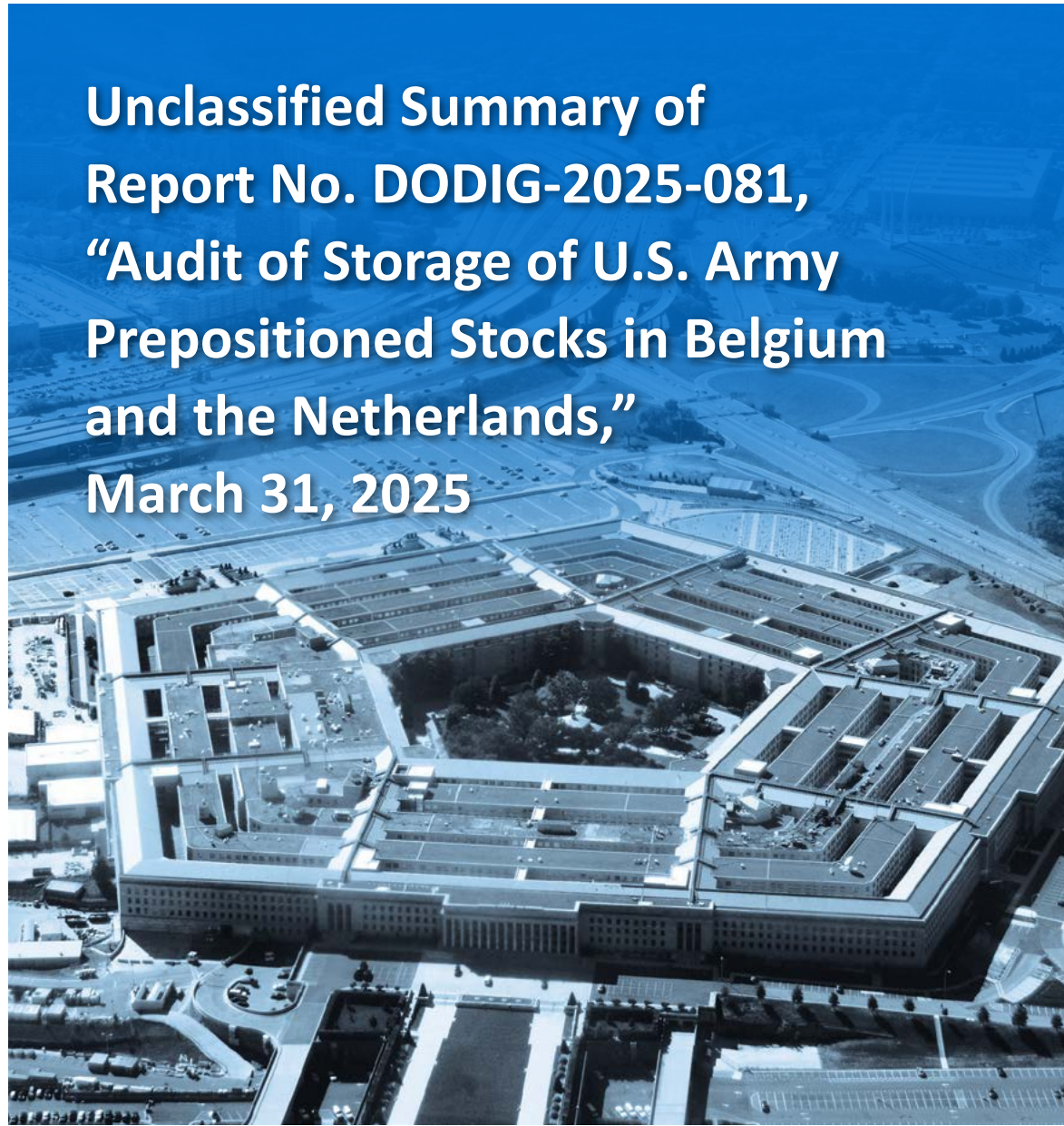
INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Defense

MARCH 31, 2025



Unclassified Summary of Report No. DODIG-2025-081, “Audit of Storage of U.S. Army Prepositioned Stocks in Belgium and the Netherlands,” March 31, 2025



INDEPENDENCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ EXCELLENCE ★ TRANSPARENCY

On March 31, 2025, the DoD Office of Inspector General issued audit report DODIG-2025-081, “Audit of Storage of U.S. Army Prepositioned Stocks in Belgium and the Netherlands.” Due to the extent of the controlled unclassified information contained in the original audit report, it was not released publicly. In the interest of transparency, we prepared this summary report to release some unclassified information identified during the audit. We continue to coordinate with the Army to determine whether we can publicly release more information.

Objective

The objective of this audit was to assess the effectiveness of the Army's storage of prepositioned stocks (APS-2) in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Background

Army Prepositioned Stocks in Belgium and the Netherlands

The Army Prepositioned Stocks (APS) program is an Army program that stores equipment around the globe for use in contingency operations. There are APS-2 sites located in Zutendaal, Belgium, and Eyselshoven, Netherlands.

Roles and Responsibilities for APS-2

Headquarters, Department of the Army, is the overall owner of APS, and the Army Materiel Command serves as the executive agent for the APS program. The Army Sustainment Command, a subordinate command of the Army Materiel Command, is responsible for storing, maintaining, issuing, and accounting for APS. The 405th Army Field Support Brigade, assigned to the Army Sustainment Command and under the operational control of U.S. Army Europe, manages APS operations in Europe. The 405th Army Field Support Brigade consists of the Army Field Support Battalions. The 405th Army Field Support Battalion-Benelux is responsible for the storage of prepositioned stocks in Belgium and the Netherlands. Specifically, the 405th Army Field Support Battalion-Benelux receives, stores, maintains, and issues APS-2 to enable the execution of contingency operations.

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, located in Chievres, Belgium, supports the military facilities in Belgium and the Netherlands. For example, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Directorate of Public Works is responsible for the design, construction, maintenance, and repair of all facilities and the operation of utility systems. The U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe delivers infrastructure and services to enable U.S. Army Europe readiness and supports the military facilities in Belgium and the Netherlands, including APS-2 sites.

Scope and Methodology

We conducted this performance audit from May 2024 through January 2025 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective.

The scope of the audit included APS-2 storage sites in Belgium and the Netherlands. To assess the effectiveness of the Army's storage of prepositioned stocks we performed the following tasks.

- Conducted inspections of 100 percent of the warehouses used for storing APS-2 in Zutendaal, Belgium, and Eyselshoven, Netherlands. Specifically, we performed physical walkthroughs of APS-2 warehouses to observe storage conditions for military equipment. During warehouse inspections, we captured information such as storage spacing, relative humidity control readings, presence of fire suppression system, and use of barcode technology and planographs.
- Conducted visual inspections of equipment and vehicles stored inside the APS-2 warehouses and interviewed personnel to assess whether storage conditions affected the equipment. Additionally, we viewed areas designated as open storage at both Zutendaal and Eyselshoven APS-2 storage sites and observed equipment and vehicles stored outside.
- Obtained and reviewed documentation such as relative humidity reports; fire suppression system incident reports; demand maintenance orders, which were used for minor maintenance and repair or emergency work; incident reports; workforce staffing documentation; and Command briefings.
- Reviewed relevant DoD and Army guidance that contained requirements related to storage configurations, spacing and organization, environments, and safety.
- Conducted virtual or in-person meetings with personnel from the commands responsible for APS-2 storage in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Findings, Recommendations, and Management Comments

We found that APS-2 were generally organized and spaced according to Army policy and made various recommendations to improve the overall effectiveness of the Army's storage of APS-2 in Belgium and the Netherlands. We directed the recommendations to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff (G-4), Headquarters, Department of the Army; the Army Materiel Command; the Army Sustainment Command; and the U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe. The responding officials agreed with all the recommendations and management comments addressed all specifics of the recommendations; therefore, the recommendations are resolved but will remain open. We will close the recommendations when we verify that management has implemented corrective actions.

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