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U. S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS SUSTAINMENT

Abstract

First, the article presents an overview of Special Forces Sustainment. Such as: Army Sustainment Structure, Principle of Sustainment, and logistic imperatives. Next chapter gives some general ideas about army special operations forces logistics support framework: For example: structures, relationship, planning and preparation. Last but not least the author gives a summary about Sustainment Brigade, Special Forces groups, Health System Support, Contracting – and host nation support. This publication proposes an approach, and a concept for Sustainment of Special Forces and summarizes the ATP 3-05.40, former FM 3-05.140

Az első fejezetben a cikk áttekintést nyújt a különleges erők támogatásáról úgy, mint az Egyesült Államok szárazföldi haderőnem fenntartási struktúráról, a fenntartási alapelvekről, és a logisztikai alapelvekről. A következő fejezet rövid átfogó képet nyújt a szárazföldi haderőnem különleges erői támogatási kereteiről – struktúráról, kapcsolatokról, tervezésről, felkészítésről. Végül, de ne utolsó sorban a szerző összegzést nyújt a különlegese erőket közvetlenül támogató dandárról, a különleges erők néhány csoportjáról, az egészségügyi támogatásról, a befogadó nemzeti támogatásról. E publikáció egyfajta nézőpontot, illetve koncepciót ajánl a különleges erők támogatására, összegzi az ATP 3-05.40 (a korábbi FM 3-05.140) számú kiadványt.

Keywords: *Special Forces, Logistic, Support, Sustainment ~ különleges erők, logisztika, támogatás, fenntartás*

INTRODUCTION

The United States armed forces – especially Special Forces - are transitioning from more than a decade of war to a future that presents us with a range of challenges. There are major changes in security policy and war strategy over the past 18 months. Changes combined with fiscal uncertainty. It means that we must re-think how the Army sustains itself in the war today, or how the Army sustains itself in a next conflict. Nowadays every operation requires discreet, precise, operations. These are special operation forces core principles. Discreet, precise, operations provide the combatant commander a flexible military power in politically sensitive and culturally complex environments. These operations represent a combination of precise lethal and nonlethal options from direct action to civil affair operation. This kind of operations may enhance the legitimacy of partners because the capability is applied in a discreet manner. Special operation missions may require unorthodox approach, but this approach does not negate the principles of war: objective, offensive, mass, economy of force, maneuver, and unity of command, security, surprise, and simplicity. ¹ Achievement of Special Forces depends on an effective Sustainment. The key document of the Special Operations Sustainment is the ATP 3-05.40, former FM 3-05.140. The ATP 3-05.40 proposes an approach and a concept for Sustainment of Special Forces. This Technique Publication provides the United States Army special operations forces commander and staff information on the structure and functions involved in Sustainment activities. [15]

OVERVIEW OF SUSTAINMENT

The type of operation, the deployment sequence, and the area of responsibility character the logistics environment of Army Special Operation Forces. The common line that runs throughout the environment is the problem of logistics integration and distribution to committed Army Special Operation Forces (ARSOF)². [16] For the Army, Sustainment is the provision of logistics, personnel services, and health services support necessary to maintain operations. ³ [17]

Army Sustainment

Army Special Operation Forces Sustainment structures provide all functions to support missions. These kinds of structures are performing the following tasks:

- Expeditionary missions.
- Deploy early and rapidly.
- Collocate support unit.
- Fill logistical requirements.
- Provide effective operations logistics structures.
- Tie the Army Special Operation units to the operational theater of operations support structure.

Army common-user logistics is the responsibility of the theater of operations Army Service component commands. Army Special Operation rely upon Army Service component commands logistics structures to provide Service common user logistic to all Army forces in the area of operations. ARSOF units lack the robust logistics structure associated with Army. Operational logistics planning is critical to mission success and the ability of Special Operation

¹ JP 3-0, Joint Operations, Joint Chief of Staff, 2011, Chapter 1, Figure I-1: Principles of Joint Operations, http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/new_pubs/jp3_0.pdf, Download: (10. February 2014.)

² FM 3-05 (FM 100-25) Army Special Operations Forces, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 2006, Ch. 8

³ ADP 4-0 (FM 4-0) Sustainment, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 2012, pp 1, <https://armypubs.us.army.mil/doctrine/index.html>, Download: (9. February 2014.)

sustainment requirements. ARSOF units operate under the c2 of theater special operations commands. Operational logistics planning begins with the theater special operations command's joint operations. Army special operations forces liaison elements develop the corresponding operational-level support and logistics requirements for SOF requirements. These liaison elements are in the 528th Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne). This deployable sustainment unit focuses on operational-level logistics planning and synchronization. The organization's mission is to provide operational-level sustainment for ARSOF missions. Every Special Forces group has a group support battalion, with a subordinate sustainment company, a maintenance company, a medical company, and three forward support companies. Each Special Forces battalion is supported by a forward support companies. These battalions are a multifunctional, direct-support logistical organization. This kind of subunit is a key of tactical ARSOF logistics. The responsibility of the Group Support Battalion is to plan, coordinate, and execute logistical sustainment operations. The 75th Ranger Regiment's mission is to plan and conduct Special Operations against strategic and operational targets. The regiment consists of a regimental headquarters, a Ranger Special Troops Battalion, and three Rangers. The Ranger Special Troops Battalion provides staff planning and supervision for all logistics in the regiment. The Army Special Operations Aviation Command mission is to equip, train, validate, conduct, and support special air operations. The Civil Affairs mission is to appoint and influence the civil populace by planning, executing, and transitioning Civil Affairs operations, and multinational operations. The special operations acquisition and logistics center is a key staff element in support of ARSOF logistics. This staff section plans, coordinates, synchronizes, and integrates operational and strategic logistics and acquisition sustainment strategy in coordination with combatant commands, Services, components, and other agencies. 4 [1]

Principles of sustainment

The principles of sustainment are critical to guiding the success of generating combat power. These principles are the following: anticipation, responsiveness, simplicity, economy, survivability, continuity, improvisation, and integration. Sustaining of special operation missions is important to success.

- *Anticipation*: It means to foresee future operations and events identify the right support to sustain the force. Sustainment planners anticipate future events and requirements. Anticipation is enhances endurance.
- *Responsiveness* is the ability to meet changing requirements on short notice. It is providing the right support in the right place at the right time, and it includes the ability to see operational requirements. A responsive sustainment system is critical; it provides the ARSOF commander with flexibility and freedom of action.
- *Simplicity* is a minimum of complexity in logistics operations. It enables economy and efficiency of sustainment resources, ensuring effective sustainment operations. Simplicity is the most important key principles to sustainment mission success, because of size and nature of special operation missions.
- *Economy*: It means to provide effective sustainment using the fewest resources within acceptable levels of risk. Every resource is always limited. The commander achieves economy by prioritizing and allocating resources.
- *Survivability* is the ability to protect sustainment functions from destruction. Survivability is a function of protection. It consists of prevent or lessen hostile actions against personnel, resources, facilities, and critical information.

⁴ ATP 3-05.40 (FM 3-05.140) - Special Operations Sustainment, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 2012, Chapter 1, pp 1-5, <https://armypubs.us.army.mil/doctrine/index.html>, (Download: 02. February 2014.)

- *Continuity*: It is the ability to maintain nonstop support during all phases of operations. Continuity is essential to strategic and operational reach.
- *Improvisation* is the ability to adapt sustainment to changing situations or missions. Every high-tech operational environment requires sustainment soldiers must quick use any means possible to maintain a continuous operation.⁵
- “*Integration* is the most critical principle. It is the deliberate coordination and synchronization of sustainment within any operation and at each level of war. ARSOF integrate their sustainment operations with other components of the joint force to benefit from each Service component’s competencies and resources. Integration requires a thorough understanding of the commander’s intent and synchronization of sustainment with the concept of operations. Integration of sustainment with joint forces (joint interdependence) allows efficiencies through economies of scale. It ensures the highest priorities of the joint force are met first and avoids redundancy. It also eliminates wasteful competition for scarce strategic-lift and theater of operations resources.”⁶

Sustainment Warfighting function

Sustainment is the comprehensive term. It covers the functions of logistics, personnel services, and health service support. The sustainment Warfighting function is one of six Army Warfighting functions. The Warfighting functions of the Army are the following:

- movement and maneuver,
- fires,
- protection,
- sustainment,
- mission command,
- Intelligence.

These functions are producing combat power. Sustainment Warfighting function is a related tasks and systems that provide support and services to ensure freedom of action, extend operational reach, and prolong endurance⁷ This chapter is about Warfighting functions.

Sustainment Warfighting functions are the following:

- Logistics - Planning and executing the movement and support of forces. It includes “military operations that deal with design and development, acquisition, storage, movement, distribution, maintenance, evacuation, and disposition of materiel; movement, evacuation, and hospitalization of personnel; acquisition or construction, maintenance, operation, and disposition of facilities; and acquisition or furnishing of services.”⁸ [18]
- Supply – “Supply is the procurement, distribution, maintenance while in storage, and salvage of supplies, including the determination of kind and quantity of supplies.”⁹
- Field services - Clothing repair and exchange, laundry, shower, mortuary affairs, aerial delivery, food services, etc.
- Maintenance – two level of maintenance: Field and Sustainment maintenance. It consists of inspection, testing, servicing, repair, rebuilding etc.

⁵ ATP 3-05.40 Chapter 1, pp 5-6

⁶ ATP 3-05.40 Chapter 1, pp 6

⁷ ADP 3-0, Unified Land Operations, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 2012, Sustainment Warfighting Function, pp 44, http://armypubs.army.mil/doctrine/DR_pubs/dr_a/pdf/adrp3_0.pdf, (Download: 10. February 2014.)

⁸ JP 4-0 Joint Logistic, Joint Chief of Staff, 2008, pp 120

⁹ ATP 3-05.40, Chapter 1, pp 7

- Transportation – It includes motor, rail, air, and water modes. ¹⁰ [5]
- General engineering – General engineering support is other than combat engineering, it includes modify, maintain, or protect the physical environment. ¹¹ [6]
- Operational contact support – Is a kind of planning for supplies from profitable sources in support of operations along with the contractors. ¹² [7]
- Management functions.
- Personnel Services - human resources support, financial management, legal support, religious support.
- Human Resources Support - personnel readiness management, personnel accountability, personnel information, management, casualty operations, essential personnel services, band support, postal operations, reception, replacement, return-to-duty, etc. ¹³ [9]
- Financial management - finance operations, resource management. ¹⁴ [10]
- Legal Support - Legal support includes all legal services. It provides judge advocates and other legal personnel in support of units, commanders, and soldiers in an Area of Operation. ¹⁵ [11]
- Religious Support - Religious support facilitates the free exercise of religion, provides religious activities. ¹⁶ [12]
- Band Support - Army bands provide support to the force by tailoring music support throughout military operations. ¹⁷ [13]
- Health Services Support - Health service support is all services provided to promote, improve, conserve, or restore the mental or physical well-being of personnel. It also includes blood management; medical supply, equipment, operational stress control; and medical, dental, veterinary, laboratory, optometric, nutrition therapy, and medical intelligence services. ¹⁸ [14]

¹⁰ FM 4-01.30 (FM 55-10) Movement Control, Headquarters, Department Of The Army, 2003, Chapter 1, <http://cdm16635.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16635coll8/id/55429>, Download: 2014. February 10.

¹¹ FM 3-34.400 (FM 5-104) General Engineering, Headquarters, Department Of The Army, 2008, Chapter 1 pp 1-12, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/policy/army/fm/3-34-400/fm3-34-400.pdf> (Download: 10. February 2014.)

¹² JP 4-10 Operational Contact Support, Joint Chief of Staff, 2008, pp 10: Operational Contact Support Principles http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/new_pubs/jp4_10.pdf, (Download: 10. February 2014.)

¹³ FM 1-0 Human Resources Support, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 2010, pp 15, Hr Core Competencies, http://www.ags.army.mil/Files/fm1_0.pdf (Download: 10. February 2014.)

¹⁴ FM 1-06 Financial Management Operations, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 2011, Chapter 1, http://www.finance.army.mil/Publications/FM1_06.pdf, (Download: 10. February 2014.)

¹⁵ FM 1-04 Legal Support to the Operational Army, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 2013, Chapter 1-2, http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/policy/army/fm/1-04/fm1-04_2013.pdf, (Download: 10. February 2014.)

¹⁶ FM 1-05 Religious Support, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 2012, Chapter 1, http://armypubs.army.mil/doctrine/DR_pubs/dr_a/pdf/fm1_05.pdf, (Download: 10. February 2014.)

¹⁷ ATTP 1-19 U.S. Army Bands, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 2010, Preface, http://armypubs.army.mil/doctrine/DR_pubs/dr_a/pdf/attp1_19.pdf, (Download: 10. February 2014.)

¹⁸ JP 4-02 Health Service Support, Joint Chief of Staff, 2012, Executive Summary, pp 11, http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/new_pubs/jp4_02.pdf, (Download: 10. February 2014.)

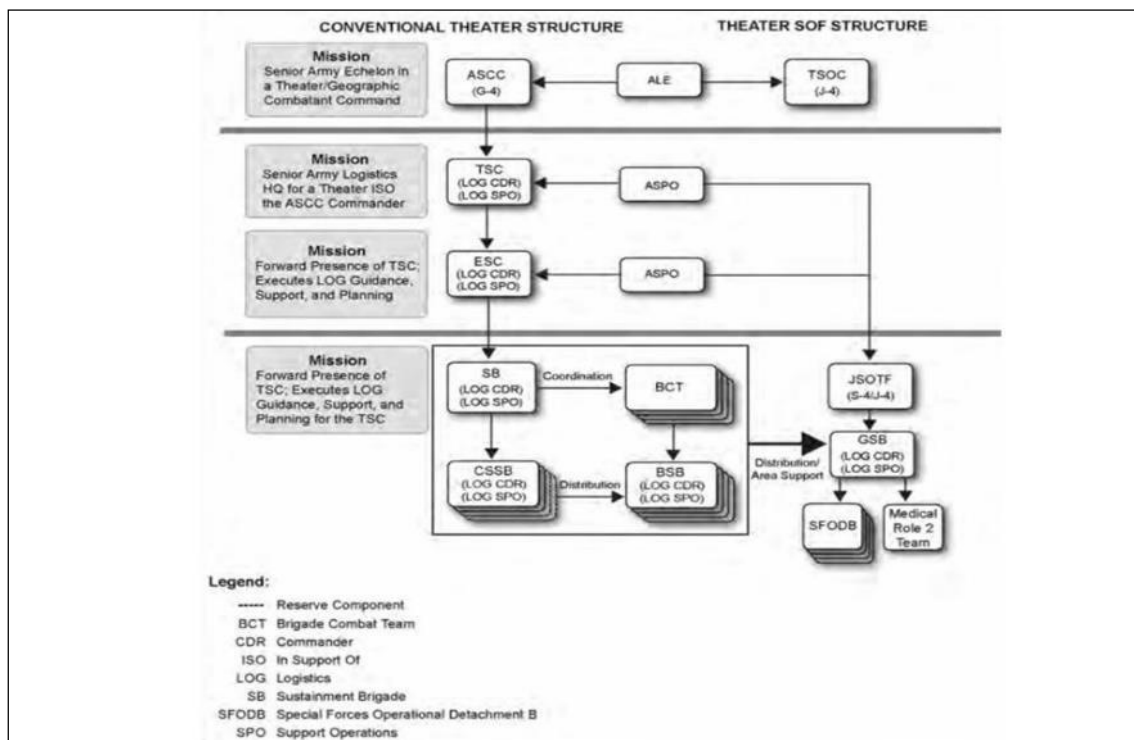
Expeditionary logistics imperatives

All of ARSOF commanders include the applicable imperatives in their mission planning and execution. The Theater Special Operations Command and Special Operation Task Forces expeditionary logistics imperatives are the following:

- Understanding the operational environment: ARSOF logistics systems are flexible, globally responsive, and rapidly deployable. That’s why ARSOF must to understand theater of operations dynamics, theater of operations infrastructure, and sustainment capability.
- Unity of effort: Unity of effort means the coordination and application of all logistics capabilities. It focused on Theater Special Operations Command and Special Operation Task Forces commander’s intent.
- Rapid and precise response: It consists of an ability of the supply chain to effectively meet the continuously changing needs of the task force.¹⁹
- Domain-wide visibility: Domain-wide visibility is the ability to see the requirements, resources, and capabilities across the logistics, both SOF and Army.

ARMY SUPPORT STRUCTURE, RELATIONSHIP

ARSOF operating and logistical structures differ greatly from Army conventional forces. The Special Forces Groups are the only units that have any type of organic direct support capability. Direct support capability is the group support battalion. There is a typical ARSOF sustainment structure on figure 1.



1. figure. Typical ARSOF sustainment structure²⁰

¹⁹ ATP 3-05.40 Chapter 1, pp 6-10

²⁰ Authority: FM 3-05.40, Chapter 2, pp 3, Figure 2-1

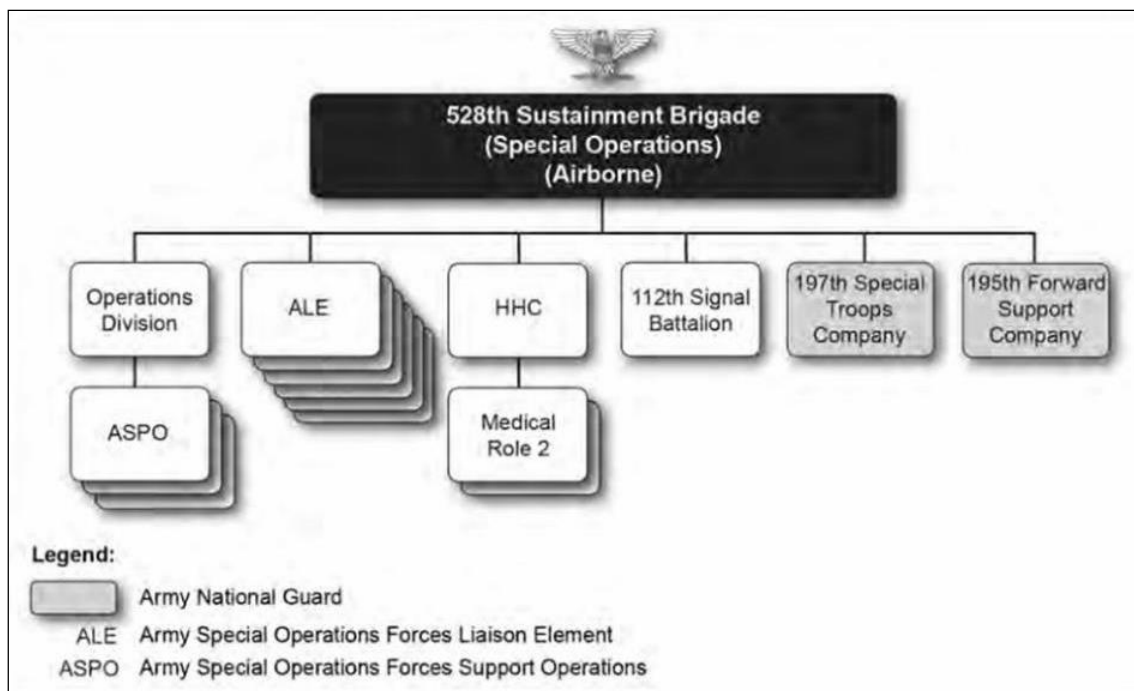
SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

The 528th SB(SO)(A) is unique when compared to other Army sustainment brigades. It maintains global situational awareness of sustainment support structures. This sustainment brigade is formed to deploy small, modular teams. It also designed to provide senior logistics unit for an ARSOF-led Joint Special Operation Task Forces. The brigade staff is organized to plan support for deployed ARSOF teams. Brigade staff structure includes Army special operations forces liaison elements, beside the Army Service component command and the theater special operations command. This kind of liaison elements, are small teams of multifunctional logisticians. This element can offer direct support of theater special operations command planning efforts, exercises, and ARSOF operations. Alongside liaison elements, the brigade HQ includes an Operations Division. It comprised of a plans section and a support operations section. The mission of the 528th Sustainment Brigade is to originate the operational-level logistics conditions for ARSOF missions. The mission-essential tasks are the following:

Coordinate ARSOF logistics requirements:

- Deploy operational-level logistics,
- Deploy a tailored brigade HQ.

Figure no. 2 shows the organization of sustainment brigade.



2. figure. Organization of Sustainment brigade²¹

OVERVIEW OF SPECIAL FORCES SUSTAINMENT

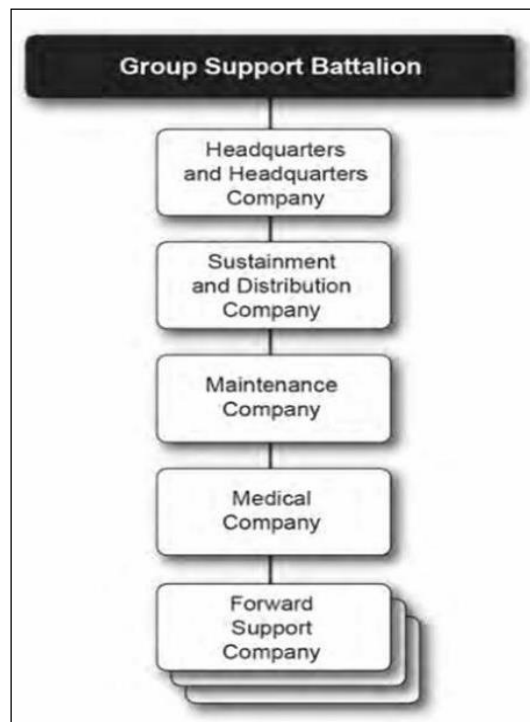
SF detachments need to plan for a different of operations. It includes humanitarian, civil, and security assistance programs. Deployed Special Forces are usually isolated. Under their activity, the primary logistics provider is the Group Support Battalion.²²

²¹ Authority: FM 3-05.40, Chapter 3, pp 3, Figure 3-2

²² ATP 3-05.40 Chapter 4, pp 1-4

Group Support Battalion

Group Support Battalion mission is to plan, coordinate, synchronize, and execute logistics operations for Special Forces Groups and Joint Special Operation Task Forces. If logistics support is not available in the Area of Operation, the Group Support Battalion is the primary support provider. Battalion provides rapidly deployable multifunctional logistics, health service support and force health protection. In area of operations, the battalion synchronizes its support with the conventional forces and coordinates with conventional force sustainment brigades. Forward support companies require Army logistics to provide logistics support during sustained operations. The battalion controls logistical facilities and sustainment operations. The headquarters and headquarters company of the GSB provides battalion-level administrative and supply support for all personnel. It also coordinates support for the SF battalions through the support operations section. Next picture shows the organization of Group Support Battalion.



3. figure. Organization of Group Support Battalion²³

SUMMARY - CONCLUSION

United States Army Special Operation Forces has own support, and sustainment capability such as: Sustainment Brigade, Group Support Battalion, liaison element etc. This capacity provides rapidly deployable multifunctional logistic system. This kind of support system and capabilities are not available for every NATO member nation's SOF detachment.

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²³ Authority: FM 3-05.40, Chapter 4, pp 3, Figure 4-1

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