

---

**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 October 2008 21:55  
**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 5. Other Defence Capabilities [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Name: Rohan wilson

Submission: Army Combat Service Support.

The East Timor deployment was a rude awaking to the lack of a robust structure for the ADF, specially the Army. During the eighties many logistic units were disbanded, amalgamated but not restructured. With the need to maintain major deployments the Army needs to re-visit its logistics.

During WW1 & WW2 the British army had all logistics except ammunition under the Royal Army Service Corps. In 1965 they divided into Transport and Supply Branches. Australia copied these changes. In 1993 the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) streamlined logistics into one corps reversing the mistake of splitting logistics. Australia still has logistics split between separate corps; ie transport (RACT), ordnance & admin (RAAOC) and catering (AACC).

The US army retains separate logistic corps, however company level officers and above are now trained as "logistic officers" capable of controlling and commanding "mixed" units.

The British Army also streamlined all administrative services (admin clerks, legal, pay, education and provost) into one corps, the Adjutant General's Corps (AGC). By forming an AGC, brigades now have a single ACG company in its Command & Signal Regiment, for all its admin needs. Units have their own AGC platoons, freeing arms soldiers to be used in their primary roles, i.e. infantry.

Australia needs a RLC and an AGC. The two corps would put logistics and administrative services level and an equal player with the major arms.

#### Combat support battalions

Current CSBs are structured with a single role company from each corps. However Army deploys "battlegroups" with an "ad-hoc" mixed logistic company attached. With containerised stores and "DROPS" pallets, the line between supply and distribution is blurred.

Battlegroups needs multifunction tactical logistic companies for support. With its own company, battlegroups can consolidate dispersed logistic assets, into one unit. Each company contains supply, transport, catering, ordnance, bulk supply platoons and incorporates a RAAME LAD. All trucks of these units must be fully armed and armoured.

CSBs require a Defence Company of infantry and light armour cars (M1117 Guardian Armored Security Vehicle) for convey and asset security. The British Army has the 23rd Pioneer Regiment for this role. Each logistic company has dedicated defence platoon.

CSBs retain the single RAAME workshop and health support company as separate subunits.

#### Forward Support Battalions

The 9 FSB is still basically a "transport" regiment and provides all 3rd line strategic land transport support to Army. It dispatches stores to positions where they can deploy, by sea or air. It moved stores to Darwin for the East Timor deployment.

There are no expeditionary FSBs. All deployments will be by either air or sea. Larger brigade deployments need a standard expeditionary FSB to provide "in-theater" operational force logistics. Army needs two expeditionary FSBs to support the two ready brigades. They must have all the necessary terminal, warehousing, heavy transport, service and protection force assets. By adding a workshop and a engineer construction squadron it creates a Vietnam style 1 Australian Logistic Support Group

(Vung Tau). The Reserve also needs form two expeditionary FSBs (Melbourne & Sydney), to give depth to Army.

With containerisation stores handling is simplified. Stores can be loaded direct on to RAAF aircraft. Most heavy equipment will move be sea overseas. As army controls its stores aboard RAN ship they have maritime SADS and landing craft for this. Currently 10 FSB is a mix of maritime and logistic units. Army needs a dedicated maritime FSB. Non-maritime should be moved to the theater FSBs.

By forming three levels of logistic support, all parts of the deployment chain is covered.

Each tactical unit has logistics (CSB), each operation unit has logistics (FSB) and the nation has logistic units to get needed supplies forward to the fight.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

I agree to my submission being quoted in the Community Consultation Report