

## 128 LOGISTICS COMBAT ELEMENT (LCE) FUNDAMENTALS

References:

- [a] MCRP 5-12D, Organization of Marine Corps Forces
  - [b] MCWP 4-1, Logistics Operations
  - [c] Marine Corps Bulletin 5400 020011ZSEP 2005
  - [d] MARADMIN 576/05 Logistics Combat Element Reorganization Update and POA&M
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128.1 Define a Logistics Combat Element (LCE).

**A Logistics Combat Element (LCE)** is task organized to provide the full range of combat service support necessary to accomplish the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) mission.

- Supply
- Maintenance
- Transportation
- Deliberate Engineering
- Medical Services
- Dental Services
- Postal Services
- Disbursing Services
- Prisoner of War
- Information Systems
- Exchange Services
- Utilities
- Legal Services
- Graves Registration Services

An LCE varies in size from a Combat Logistics Company (CLC), to a Marine Logistics Group (MLG). Normally, there is only one LCE in a MAGTF.

128.2 Define Combat Service Support (CSS).

**ECAFT**

**Combat Service Support (CSS):** The essential capabilities, functions, activities, and tasks necessary to sustain all elements of operating forces in theater at all levels of war on the battlefield.

\*\*It includes, but is not limited to; supporting the aspects of supply, maintenance, transportation, health services, and other services required by the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF). CSS in the Marine Corps is provided by the Marine Logistics Group (MLG) and is a function or tasking associated with a unit that, by table of organization (T/O) and table of equipment (T/E), is organized, equipped, and trained to perform CSS operations.

128.3 Define the following terms:

**Limited Technical Inspection (LTI):** Equipment inspections that are limited in scope and objective. LTI's are generally directed at inspecting equipment conditions to determine the extent and level of maintenance required to restore it to a specified condition or to check for serviceability status.

**Table of Authorized Material (TAM):** A source document of information for logistics planning with respect to selected material authorized for use by organizations of the Marine

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Corps. Items listed in the table of authorized material include the three supply types of; material (class X), subsistence (class I), and petroleum (class III).

**Table of Equipment (T/E):** A document listing the equipment which a unit is required to possess and maintain in order to accomplish its mission. When used with the table of organization, it serves as the basis for determining what publications and additional equipment may be required by the unit.

**Table of Organization (T/O):** A document containing a unit's personnel staffing, mission, organization, concept of employment, administrative capabilities, and logistics capabilities.

128.4 Define logistics.

**PC M&M** **Logistics:** The science of planning and carrying out the movement and maintenance of forces. Those aspects of military operations deal with:

- Design and development, acquisition, storage, movement, distribution, maintenance, evacuation and disposition of material.
- Movement, evacuation and hospitalization of personnel.
- Acquisition or construction, and disposition of facilities.
- Acquisition or furnishing of services.

128.5 Discuss the three levels of logistic support:

**Strategic:** The level of war at which a nation, often as a member of a group of nations, determines national or multinational (alliance or coalition) security objectives and guidance, and develops and uses national resources to accomplish those specific objectives. Some examples of activities at this level would be; national and multinational military objectives, sequence initiatives, defined limits and risks assessments for the use of military and other instruments of national power, the development of global plans or theater war plans which aid in achieving these objectives, and military forces provided in accordance with strategic plans.

**SOT**

**Operational:** The level of war at which campaigns and major operations are planned, conducted, and sustained to accomplish strategic objectives within the theater or areas of operations. Activities at this level link tactics and strategy by establishing objectives needed to accomplish sequencing events that achieve the operational objectives. These activities differ from tactics because they provide a broader dimension of time and or space to ensure the logistic and administrative support of tactical forces is successfully met.

**Tactical:** The level of war at which battles and engagements are planned and executed to accomplish military objectives assigned to tactical units or task forces. Activities at this level focus on the ordered arrangement and maneuverability of combat elements in relation to each other and to the enemy to achieve combat objectives.

128.6 State the six functional areas of tactical logistics:

**Supply:** A cyclic process of acquiring and issuing material to supported units. This material may be consumable or durable material, components, and end items.

**Maintenance:** Involves those actions taken to keep material in serviceable condition (preventative maintenance) and actions required to return material to serviceable condition (corrective maintenance). Maintenance tasks are grouped by levels of support that determine assignment of maintenance responsibilities.

**Transportation:** Moving from one location to another. The transportation system includes the means and the controls for managing means of transportation. The transportation sub-functions are generally applicable to all levels of support, although the means, methods, controls, and management procedures employed at each level will vary. Although transportation is discussed as a logistic function, at the tactical level, transportation is a combat support function. Combat organizations use organic, attached and supporting transportation assets for tactical movement.

**General Engineering:** Distinct from Combat Engineering. General Engineering is typically considered a LCE function (i.e., Engineer Support Battalion), while combat engineering is considered a combat support function (i.e., Combat Engineer Battalion). General engineering assets at the tactical level may be used to reinforce or augment combat engineer organizations in specific situations for mobility, counter mobility, or survivability tasks. These assets are normally in general support of the MAGTF for a wide range of tasks. These tasks often involve more detailed planning and preparation and higher standards of design and construction than typical combat engineer tasks.

**Health Services Support (HSS):** Seeks to minimize the effect that wounds, injuries, and disease have on unit effectiveness, readiness, and morale. HSS is accompanied by a Preventive Medicine program that initially safeguards personnel against potential health risks and by the establishment of a system that provides medical support from the point of wounding, injury, or illness.

**Services:** A function that provides for the effective administration, management, and employment of military organizations. Services sub functions are essentially administrative in nature and can include postal, disbursing, information systems, exchange, legal, and graves registration services. These are categorized as either command services, which are services provided to Marines by their individual commands, or LCE services, which are services provided by a LCE unit.

128.7

Discuss the **seven principles of logistics support:**

## FEARSSS - FEAR LOGISTICS

There are seven principles of logistics support that apply to all three levels of logistics, and attaining these principles is essential to ensuring operational success. These principles, like the principles of war, are guides for planning, organizing, managing, and executing. They are not rigid rules, nor will they apply at all times. As few as one or two may apply in any given situation. Therefore, these principles should not be interpreted as a checklist, but rather as a guide for analytical thinking and prudent planning. These principles require coordination to increase logistics effectiveness. The application of these principles by effective logisticians requires flexibility, innovation, and in maneuver warfare, boldness.

**Flexibility:** Flexibility is the ability to adapt logistics structure and procedures to changing situations, missions, and concepts of operation. Logistics plans and operations must be flexible to achieve both responsiveness and economy. The principle of flexibility also includes the concepts of alternative planning, anticipation, reserve assets, redundancy, forward support of phased logistics, and centralized control with decentralized operations.

**Economy:** Economy is providing sufficient support at the least cost without impairing mission accomplishment or jeopardizing lives. At some level and to some degree, resources are always limited. A commander applies economy by prioritizing limited resources and allocating them sufficiently to achieve success without imbalance or inordinate excess.

**Attainability:** Attainability (or adequacy) is the ability to provide the minimum, essential supplies and services required to begin combat operations. The commander's logistics staff

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develops the concept of logistics support, completes the logistics estimate, and initiates resource identification on the basis of the supported commander's requirements, priorities, and apportionment. An operation should not begin until minimum essential levels of support are on hand.

**Responsiveness:** Responsiveness is the right support in the right place at the right time. Among the logistics principles, responsiveness is the keystone. All other principles become irrelevant if logistics support does not support the commander's concept of operations.

**Simplicity:** Simplicity fosters efficiency in both the planning and execution of logistics operations. Mission-type orders and standardized procedures contribute to simplicity. Establishment of priorities and pre-allocation of supplies and services by the supported unit can simplify logistics support operations.

**Sustainability:** Sustainability is the ability to maintain logistics support to all users throughout the area of operations for the duration of the operation. Sustainability focuses the commander's attention on long-term objectives and capabilities of the force. Long-term support is the greatest challenge for the logistician, who must not only attain the minimum, essential materiel levels to initiate combat operations (readiness), but also must maintain those levels for the duration to sustain operations.

**Survivability:** Survivability is the capacity of the organization to protect its forces and resources. Logistics units and installations are high-value targets that must be guarded to avoid presenting the enemy with a critical vulnerability. Since the physical environment typically degrades logistics capabilities rather than destroying them, it must be considered when planning. Survivability may dictate dispersion and decentralization at the expense of economy.

128.8 Define War Reserve Material (WRM).

**WRM:** Mission-essential principal end items, secondary items, and munitions required to attain operational objectives in the scenarios authorized for sustainability planning and other stockage objectives approved for programming in the Defense Planning Guidance. WRM inventories are acquired during peacetime. These inventories are flexible, and they provide an expansion capability that can respond to spectrum regional contingencies, while minimizing investment in resources.

128.9 State the number of days of logistics capability the following types of Marine Air/Ground Task Forces (MAGTF's) deploy with in order to sustain themselves:

**Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU):** Normally deploys with the logistic capability to sustain itself with some classes of supply for up to **15 days**.

**Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB):** A brigade sized MAGTF (MEF forward) can sustain itself for up to **30 days**.

**Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF):** Sustains itself for up to **60 days**.

128.10 Explain the concept of the Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF):

**The Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) concept** reflects brigade-sized unit deployment/MEF employment utilizing Military Sealift Command (MSC) 13 chartered ships to preposition necessary supplies and equipment. Several MSC chartered ships of various capabilities deploy to form a single maritime prepositioning ship squadron (MPSRON).

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Equipment and supplies administratively embarked in each MPSRON are based on the T/E, individual materiel readiness lists, and/or the tables of allowances for units assigned to the MPF's geographical responsibility. **Each MPSRON is designed to sustain one MEF (MEB)-sized unit for 30 days** in most classes of supply. Prior to employment, the MPF fly-in echelon comprised of personnel and essential air transportable equipment deploy to an airfield near a port or beach where ships of the MPSRON can be offloaded. When maritime prepositioned equipment and supplies (MPE/S) are unloaded, they are issued to the arriving units and personnel of the MAGTF.

Logistics: PC M&M = science planning/carry out movement/maintenance of forces

LCE: T/O to provide full range of CSS to accomplish MAGTF mission

CSS: (Combat support services) ECAFT to sustain all elements of operating forces. Provided

by MLG

6 Functional Areas = METHSS

7 Principles of Logistics = FEARSSS

3 Levels = S O T

MEF = 60 days

MEB = 30 days

MEU = 15 days

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References:

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129.1 Define a Marine Logistics Group (MLG) and its significant attributes.

MLB = Board ?

**MLG:** A permanently organized grouping of functional components that provides LCE support above the capability of supported units to all elements of the MEF. The MLG in its deployed or forward status is also known as the Marine Logistics Brigade (MLB), commonly referred to as MLG (FWD). The most significant attribute of an MLG is all elements are structured to provide permanently organized sub-elements to support independently deployed Battalions, Regiments, MEU's (i.e. task-organized groups to provide support, as required and pre-planned), or geographically separated units in garrison. It is staffed and equipped to support a one-division/one wing MEF or four MEU's simultaneously

129.2 Define the following terms:

**Direct Support:** A mission requiring a force to support another specific force and authorizing it to answer directly to the supported force's request for assistance.

**General Support:** Support which is given to the supported force as a whole and not to any particular subdivision thereof.

**Task Organization:** An organization which assigns the means to accomplish assigned tasks in any planned action to responsible commanders. It is the process of allocating available assets to subordinate commanders and establishing their command and support relationships.

129.3 Define the mission of the **MLG Command Element (CE):**

**General and Direct Support to MLG**

**MLG CE mission** is to provide general and direct support above the organic capabilities of supported elements of the MAGTF in the functional areas of a LCE during deployment and employment of the MEF, and smaller, geographically separated MAGTFs in all levels of conflict.

**Organization:** The MLG CE contains the G-shops and Special Staff

G-1  
G-2  
G-3  
G-4  
G-6  
G-7  
G-8  
G-10

**Special Staff:** i.e: Chaplain, Surgeon, Inspector General, Public Affairs Officer, Staff Judge Advocate, Security Manager

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FUNDAMENTALS (CONT'D)**

**6 Tasks = P(M) P(E) C(T) P(Hss) P(S) C(gServe)**

129.4 Discuss the six tasks of the MLG CE:

- **Provide centralized ground supply support** beyond supported units' organic capabilities for the sustainment of the MEF.
  - This includes procurement, storage, care in storage, distribution, salvage, disposal, bulk fuel, and water supply support.
- **Provide authorized overflow organizational and intermediate maintenance** support beyond supported units' organic capabilities for Marine Corps-furnished ground equipment of the MEF.
  - This includes inspection, classification, servicing, adjustment, tuning, testing, calibration, repair, modification, rebuilding overhaul, reclamation, recovery assistance, and evacuation.
- **Coordinate transportation** and throughput support beyond supported units' organic capabilities for the deployment and employment of the MEF.
  - This includes embarkation, landing support, port and terminal operations, motor transport, air delivery, and freight/passenger transportation support.
- **Provide general engineering** support to the MEF.
  - This includes engineering reconnaissance horizontal construction of roads, LCE installations and other support facilities, vertical construction and maintenance of encampment and other personnel support facilities, emplacement of standard and nonstandard bridging and rafting, demolition and obstacle removal, augmentation for tasks beyond the organic engineering capabilities of supported units, and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD).
- **Provide health services** (medical and dental) support beyond the supported units' organic capabilities to the MEF.
  - This includes health maintenance, patient collection and treatment, temporary hospitalization, patient regulation and evacuation, disease control, hygienic services, and a comprehensive dental program.
- **Coordinate services support**, beyond supported units' organic capabilities for the MEF.
  - This includes security support, postal, disbursing, exchange services, legal services, CE related support and graves registration.

MLB = Forward Deployed MLG

Difference between General and Direct Support

6 Tasks of MLG CE = PPCPPC