



DEFAUS 18

HARDENED LOGISTICS

PITCHER

KARL JURAT

7 November 2018



ABSTRACT

Since the commencement of the First Gulf War, many NATO countries have worked to harden the soft underbelly of their land warfare organisations. For most countries this has been in the form of a logistic tail, one that is often under resourced, inadequately trained and provided with lower quality equipment than their combat equivalents. With the introduction of the US Combat Logistic Patrol and other Coalition equivalents, the Australian Army needs to contemporise its training model and support mindset so that we can do more with less. With modern day manning caps and budgetary constraints the second and third line logistic assets within Army need to modernise and fully realise the capability that Land 121 can provide.

Land 121 provides an excellent combination of platforms both in armoured and unarmoured variants. Whether it is in the form of the MAN or HAWKEI fleet the ADF has been provisioned with some of the best equipment in the world – we now just need to fully understand what we can do with it. If we are able to develop an operating concept where MAN and HAWKEI vehicles successfully leverage off their ancillaries and weapons we may reach a point where they can be employed on GREEN and AMBER routes in a warlike AO. Whilst an argument for contracting life support will always exist, it could be considered prudent to have at a minimum, a single shot capability which can be deployed at short notice anywhere in the world. If we are able to achieve this, it will provide ADF contract managers more time to develop a robust life support model at a reduced cost to the Commonwealth. Given the relative infancy of the fleet it is recommended that the Australian Army consider the establishment of a L121 trial and implementation troop. This troop would be enable us to advance doctrine, identify shortfalls and develop training at a far more rapid rate than we traditionally would.



PROPOSAL AND OUTCOMES

Whilst training teams have been considered in Combat Brigades before, my proposal is for one to be established as a subordinate sub-unit under the Army Logistic Training Centre. Its primary objective would be to develop tactical logistic SOPs and support implementation in all three combat brigades, up to and including mounted live fire training. I propose this troop be established in 2020, based at either Gallipoli Barracks or Greenbank Training Area, Queensland. Both locations have facilities in place and would only require medium level engagement for access and support arrangements to be established. Resources required to support this proposal would be contextually insignificant and would primarily consist of ammunition, fuel, cash and personnel.

To be successful this proposal would be broken into two phases. Phase one would consist of stakeholder engagement and SOP consolidation for a period of 12 months. Phase two would consist of a transition to a mobile training team concept. Using this model the training team would deploy to the reset Combat Brigade for the duration of one year and assist in the up-skilling of all logistic personnel. The target audience would be the CSSB for the first six months with all first line logistic sub-units being supported in the second half of the reset period.

The end state is that Combat Brigade logistic stakeholders have had the opportunity to provide input and a common operating model can be developed and implemented. This will standardise logistic procedures within all FORCOMD units, with a CSSB being able to resupply any first line unit regardless of Combat Brigade. This proposal will ideally continue to stimulate further cultural change within the logistic community and generate a combat mindset.