

CHAPTER 6

THE DIVISION

References

FM 63-2, Division Support Command, Armored, Infantry, and Mechanized Infantry Divisions, 20 May 1991
FM 63-2-1, Division Support Command, Light Infantry, Airborne, and Air Assault Divisions, 16 November 1991
FM 63-3, Corps Support Command, 30 September 1993
FM 63-20, Forward Support Battalion, 26 February 1990
FM 63-21, Main Support Battalion, 7 August 1990
FM 63-23, Aviation Support Battalion, 6 June 1996
FM 71-100, Division Operations, 28 August 1996
FM 3-0, Operations, 14 June 2001
FM 100-7, Decisive Force: The Army in Theater Operations, 31 May 1995
FM 100-10, Combat Service Support, 3 October 1995
FM 100-15, Corps Operations, 29 October 1996

Objectives

- Compare and contrast the various Division Support Command (DISCOM) structures, capabilities and limitations
- Relate the mission of a given DISCOM with its parent division
- Distinguish the support structure, capabilities and limitations of the armored cavalry regiment from DISCOMs

Introduction

The focus of this chapter is on a HEAVY DIVISION of the ARMY OF EXCELLENCE (AOE) design. It is not a FORCE XXI DIVISION. Discussion on the structure of a FORCE XXI Division is in Lesson 19.

The division is a large Army organization that trains and fights as a tactical team. Largely self-sustaining, it is capable of independent operations. The division is a unit of maneuver, organized with varying numbers and types of combat, combat support (CS), and combat service support (CSS) units. It may be **armored, mechanized, medium, light infantry, airborne, or air assault**; each can conduct operations over a wide range of environments. The success of Army operations depends on the success of its divisions.

All divisions are generally organized with a similar basic design called a division base. This **base design comprises a division headquarters and headquarters company (HHC), three ground maneuver brigades, an aviation brigade, a division artillery brigade, a support command, a cavalry squadron, an air defense artillery**

battalion, an engineer battalion or brigade, a signal battalion, a military intelligence battalion, a military police company and, in most cases, a chemical company. There is also the division band.

Brigade

The maneuver brigade headquarters provides the C2 facilities necessary to employ maneuver and fires. The only unit permanently assigned to the brigade is the brigade headquarters and headquarters company. The necessary combat, CS, and CSS units to accomplish the brigade mission are attached, under operational control (OPCON), or placed in support of the brigade. The brigade normally controls from two to five attached maneuver battalions. It can be employed in autonomous or semi-autonomous operations when properly organized for combat. FM 7-30 and FM 71-3 contain details on employment of the brigade. Ground maneuver battalions and additional units are placed in a command relationship to the brigade headquarters. This allows the division to accomplish missions in any environment. **As units are added to brigades and the division, the division support command is modified to meet changes in the division's supply, maintenance, and medical requirements.**

Division Support Command (DISCOM)

The DISCOM is **multifunctional and fixed in structure for any given type of division structure**. The DISCOM structure is identical in every Heavy Division (i.e. Armored, Mechanized, and Medium Divisions). Likewise, a Light Infantry Division has the same DISCOM structure as every other Light Infantry Division. However, the Light DISCOM is not the same as the Heavy DISCOM because the support requirements for the two types of divisions are significantly different. **Light, Heavy, Airborne, and Air Assault Divisions each have different DISCOM structures.** The DISCOM provides **division level logistics to all organic and attached elements of the division**. All DISCOMs consist of a headquarters and materiel management center (MMC), forward support battalions (FSB), a main support battalion (MSB), and an aviation support battalion (ASB) or an aviation intermediate maintenance (AVIM) organization. A typical division layout of a DSA and BSAs is shown in Figure 6-1.

Brigade Support Area

Divisional maneuver brigades have no organic CSS assets beyond the CSS personnel on the brigade staff. However, a FSB from the DISCOM directly supports each maneuver brigade and provides area support within its capability to other units in the brigade area.

The base of operations for the FSB is the brigade support area. The brigade support area (BSA) is generally on a main supply route in the brigade rear area. Selected corps support battalion elements may also locate in the BSA. They support nondivisional units operating in the brigade area. These units may include artillery, engineer, military intelligence, and aviation units. In certain circumstances, FSB elements also provide critical support from forward logistics bases, usually on a temporary basis. This technique involves the FSB echeloning its assets. (Other support units may also employ

this technique.) A forward logistics element (FLE) with critical capabilities operates from a location nearer to supported units. This may effectively reduce the distances units must travel to receive support when fast paced operations or security considerations result in extended distances between supported units and the BSA.

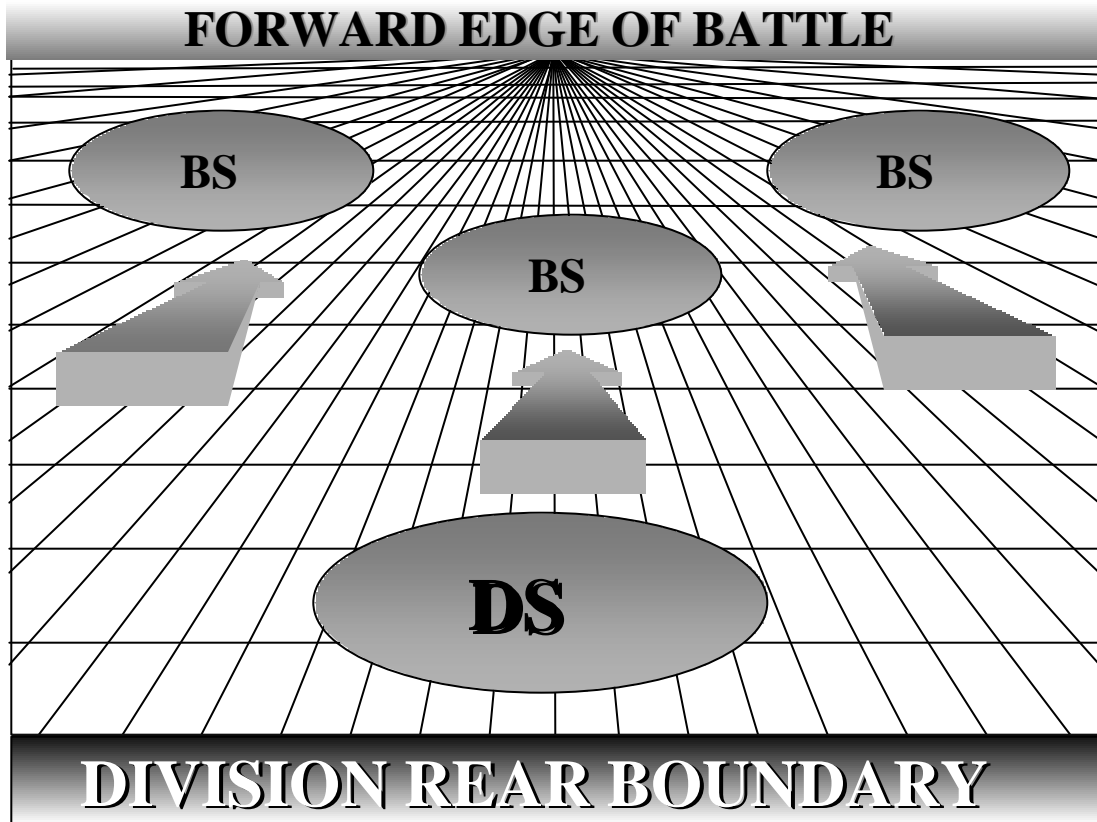


Figure 6-1. Division and Brigade Support Areas

The FSB **supply company** provides supply support in the brigade area. At its supply points, it receives bulk fuel, rations, and bulk Class IV delivered by echelon above division (EAD) transport (normally truck and air, possibly rail). It also transloads ammunition received from EAD assets onto unit transport. It receives other supplies and equipment by throughput from EAD whenever possible.

The FSB **maintenance company** consists of a base shop and mobile maintenance support teams (MSTs). It provides maintenance support in the brigade area. Some of the mobile MSTs operate forward in the maneuver and artillery battalion areas. The company repairs recovered equipment, arranges evacuation of major systems to its area or the division support area (DSA), and operates the repair parts supply system for the brigade.

The **medical company** of the FSB provides combat health support in the brigade area. Its ambulances evacuate patients from battalion aid stations and other collection points to its clearing station for treatment.

The FSB is designed to support division units operating in the brigade area. As mentioned above, it requires assistance to support other elements operating in the area. In addition, it is designed to support a brigade operating as part of a division. Hence, certain support assets have been centralized in the DISCOM headquarters and main support battalion to provide greater efficiency. Materiel and movement management, motor transport support, water supply, more extensive maintenance operations (such as track pack splitting and radar repair), and several medical functions are some of the key functions that fall into this category. Therefore, if a maneuver brigade is operating independent of its parent division, planners must tailor the FSB to provide this support or be able to rely on other sources. This condition does not apply to separate brigades and armored cavalry regiments (ACRs). They have organic support battalions/squadrons capable of providing such support. FM 63-1 covers these organizations. The FSB is the topic of FM 63-20.

Like an FSB, the ASB provides supply and ground maintenance. It also provides aviation intermediate maintenance to the division aviation brigade. It operates in the division rear near the aviation brigade's base of operations. FM 63-23 addresses the ASB.

Division Support Area

The base of operations for the DISCOM headquarters, MMC, and MSB is the division support area (DSA). **A forward corps support battalion also typically operates out of the DSA. It supports nondivisional elements operating in the division area.** In addition, certain combat support units may locate in the DSA. These may include signal, military police, engineer, and chemical elements.

The DSA is normally in the division rear adjacent to air landing facilities and main supply routes (MSRs). FM 63-2 is the doctrinal manual for heavy DISCOMs, while FM 63-2-1 addresses light DISCOMs. The MSB of heavy DISCOMs is discussed in FM 63-21. The DISCOM support operations section, MMC, and division medical operations center provide planning, management, and coordination to ensure support for all division and attached units.

The MSB **supply and services (S&S) company provides supply support for units in the division rear.** It also **maintains the division's reserve of critical supplies** (Classes I, II, III, IV, and VII) to support the FSB/ASB supply companies with supplies that cannot be throughput to forward areas. It provides water purification and supply as well as salvage collection service.

MSB maintenance companies perform division wide maintenance tasks. The number and types of companies vary with the type of division. They provide DS maintenance for division units in the division rear. They also provide support beyond the capabilities of the FSB/ASB maintenance companies. In addition to their base shop operations in the DSA, they provide teams to work in the areas of supported units as appropriate. The companies also maintain the authorized stockage list of Class IX for the division.

The **aircraft maintenance company** is either organic to the ASB or a separate company under the DISCOM. It provides AVIM support for the division aviation brigade aircraft, aircraft armament, avionics, and aircraft peculiar items of ground support equipment. It also provides aircraft repair parts, aircraft end item support, and reinforcing aviation unit maintenance.

The **transportation motor transport (TMT) company** of the MSB provides transportation for personnel, supplies, mail, and equipment to support division CSS operations. The movement control officer (MCO) in the DISCOM coordinates transportation support for division operations. The division transportation officer (DTO) on the division staff provides staff planning and highway regulation.

The **medical company** in the DSA provides unit level medical support to units in the division rear. It augments forward medical companies or battalion aid stations as required. It also provides division level medical support to both division and nondivisional units in the division rear area.

In **summary** the DISCOM provides the following combat service support:

- Support of class I (to include water purification, and limited distribution), II, III, IV, V (transfer), VI, VII, VIII, and IX supplies.
- Personnel to operate one ammunition transfer point (ATP) per FSB. (Ammunition supply points (ASPs) and ATPs in the division rear area are operated by a nondivisional ammunition company.)
- Direct support maintenance and reinforcing support of FSBs for authorized division equipment.
- Materiel (supply and maintenance) management for the division.
- Surface transport for personnel, mail, supplies, and equipment to accomplish division logistics and administrative missions, to include supplemental ground transportation to support emergency requirements.
- Automatic data processing (ADP) support for division CSS activities.

The DISCOM depends on the following:

- Corps medium helicopter units for airlift needed to support logistics requirements of the division when such airlift capabilities are not organic to the division or airlift requirements exceed the division's capabilities.
- Nondivisional field service or appropriate teams for laundry, bath, clothing, and mortuary affairs services unless organic augmentations are authorized.
- Appropriate elements of the corps and division for legal, personnel, administrative, and finance services.
- Corps support group (CSG) elements that support larger attached units (normally battalion sized) or nondivisional units which are operating in the division area. Although the division has its own organic CSS units, it relies on corps and corps support command (COSCOM) units to sustain the division for continuous operations. (It may also coordinate through civil affairs staff for available host nation (HN) support.)

Division Types and DISCOMs

Armored and Mechanized (Heavy) Divisions

The US Army's armored and mechanized divisions provide mobile, armor protected firepower. Armored and, mechanized divisions are normally employed for their mobility, survivability, lethality, and psychological effect (shock) on the enemy. These divisions destroy enemy armored forces. They can seize and secure land areas and key terrain. During offensive operations, armored and mechanized divisions can rapidly concentrate overwhelming lethal combat power to break or envelop enemy defenses or offensive formations. These divisions then continue the attack to destroy fire support, command and control, and logistics elements. Their mobility allows them to rapidly concentrate, attack, reinforce, or block enemy forces. Their collective protection systems enable them to operate in a nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) environment.

Armored and mechanized divisions operate best in open terrain where they gain the advantage with their mobility and long-range, direct fire weapons. **Because of strategic lift requirements, armored and mechanized forces are slow to deploy from home or staging bases into an AO. They have high consumption rates of supplies, can deploy relatively few dismounted infantry, and have limited use in restrictive terrain.**

Medium Division

On 26 April 1994, the Army Chief of Staff approved a concept for medium divisions in the Army National Guard. These divisions will be patterned after the 2d Infantry Division in Korea. The current division design consists of one armored, one mechanized, and one light infantry brigade with traditional division CS and CSS units. This division is designed to provide commanders with operational flexibility. When fielded and trained, the medium division's strengths and limitations should be similar to that of armored divisions.

Heavy Division DISCOM

The DISCOM in any division **provides DS level supply, maintenance, transportation, and medical support** to all organic and attached elements of the Division. It **also provides aviation intermediate maintenance (AVIM)** for the Division's aircraft. The Heavy DISCOM (i.e. Armored, Mechanized and Medium DISCOMs) consists of a headquarters, a multifunctional Main Support Battalion (MSB), three multifunctional Forward Support Battalions (FSB) (one for each maneuver brigade), and a multifunctional Aviation Support Battalion as shown below in Figure 6-2.

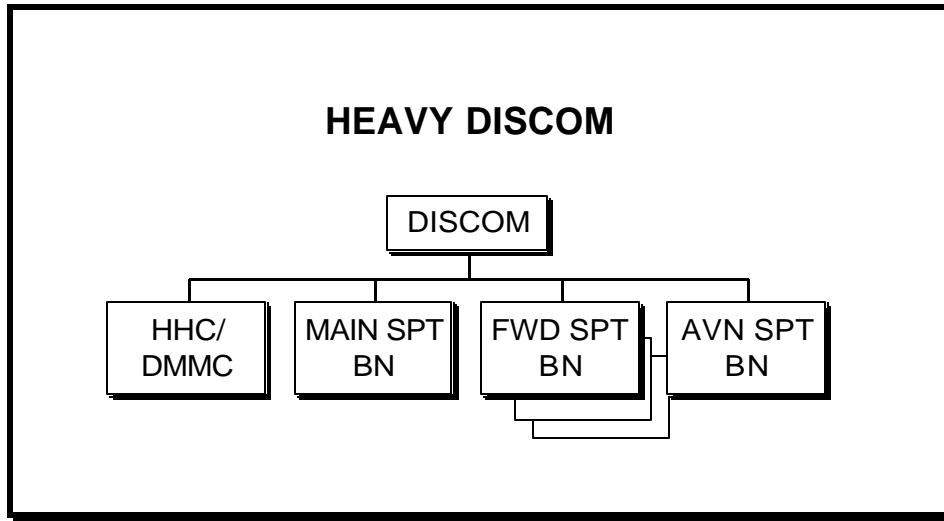


Figure 6-2. Heavy Division Support Command

Main Support Battalion (Heavy Division)

The Main Support Battalion (MSB), a **multifunctional** organization **fixed** in structure, is the division's logistics and medical operator in the Division rear area. It **provides DS level support to division units in the division rear area and designated and reinforcing support to the Forward and Aviation Support Battalions (FSB/DASB)**. The MSB is based in the DSA, but it provides support forward in the Division sector as required. Note that the Heavy Division MSB (Figure 6-3) has a Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD) separate from the other companies in the battalion. It also has electronic and heavy maintenance companies to accomplish its maintenance mission. [Note: Active duty heavy DISCOMS have combined the light and missile maintenance companies to form the electronic maintenance company.]

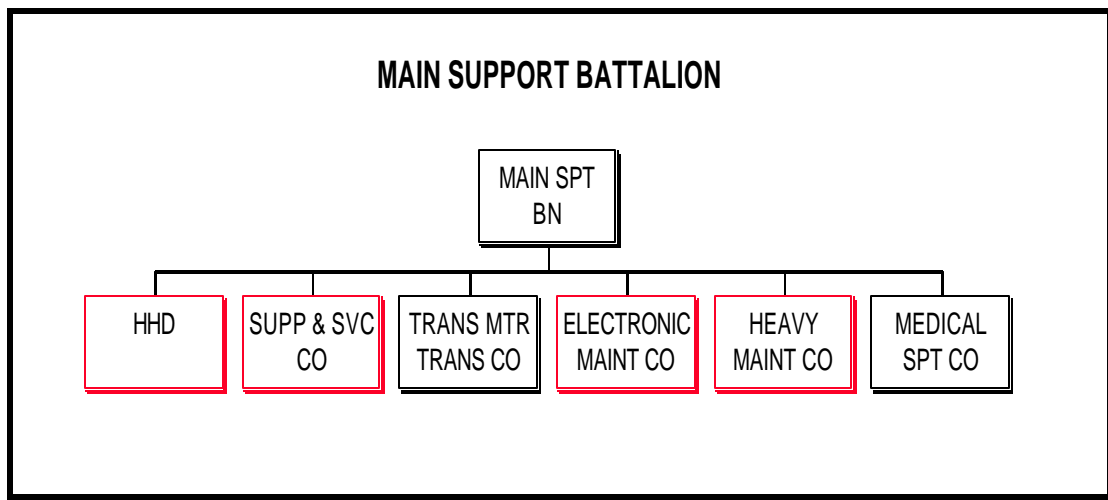


Figure 6-3. Main Support Battalion

Forward Support Battalion (Heavy Division)

The DISCOM has FSBs, one for each division maneuver brigade, to **provide DS level support to all Division units in the Brigade sectors**. Note that the Heavy DISCOM FSB (Figure 6-4) also has a HHD separate from the other companies in the battalion. Unlike the MSB, the **FSB has no transportation support capability** in its structure, and it has **no field service capability** in its supply company. All of the FSB's maintenance capabilities are consolidated in one maintenance company.

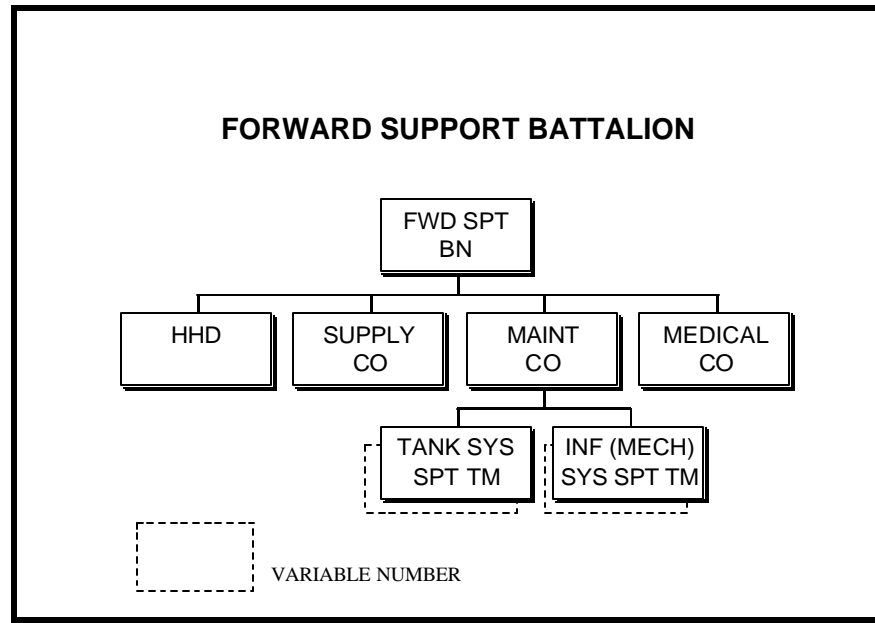


Figure 6-4. Forward Support Battalion

Aviation Support Battalion (Heavy Division)

The Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) (Figure 6-5) is the newest multifunctional battalion in the Division support structure. It is organized to provide responsive multifunctional **DS level support to the Division's Combat Aviation Brigade** as it provides combat power and general aviation support to the Division. The ASB consists of a Headquarters and Supply Company (HSC), a DS level ground maintenance company (GMC), and an Aviation Maintenance Company (AMCO).

The HSC includes the battalion headquarters, a petroleum storage and distribution section, an ammunition handling section, and a general supply storage and distribution section.

The GMC has a maintenance base shop which provides DS level maintenance for the Brigade's wheeled vehicles, generators, and communications equipment, and a Cavalry System Support Team (CSST) which provides DS level ground maintenance support for the Division's cavalry squadron. The ground maintenance company maintains both common and aviation Class IX ASL to support the Aviation Brigade. The

AMCO provides aviation intermediate and reinforcing unit maintenance to divisional aircraft.

The AMCO provides aviation intermediate and reinforcing aviation unit maintenance to divisional aircraft.

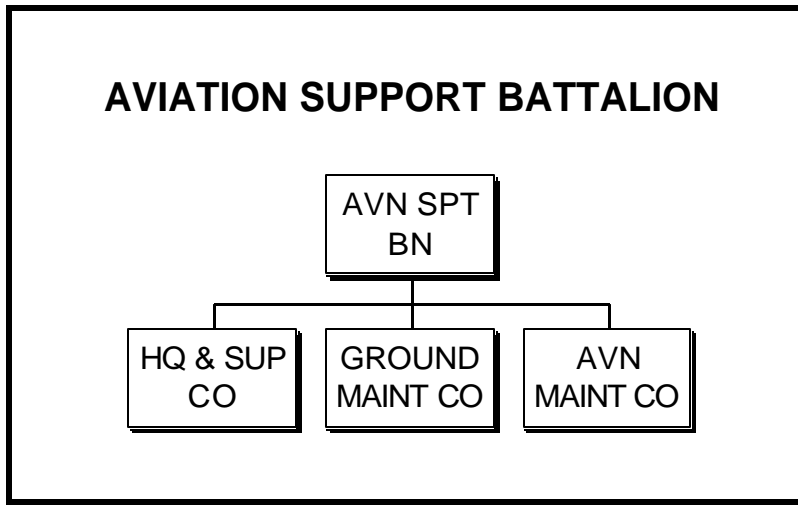


Figure 6-5. Aviation Support Battalion

Light Infantry Division

The light infantry division is one of our most rapidly and strategically deployable divisions. It fights as part of a larger force in conventional conflicts and conducts missions as part of a joint force in OOTW. Its command and control structure readily accepts any augmentation forces, permitting task organizing for any situation. The factors of METT-TC largely determine the augmentations required for the division. The optimum use of light forces is as a division under corps control, its mission capitalizing on its capabilities. The division exploits the advantages of restricted terrain and limited visibility. It achieves mass through the combined effects of synchronized small unit operations and fires rather than through the physical concentration of forces on the battlefield. Light division forces physically mass only when risk to the force is low and the payoff is high. The division deploys as an entity; widely dispersed to conduct synchronized, but decentralized, operations primarily at night or during periods of limited visibility. **Light force limitations include their austere CS and CSS systems**, their requirement for support from the corps or joint force headquarters based on METT-TC, and their need for prepared and covered fighting positions for their survivability. Additionally, they have limited NBC protection for operating in an NBC environment.

Light Infantry DISCOM

The Light Infantry DISCOM (Figure 6-6) is similar in basic structure to the Heavy DISCOM. It has multifunctional battalions (MSB and FSB) which are employed like the battalions of the Heavy DISCOM. However, there are differences in the structure of the Light Infantry DISCOM MSB and FSB.

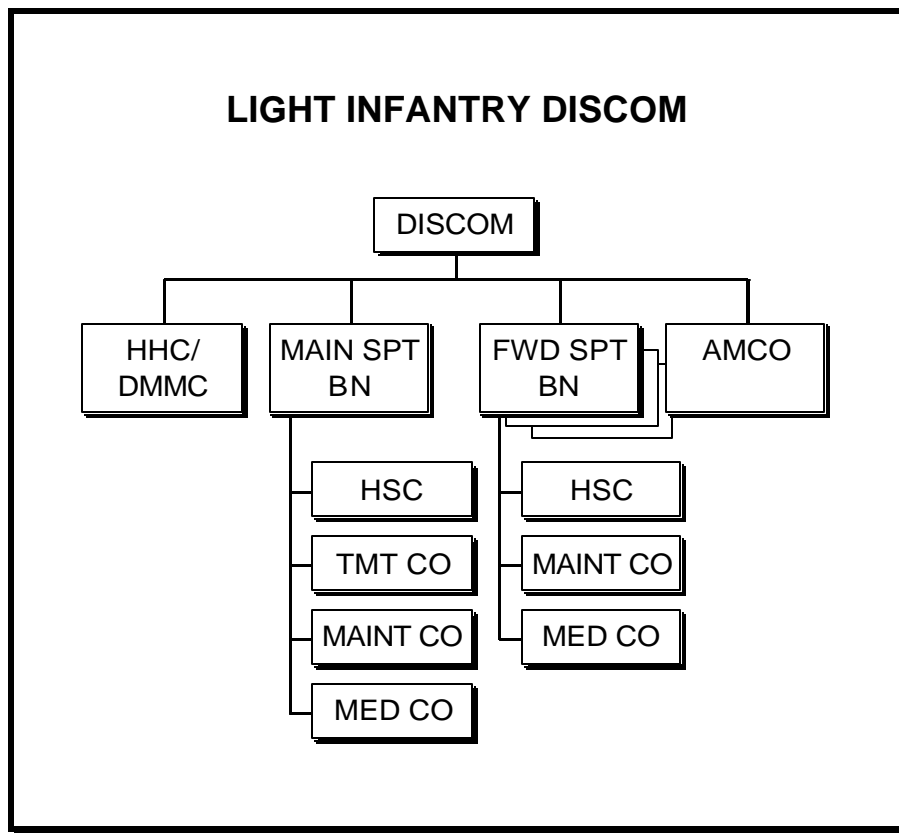


Figure 6-6 Light Infantry DISCOM

Light Infantry DISCOM MSB

The battalion headquarters element of the Light Infantry DISCOM MSB is consolidated with the supply company to form a **Headquarters and Supply Company (HSC)**. The MSB HSC, when augmented, has the capability to provide mortuary affairs (MA), laundry and showers, and water support. The Light Infantry DISCOM MSB also **has only one maintenance company** in its structure.

Light Infantry DISCOM FSB

The battalion headquarters element of the Light Infantry DISCOM FSB is also consolidated with the supply company to form a **HSC**. The FSB HSC has the capability to operate an ammunition transfer point (ATP).

Airborne Division

The airborne division can rapidly deploy anywhere in the world to seize and secure vital objectives. It conducts parachute assaults to capture initial lodgments, execute large scale tactical raids, secure intermediate staging bases or forward operating bases for ground and air operations, or rescue US nationals besieged

overseas. It also can serve as a strategic or theater reserve as well as reinforcement for forward presence forces.

The airborne division can assault deep into the enemy's rear areas to secure terrain or interdict enemy supply and withdrawal routes. It can seize and repair airfields to provide a forward operating base and airheads for follow on air landed forces. It is capable of all other missions assigned to light infantry divisions. The airborne division uses its strategic and operational mobility to achieve surprise on the battlefield.

Its aircraft range and its instrumentation capability enable the Air Force to accurately deliver the airborne division into virtually any objective area under almost any weather condition. All equipment is air transportable. Most is air droppable. All personnel are trained for parachute assaults and airborne operations. Engagements with enemy armored or motorized formations require special consideration. The division does not have sufficient armored protection to defeat heavier armored formations at close range. Antitank weapons in the division compensate for, but do not completely offset, this deficit.

Airborne DISCOM

There is only one Airborne Division in the Army and it is the 82d Airborne Division, XVIII Airborne Corps. The Airborne DISCOM (Figure 6-7) is similar to the light and heavy division DISCOM. It has multifunctional battalions (MSB and FSB) and a functional Aviation Maintenance Company. However, the Airborne MSB has two maintenance companies (Light and Heavy) and an Airborne Equipment Support Company. **Note:** The Light Maint Co also includes missile maintenance.

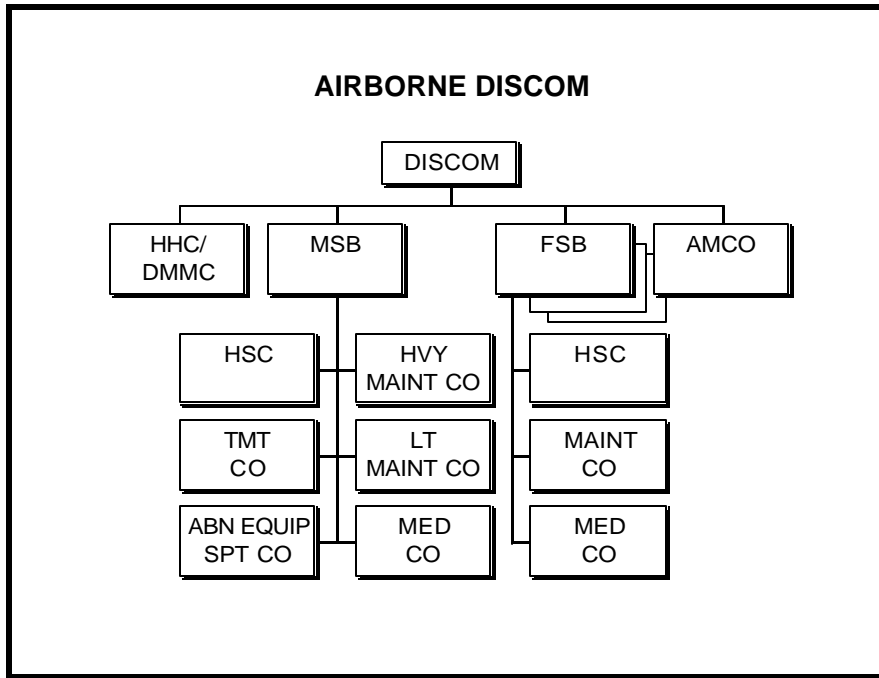


Figure 6-7. Airborne DISCOM

Air Assault Division

The air assault division combines strategic deployability with tactical mobility within its AO. It attacks the enemy deep, fast, and often overextended distances and terrain obstacles. The airmobile division of the Vietnam era provided the US Army the operational foundation, experience, and tactics for today's air assault operations. Air assault operations have evolved into combat, CS, and CSS elements (aircraft and troops) deliberately task organized for tactical operations. Helicopters are completely integrated into ground force operations.

Air assault operations generally involve insertions and extractions under hostile conditions, opposed to mere air movement of troops to and from secure locations about the battlefield. Once deployed on the ground, air assault infantry battalions fight like battalions in other infantry divisions; however, normal task organization of organic aviation results in greater combat power and permits rapid aerial redeployment. The rapid tempo of operations over extended ranges enables the division commander to rapidly seize and maintain the tactical initiative.

Air Assault Division DISCOM

The Air Assault DISCOM (Figure 6-8) **includes both functional and multifunctional battalions**. In addition to the **multifunctional MSB and FSBs**, the Air Assault DISCOM has a **functional Aviation Maintenance Battalion (AVIM)** rather than

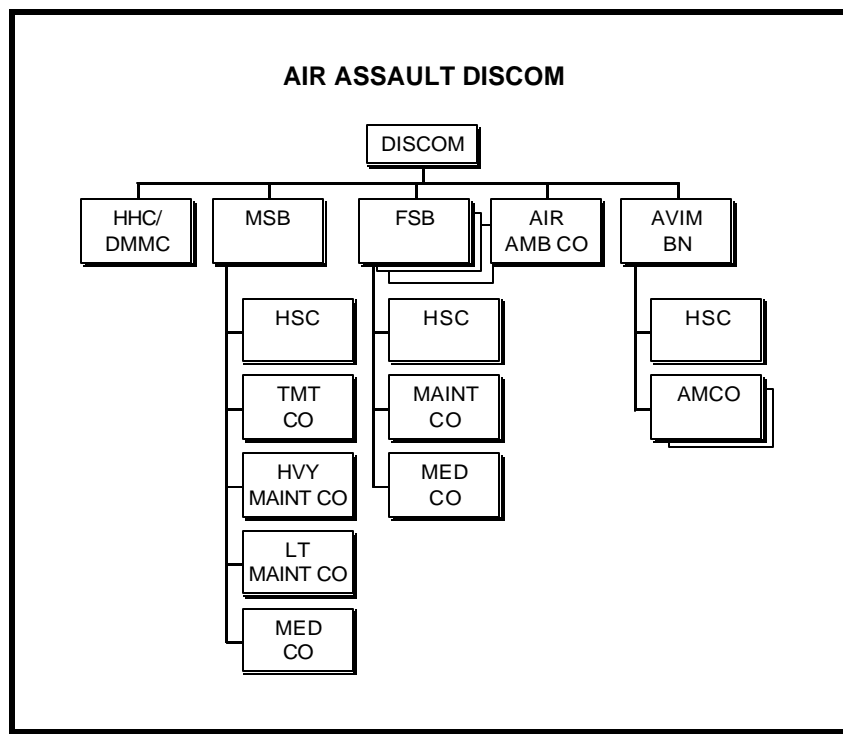


Figure 6-8. Air Assault DISCOM

a company to support its aviation assets. The **Air Ambulance Company** enhances the Air Assault DISCOM's evacuation capability. In total, these units are employed in much the same manner as the battalions in the Heavy DISCOM.

Armored Cavalry Regiment

The ACR is a separate corps maneuver unit. As a corps asset, it predominantly operates for the corps commander by performing reconnaissance, security, and economy of force missions. The regiment (like the separate brigade) is considered by the corps staff as a major element of corps maneuver combat power on a par with the division. The regimental staff works closely with the corps. The staff ensures that the regiment is adequately planned for in corps operations. The regiment may also be placed under OPCON of or attached to a division. This is done for operations when command relationships better support mission accomplishment. Some missions require the regiment to reinforce a division with a squadron. A reinforced ACS is normally assigned this task. The ACS is attached or placed OPCON to the division. The ACR operates independently over a wide area. It also operates at extended distances from other units. The ACR is a highly mobile, armored force. It is capable of fighting a fully mechanized threat in a mid-to high-intensity environment.

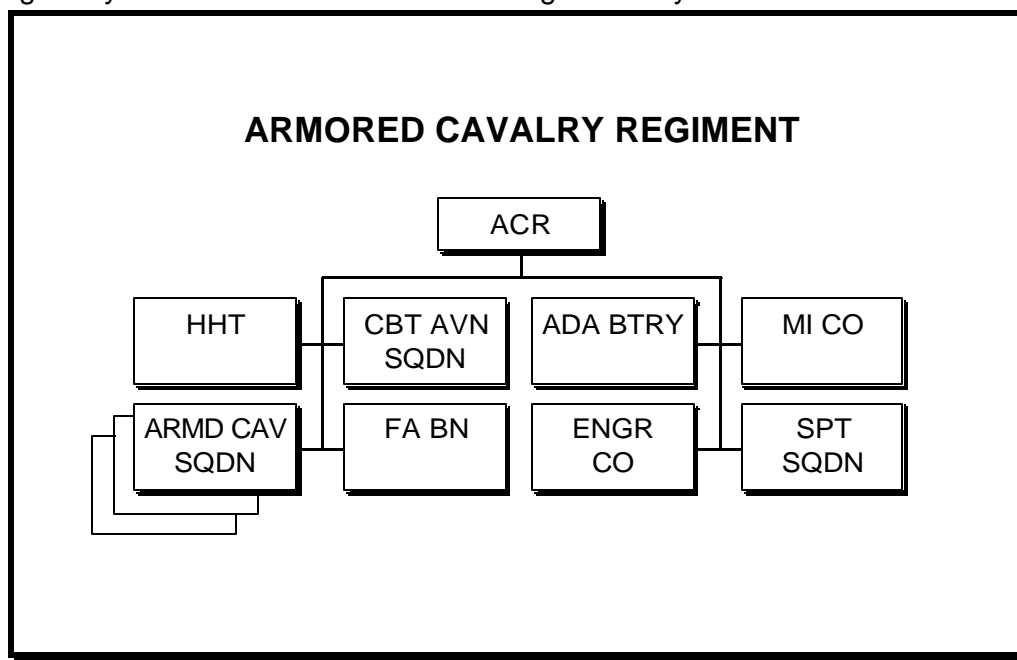


Figure 6-9. Armored Cavalry Regiment

The ACR (Figure 6-9) is normally the foundation around which the corps covering force is built. As a covering force, the regiment is expected to destroy a significant number of enemy forces in the corps security area. This requires attacking, defending, and delaying as necessary to accomplish the corps commander's intent. The ACR may also become part of the corps reserve or perform rear area operations.

The ACR is an ideal force for use in an economy of force role. This allows the corps commander to concentrate forces at the decisive point on the battlefield. If assigned a defend mission in an economy of force role, the ACR requires minimum augmentation with combat (normally infantry), CS (artillery, engineer), and CSS assets. Commitment of the ACR to this mission normally requires other corps assets to assume the corps security function.

ACR Support Squadron

The support element of the ACR is the **Support Squadron** (Figure 6-10). It is composed of a headquarters troop, supply and transportation (S&T) troop, maintenance troop, and medical troop. The support squadron provides support for elements in the regiment. It provides support on a forward and area basis. The support squadron plans for logistics and CHS in advance.

The support squadron provides support as far forward as practical. Tactical and threat considerations determine the extent of the support forward doctrine. The corps or the support squadron provides supplies, weapon systems, and repair assets for easily reparable equipment to the field trains or beyond as expeditiously as practical. Personnel arm, fuel, fix and man forward weapon systems.

The support squadron is part of the overall logistics system (and medical system) which supports all elements of the regiment. The logistics structure of the regiment is designed to link into a COSCOM. The COSCOM provides GS supply, reinforcing DS maintenance, motor transport, field services, airdrop, and health services. The ammunition and petroleum distribution systems in the COSCOM forward CSG provide GS levels of support to the support squadron. Other support is provided by throughput distribution from the rear CSG.

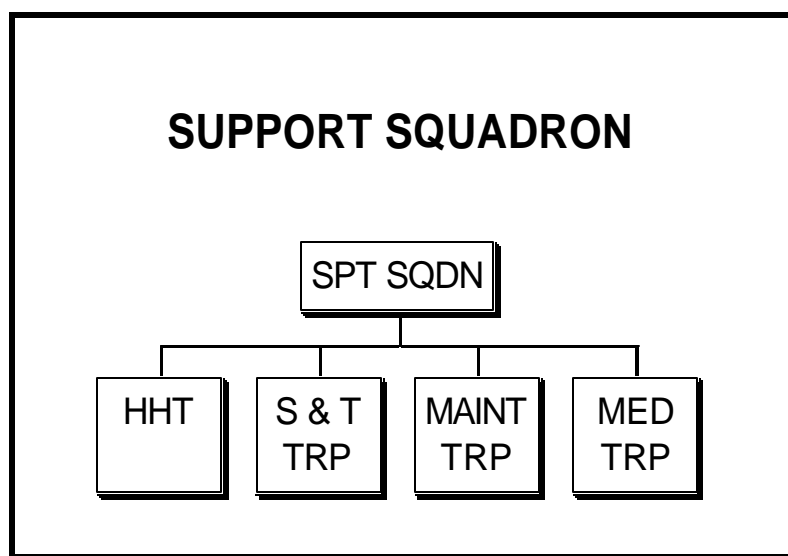


Figure 6-10. Support Squadron

The support squadron is the operator providing the support link between COSCOM units and the supported units in the regiment area. The COSCOM in coordination with

logistics planners in the regiment pushes support forward to the RSA based on requirements. Units in the regiment area normally are not required to return behind the regimental trains for support. MSTs provide DS in forward tactical unit areas. Personnel station support squadron ambulances at squadron aid stations. Forward tactical refueling points provide fuel as far forward as possible.

Chapter 6: The Division

Homework Assignment

Manuals Required to Complete Homework: Theater Logistics Handbook, Chapter 6; FM 71-100; 63-2; 63-20 63-21; and FM 100-10.

1. The division is a unit of maneuver, organized with varying numbers and types of combat, combat support (CS), and combat service support (CSS) units. It may be_____

_____ ; each division can conduct operations over a wide range of environments. The success of Army operations depends on the success of its divisions. Ref.FM 71-100.

2. All divisions are generally organized with a similar basic design called a **division base**. What units make up the division base? Ref.FM 71-100.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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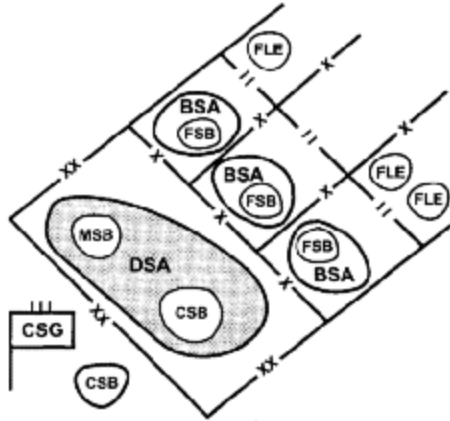
3. The division support command (DISCOM) provides

_____.
It furnishes limited CSS to non-divisional units in the division area. Ref.FM 71-100.

4. The base of operations for the FSB is_____. The brigade _____
_____. The FSB commander must ensure the area is small enough for C3 and security purposes, yet large enough to accommodate the dispersion required by the FSB and all the other elements normally located in the BSA. The size will vary with the terrain, but an area of 4-7 kilometers in diameter is a planning guideline. Ref.FM 63-20.

5. The FSB is designed to support_____. It requires _____
_____ operating in the area. In addition, it is designed to support a brigade operating as part of a division. Hence, certain support assets have been centralized in the DISCOM headquarters and main support battalion to provide greater efficiency. Materiel and movement management, motor transport support, water supply, more extensive maintenance operations (such as track pack splitting and radar repair), and several medical functions are some of the key functions that fall into this category. Therefore, if a maneuver brigade is operating independent of

its parent division, _____ to provide this support or be able to rely on other sources. Ref.FM 71-100.



6. The MSB supply element provides _____. It also maintains the division's _____ of critical supplies (Classes I, II, III, IV, and VII) to support the FSB/ASB supply companies that cannot be throughput to forward areas. Ref.FM 100-10

7. The _____ of the MSB provides transportation for _____ to support division CSS operations. The _____ in the DISCOM coordinates transportation support for division operations. The division transportation officer (DTO) on the division staff provides _____. Ref FM 63-2

8. A forward _____ also typically operates out of the DSA. It supports _____ operating in the division area. Ref FM 63-21

9. In a heavy division, the Main Support Battalion (MSB) is a _____ organization _____ in structure, is the division's logistics and medical operator in the Division rear area. It **provides** _____

_____. The MSB is based in the _____, but it provides support forward in the Division sector as required.

10. Because of strategic lift requirements, armored and mechanized forces are _____ AO. They have _____ of supplies, can deploy relatively few dismounted infantry, and have limited use in restrictive terrain. Ref.FM 71-100.

11. Light [Infantry] force limitations include their _____, their requirement for support from the corps or joint force headquarters based on METT-TC, and their need for prepared and covered fighting positions for their survivability. Ref.FM 71-100.

NOTES

NOTES