

CHAPTER 18

LOADING AND UNLOADING BILL
(PLATES XVIII - XIX)

18-1 GENERAL:-

The mission of the LSM makes it imperative that it be loaded and unloaded with the least possible delay.

The Loading and Unloading Bill sets forth the procedure to be followed in loading and unloading vehicles and cargo and assigns the personnel responsible for these operations.

18-2 LOADING PREPARATIONS:-

Prior to loading, at dock or when beached, the Commanding Officer will contact the officer in charge of loading and learn the nature of his cargo. He will ascertain:

- (a) The number and types of vehicles with the dimensions and weight of each.
- (b) The miscellaneous cargo with dimensions and weights.
- (c) The number of troops.
- (d) The destination and exact point of landing.
- (e) The depth of water and beach gradient and all other pertinent data in accordance with paragraph 22-3, Chapter 22, "Landing and Retracting Bill."

18-3 LOADING:-

With the above information on hand, the Commanding Officer and the Executive Officer, who is the Loading Officer, will prepare a stowage plan to be followed for loading the vessel. Caution should be used in loading the vessel so as not to exceed the loaded draft limit determined by the depth of water and beach gradient at the point of unloading.

When vehicles are to be loaded, they will be backed on and stowed in accordance with PLATE XVIII, "Vehicle Lashing Arrangement and Details." Each vehicle will be secured to the deck with chains and turnbuckles, chocked and braced as shown.

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18-3 LOADING:-

If only dead weight cargo is carried, it should be stowed in such a way that the ship will ride on an even keel. It should be properly shored and secured by the loading personnel to keep it from shifting.

In an emergency where troops are being evacuated, the limited time may not permit the proper stowage of cargo. In this event, the trim of the ship can be corrected by shifting ballast until the ship has gotten safely away and the cargo can be rearranged and stowed properly.

18-4 UNLOADING PREPARATIONS:-

The preparations for unloading has been covered in Chapter 22, "Landing and Retracting."

18-5 LOADING AND UNLOADING MAT:-

The LSM is provided with a Loading and Unloading Mat to be used when the ship is loading or unloading on the beach. Complete information on this mat is given in PLATE XIX.

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LSM GRAB