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Submission: "Tomorrow's combined arms battle group"

Somalia was the only unit deployment of the nineties. Today the ADF has major deployments in four separate countries. The Army shoulders most of the load. Tomorrow's Army needs able to maintain two major deployments, and importantly rest units between deployments. If there is not three of any element, it can be maintained ready, deployed or rested. Australia needs an army of threes.

Currently Army has three regular brigades. Two brigades are deployable, one light and one heavy. Brigades normally deploy a battalion ("battle") group. There is no fixed structure, with units "tacked" together for deployments.

It is proposed that the future light brigades be reorganized around a headquarters & core assets and three identical "combined arms battle group" (CABG). Each CABG has an Infantry battalion, an "arms" regiment (cavalry / APC, artillery, engineer and aviation subunits) and logistics company. Unlike battalion groups, the CABG have a separate HQ commanded by a full Colonel, commanding and controlling the "operation" side of deployment (Host nation / politics). This frees the infantry CO to concentrate on "tactical" issues. The arms regiment HQ is purely administrative, with the CO acting as CABG deputy Commander.

Brigade remains the premier formation in the Army and little changes. There's still be a Command regiment with signals & intelligence, three Infantry battalions, the four separate arms regiments and a logistic regiment. The difference would be various regiment be organized as HQ, three identical sub-units (for CABGs) and brigade asset subunits. There would be a Lieutenant Colonel commander and HQ for each Corps (unlike in Vietnam where armour and engineers didn't which lead to disasters like "The Minefield").

The current Townsville brigade lacks a cavalry or RAAC regimental HQ. The ¼ CAV would need to be expanded to a regiment with three combined cavalry / APC squadrons for the CABGs, and a tank squadron for brigade asset.

CABGs are organized and trained, as combined arms packages for deployment. With three CABGs on an 18 months rotating roster (6 months each training, deploying and resting), a brigade can maintain readiness or deployment indefinitely.

Heavy brigades follow the same idea, with identical "armoured" CABGs. Infantry battalions are replaced with mechanised or cavalry units (each of two mechanised and one cavalry subunits). Heavy arms regiment consists of tank, SP artillery, engineer and aviation subunits. Mechanised battalions restructure around three "rifle" companies and an integrated RAAC APC squadron, and can still deploy as light infantry, if required. Armoured CABGs would also be an 18 month roster.

To support the "ready" brigade Army needs a "follow-on" brigade. This allows "surge" reinforcement and a capacity to give ready brigades a rest. Both "ready" brigades are in tropical environments isolated from the main Australian population, Melbourne and Sydney. There are only two full-time infantry battalions in the Enoggera brigade, and many of these soldiers are "gap-year" soldiers. Much of the brigade focus is in training soldiers with the retainment goal of only 10%. Australian needs a third regular infantry brigade, one close to the population and exposed colder temperate climates.

A re-birthing 6th Brigade is raised at Singleton with two regular deployable "follow-on" CABGs and has a separate 8/9RAR CABG solely for "gap-year" soldiers. 6RAR CABG would remain at Enoggera and a new 4RAR CABG specialising in cold weather be formed at Puckapunyal. The southern CABG would recruit heavily from Victoria and be ready for

anti-terrorist duties there. A new regular 4CAV is raised for the brigade reflecting the "regular" nature of the brigade. 7th Brigade, QMI and assets would be returned to the Army Reserve.

The Reserve is still seen as separate from mainstream forces. It's over headquartered with 6 brigade HQs for 14 infantry battalion groups. Many units are under strength. Following the structure of the future light brigade, the Reserve is consolidated into three full brigades, each of three CABGs and one Independent CABG in WA (total of 10 CABGs). All general reservists would be required to complete the "gap-year" program. 8/9RAR CABG would be over-strength, having 5 rifle companies. With two intakes per year, 8/9 CABG will produce 10 company lots of soldiers for the Reserve each year (one per reserve CABG). Infantry soldiers (the most numerous) stay in Singleton on completion of Infantry IET, saving money. Reserved soldiers then complete their service in local CABGs. Every reserve soldier would be fully trained, deployable, and retained in the army!

The proposed changes result in 1 armoured and 5 infantry brigades, all at full strength. In recognition of the future force, brigades would retitle after former AIF Divisions and carry the history of these. Reserve CABGs would be titled after WW1 brigades, companies / squadrons after WW1 battalions / regiments.

1 brigade re-titled "Armoured Brigade" (history of the WW1 Light Horse, WW2 armoured Divisions).

3 brigade re-titled "1st Infantry Brigade" (history and colour patch of 1 & 6 Divisions).

6 brigade re-titled "2nd Infantry Brigade" (history and colour patch of 2 & 7 Divisions).

3 & 8 brigade (NSW) becomes "3rd Infantry Brigade" with 1, 5 & 8 CABGs

4 & 9 brigade (VIC/SA/TAS) becomes "4th Infantry Brigade" with 2, 6 & 9 CABGs

7 & 11 brigade (QLD) becomes "5th Infantry Brigade" with 3, 7 & 11 CABGs

13 Brigade becomes 13 CABG.

4RAR (Cdo) is no longer a "line" infantry unit. Like SASR, Commandos should be transferred from the RAR to Special Forces. The new "ParaCommando Regiment" title would reflect this unit's special forces, commando and parachute roles. Reserve commandos cannot maintain instant readiness for this role. 1CDO Regiment could be re-rolled as a "Cavalry Commando" LRRP unit. The British Territorial SAS are trained in this important role. An expanded "Cavalry Commando Regiment" supplies each brigade with a LRRP squadron. Each brigade therefore has SASR trained Major LRRP commander, who also advises on Special Forces tactics, and counter-tactics.

The proposed changes are suggested to allow the Army restructure into an Army for the future.

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