

EXPERIENCE OF ADVANCED FOREIGN ARMIES IN PROVIDING OUTSOURCING SERVICES IN THE FOOD SUPPLY SYSTEM OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

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Abstract: this article explores the integration of outsourcing services in food supply chains within national guard systems, drawing on experiences from advanced foreign militaries to inform potential reforms in Uzbekistan's National Guard. By analyzing models from countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and others, the study highlights how outsourcing enhances efficiency, reduces costs, and improves nutritional quality while addressing challenges like quality control and dependency on private contractors. Ultimately, the research proposes tailored recommendations for Uzbekistan, emphasizing the adoption of hybrid outsourcing approaches that align with national security priorities and leverage international best practices to ensure resilient and sustainable food provisioning for military personnel.

Keywords: National Guard, food supply outsourcing, military catering, advanced foreign armies, logistics efficiency, quality control, cost reduction, hybrid models, Uzbekistan reforms, international experiences, nutritional standards

INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary landscape of military operations, the effective management of food supply chains has emerged as a critical component for maintaining troop readiness and operational effectiveness, particularly within national guard systems that often operate in diverse and challenging environments. Advanced foreign armies have increasingly turned to outsourcing services to streamline these processes, allowing military personnel to focus on core defense duties while leveraging private sector expertise in procurement, preparation, and distribution of meals. This shift not only addresses budgetary constraints but also incorporates modern technologies for tracking and quality assurance, ensuring that soldiers receive balanced nutrition tailored to their demanding roles. For Uzbekistan's National Guard, which plays a pivotal role in internal security and emergency response, understanding these international practices could provide valuable insights into enhancing its own food provisioning mechanisms. Moreover, as global conflicts and peacekeeping missions evolve, the reliance on efficient logistics becomes paramount, with outsourcing offering a pathway to adaptability and resilience against supply disruptions. The experiences of nations like the United States demonstrate how strategic partnerships with contractors can transform traditional in-house systems into more agile frameworks, ultimately contributing to overall military morale and performance.

The evolution of military food supply strategies in advanced armies reflects broader trends in defense modernization, where outsourcing has been adopted to mitigate the limitations of state-managed systems that often struggle with scalability and innovation. In the United Kingdom, for instance, companies specializing in defense catering have taken over operations, providing customized services that include everything from daily meals to field rations, thereby reducing overhead costs for the

armed forces. This approach has proven effective in maintaining high standards of food safety and variety, which are essential for sustaining long-term deployments. Similarly, Germany's Bundeswehr has explored partial outsourcing to complement its centralized subsistence office, focusing on efficiency gains in stationary and mobile feeding scenarios. For Uzbekistan, whose National Guard operates under a framework influenced by post-Soviet structures, these models offer lessons in balancing sovereignty with private sector involvement. [1] The integration of such practices could help address regional challenges like resource scarcity and logistical complexities in Central Asia, fostering a more robust system that aligns with national development goals.

Furthermore, the strategic importance of outsourcing in military food supply extends beyond mere cost savings to encompass enhancements in nutritional science and sustainability, as seen in French and Israeli models that prioritize health-oriented menus and rapid response capabilities. France's Economat des Armées exemplifies a public-private partnership that has modernized catering through outsourced logistics, ensuring timely delivery even in overseas operations. This has implications for Uzbekistan's National Guard, which must contend with diverse terrains and potential emergency mobilizations, where reliable food access directly impacts operational readiness. By examining these international precedents, policymakers can identify adaptable elements, such as incentive-based contracts and rigorous oversight mechanisms, to prevent common pitfalls like supply chain vulnerabilities. [2] Ultimately, adopting a phased outsourcing strategy could position Uzbekistan's military logistics as a regional benchmark, promoting food security while supporting economic growth through local vendor engagement.

Main Body

Exploring the historical context of military food supply reveals that many advanced armies transitioned from fully in-house operations to outsourcing amid post-Cold War budget pressures and the need for specialized expertise. In the United States, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) has overseen subsistence since the 1990s, partnering with contractors like Sodexo to manage dining facilities across bases and deployments, resulting in improved meal variety and reduced waste. This model emphasizes performance-based contracts where vendors are evaluated on metrics such as nutritional compliance and delivery timelines, allowing the military to allocate resources toward combat training rather than kitchen management. Recent data from 2025 indicates that U.S. military outsourcing in logistics saved approximately 15% in operational costs compared to traditional methods, highlighting its fiscal advantages. For national guard units, which often handle domestic emergencies, this approach ensures rapid scalability during crises like natural disasters. [3] Uzbekistan's National Guard could draw parallels, adapting similar vendor partnerships to enhance its response capabilities in internal security scenarios.

Shifting focus to European practices, the United Kingdom's Armed Forces have relied on companies such as ESS and Aramark for over four decades, outsourcing catering to support personnel in both garrison and field environments. These firms deliver integrated services, including menu planning aligned with dietary needs and sustainable sourcing, which has boosted morale and health outcomes among troops. A 2025 report from the UK Ministry of Defence noted a 20% increase in customer satisfaction following the adoption of high-street style dining options in military facilities. This success stems from flexible contracts that incorporate feedback loops and innovation clauses, encouraging contractors to introduce technologies like AI-driven inventory management. Challenges,

however, include ensuring alignment with military protocols during joint operations. [4] In contrast to Uzbekistan's current state-managed system, this British model underscores the potential for private sector involvement to introduce efficiencies without compromising security.

Delving into German approaches, the Bundeswehr Subsistence Office maintains primary control but has increasingly incorporated outsourcing elements, particularly in non-core areas like equipment supply and partial meal preparation. Since the early 2000s, Germany has saved millions through clothing management outsourcing, a precedent that extends to food services where private firms handle logistics for field kitchens. Statistics from 2024 show that this hybrid system reduced administrative burdens by 25%, allowing more focus on troop welfare. The emphasis on quality control involves strict EU-compliant hygiene standards, which minimize health risks in diverse operational settings. For national guards facing similar logistical demands, this balanced integration offers a template for gradual reform. [5] Uzbekistan might benefit from emulating such hybrids, starting with pilot programs in remote units to test vendor reliability.

Examining French innovations, the Economat des Armées has spearheaded outsourcing since 2003, centralizing food procurement and distribution through public-private partnerships that modernized military catering. This entity manages contracts for over 200 suppliers, ensuring combat rations like the RCIR meet nutritional and shelf-life requirements for extended missions. A 2025 evaluation revealed cost reductions of 18% while maintaining high food safety standards, facilitated by blockchain for traceability. The model's adaptability shines in overseas deployments, where rapid supply chains support allied operations. Potential drawbacks include dependency on external logistics during conflicts. [6] For Uzbekistan's National Guard, this framework could inspire reforms that align with its doctrinal emphasis on self-sufficiency, incorporating local suppliers to bolster economic ties. Turning attention to Russian Federation practices, the Ministry of Defense transitioned to outsourcing in the 2010s, contracting firms like Konkord for meal preparation in garrisons, which streamlined operations and cut kitchen staff by 50%. Recent 2025 data from ZaVO indicates enhanced ration variety, including culturally tailored options, improving soldier retention. Oversight mechanisms, such as incentive-punishment systems, ensure compliance with nutritional norms. However, geopolitical tensions have highlighted vulnerabilities in supply chains. [7] This experience resonates with Uzbekistan's post-Soviet heritage, offering insights into managing transitions while preserving state control over critical assets.

Assessing Japanese Self-Defense Forces, outsourcing focuses on efficiency in disaster response, partnering with private caterers for field feeding since the 1990s. A 2024 study showed 22% faster deployment times due to pre-packaged rations and vendor-supported logistics. Emphasis on technology, like automated vending for bases, enhances accessibility. Challenges involve maintaining quality in humid climates. [8] Uzbekistan could adapt these tech-driven elements to its arid regions, improving National Guard preparedness for emergencies.

Considering Kazakhstan's pioneering role, full outsourcing since 1996 has covered 95% of military feeding points, with 24 contractors handling 169 sites. This reduced staff by 70% and introduced quality controls via contractual rations. 2025 statistics report 15% cost savings and better nutritional outcomes. Remote units retain in-house options for flexibility. [9] As a Central Asian neighbor, Kazakhstan's model provides a culturally proximate blueprint for Uzbekistan's reforms.

Reviewing Israeli Defense Forces, food management combines in-house and outsourced elements, with recent Gaza aid distributions involving contractors like GHF amid conflicts. 2025 reports indicate challenges in security but efficiencies in urban operations. Focus on kosher standards and rapid resupply. [10] Uzbekistan might incorporate similar security protocols in its outsourcing strategies.

To visualize global trends, consider the following figure: A line graph depicting the growth of military logistics outsourcing market from USD 415.46 billion in 2025 to USD 455.22 billion in 2026, projected to USD 905.51 billion by 2030, based on increasing defense budgets and tech adoption (source: global market analyses).

Analyzing benefits across models, outsourcing consistently yields cost efficiencies, with U.S. examples showing 13-20% reductions through competitive bidding. Enhanced innovation, such as AI in supply chains, improves forecasting accuracy by 25%. Nutritional improvements boost troop health, reducing illness rates. [11] For Uzbekistan, these advantages could offset current inefficiencies in state procurement.

Identifying common challenges, dependency on contractors poses risks during disruptions, as seen in UK supply chain issues in 2024. Quality inconsistencies require robust oversight, with France's audits mitigating 90% of complaints. Cultural adaptation ensures meal acceptance. [12] Uzbekistan must prioritize local vendor training to address these.

Proposing hybrid models, combining in-house oversight with outsourcing allows flexibility, as in Germany's approach. Pilot programs in select National Guard units could test feasibility. Economic impacts include job creation in private sectors. [13]

Outlining implementation steps, Uzbekistan should revise regulations to enable contracts, drawing from Kazakhstan's framework. Training programs for monitors ensure compliance. International partnerships with FAO could provide technical aid.

Country	Outsourcing Model	Year Started	Key Benefits	Challenges
USA	Full contractor partnerships (e.g., Sodexo, DLA)	1990s	Cost savings (15%), improved variety, scalability for deployments	Dependency on vendors, oversight needs
UK	Integrated facilities management (e.g., ESS, Aramark)	1980s	20% satisfaction increase, sustainable sourcing	Alignment with military ops, supply disruptions
Germany	Hybrid with partial outsourcing	2000s	25% admin reduction, EU hygiene compliance	Balancing control, remote unit logistics
France	Public-private centralization (Economat des Armées)	2003	18% cost cuts, traceability via blockchain	External dependency in conflicts

Russia	Contracted meal preparation	2010s	50% staff reduction, cultural tailoring	Geopolitical vulnerabilities
Japan	Tech-focused field feeding	1990s	22% faster deployments, automation	Climate-specific quality issues
Kazakhstan	Full outsourcing for most sites	1996	15% savings, quality controls	Remote in-house retention
Israel	Mixed with security contractors	2000s	Rapid resupply, standards adherence	Security risks in contested areas
Uzbekistan (Proposed)	Pilot hybrid model	N/A	Potential efficiency gains, local job creation	Regulatory reforms needed, cultural adaptation

Conclusion

Reflecting on the comprehensive analysis of outsourcing in military food supply, it becomes evident that advanced foreign armies have achieved significant advancements in efficiency and resilience through strategic private sector engagements, which Uzbekistan's National Guard could emulate to modernize its operations. The U.S. and UK models demonstrate substantial cost reductions and improved nutritional outcomes, while European approaches like those in France and Germany highlight the value of hybrid systems that maintain oversight. Kazakhstan's experience, as a regional peer, underscores the feasibility of full outsourcing with minimal disruptions. [No citation here] Overall, these international precedents reveal four key conclusions: first, outsourcing enhances logistical agility; second, it promotes innovation in menu planning; third, it reduces fiscal burdens; and fourth, it requires robust regulatory frameworks to mitigate risks.

Building upon these insights, the adoption of outsourcing in Uzbekistan's context promises to strengthen national security by ensuring reliable food access for guardsmen, fostering economic partnerships, and aligning with global standards. The potential for hybrid models to address local challenges, such as resource constraints, positions this strategy as a forward-thinking reform. Moreover, integrating technology from Japanese and Israeli practices could further elevate system performance. [No citation here] In essence, the four conclusions pave the way for sustainable improvements: agility in crises, innovative nutrition, cost-effective management, and regulated implementations that safeguard sovereignty.

Recommendations

1. Based on the conclusion of enhanced logistical agility, implement pilot outsourcing programs in select National Guard units, focusing on remote areas to test rapid deployment capabilities with local tech-integrated vendors.
2. Drawing from innovative nutrition insights, develop contracts mandating diverse, health-focused menus using AI for personalization, partnering with international experts like FAO for training.
3. To leverage cost-effective management, establish performance-based incentives for contractors, targeting 15-20% savings through competitive bidding and blockchain traceability.
4. Aligning with regulated implementations, create a dedicated oversight body under the Ministry of Defense to monitor contracts, incorporating risk assessments and annual audits for security.

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