

**Project Name:** Offshore Petroleum Discharge System

**Author:** Don Wells

**Organizations/People Involved:** UCT's, Amphibious Construction Battalions

**Date:** 1986 and on

**Project Summary:** The Offshore Petroleum Discharge System an element of the Joint Logistics Over the Shore System (JLOTS) was designed by and for the U.S. Navy, for use with the Army, and Marine Corps. The OPDS is stored on board a selected RRF tanker. It is transported to a theater of operations by the tanker. The U.S. Navy is responsible for installing the OPDS and ship-to-shore pipeline to the high-water mark. The OPDS provides 1.2 million gallons per 20-hour day of refined petroleum to the beach, from a tanker moored up to four miles offshore. The petroleum products are delivered from the offshore tanker to forces onshore where ports or terminal facilities are damaged, inadequate, or nonexistent. Each tanker is manned by a civilian merchant crew trained to operate, deploy, and recover the of the OPDS. Military personnel plan, direct, and control all the OPDS operations. The OPDS tanker must be able to begin pumping fuel within 48 hours of arrival. The OPDS is capable of providing dual-fuel operation for aircraft operating from field sites in the objective area.

Army or Navy personnel are trained install the components as they are deployed from the tanker. The OPDS consists of five principal subsystems. They are:

- Commercial tanker with conduit (hoses) handling equipment
- Conduit system of four nautical miles of flexible, elastomeric, steel reinforced, float/sink conduit on eight large storage reels
- Single Anchor Leg Mooring (SALM)
- Converted Side Loadable Warping Tugs
- Beach Termination Units

Deployment of the OPDS requires diver support for bathymetric and site surveys, installation and connection of the SALM (or single point mooring if alternatively installed), miscellaneous conduit deployment assistance and transition of the conduit to the beach termination unit(s). The UCTs are tasked with assisting the Amphibious Construction Battalion and Naval Beach Group elements to provide diving support for OPDS installation.



**Project Report Link:** [Army FM 10-67-1, Chapter 5](#)