

# Unlock the Secrets of Army Rail Transport: Delve into FM 55-20

: Empowering the Movement of Forces



In the realm of military logistics, nothing surpasses the efficiency and versatility of rail transport. For decades, the United States Army has relied on trains to seamlessly move troops, equipment, and supplies to the frontlines, enabling swift and decisive operations.

## FM 55-20 ARMY RAIL TRANSPORT OPERATIONS AND UNITS by Alix Lee

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English



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Screen Reader : Supported  
Print length : 169 pages



To guide these critical operations, the Army has meticulously crafted a comprehensive document: FM 55-20, Army Rail Transport Operations and Units. This 3,000-word article delves into the intricacies of rail transport, providing a valuable resource for military personnel, historians, and anyone seeking insights into this essential aspect of military operations.

### **Chapter 1: The Railways in Modern Warfare**

Chapter 1 of FM 55-20 lays the foundation by examining the historical significance of rail transport in warfare. From the American Civil War to World War II, trains have played a pivotal role in shaping the course of battles. The chapter explores how railroads have enabled armies to rapidly deploy troops, deliver supplies, and outmaneuver their adversaries.



During World War II, rail transport was essential for moving troops and supplies to the frontlines.

## **Chapter 2: Planning and Execution**

Chapter 2 serves as a practical guide for planning and executing rail transport operations. It outlines the responsibilities of various command levels, from the theater-level commander down to the individual unit leaders. The chapter also covers key considerations such as route selection, train composition, and coordination with other transportation modes.

## **Chapter 3: Rail Transport Units**

Chapter 3 provides an in-depth look at the specialized units responsible for carrying out rail transport operations. These units include transportation battalions, railway operating companies, and locomotive operating

companies. The chapter delves into their organization, equipment, and roles in various scenarios, including combat and disaster relief operations.

#### **Chapter 4: Tactical Operations**

Chapter 4 focuses on the tactical aspects of rail transport operations. It covers the protection of trains from enemy attacks, the use of railroads for deception and intelligence gathering, and the coordination of rail transport with other battlefield operations. The chapter also discusses the challenges of transporting hazardous materials and the evacuation of casualties.

#### **Chapter 5: Sustainment Operations**

Chapter 5 addresses the vital issue of sustaining rail transport operations. It covers the management of rolling stock, maintenance facilities, and the supply of fuel and other essential resources. The chapter also discusses the challenges of operating railroads in extreme weather conditions and hostile environments.

#### **: The Indispensable Role of Rail Transport**

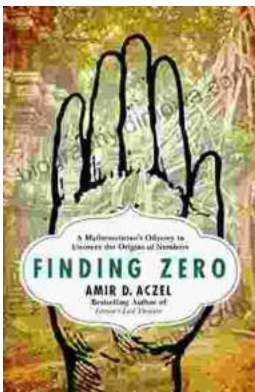
, FM 55-20, Army Rail Transport Operations and Units, is an indispensable resource for anyone involved in the planning, execution, or study of military rail transport operations. This comprehensive document provides a wealth of knowledge on the history, principles, and practical applications of this essential mode of transportation.

By mastering the contents of FM 55-20, military personnel can enhance their ability to effectively move forces and equipment, ensuring the success of operations and the safety of their troops.

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