



DEFAUS 18

**MOBILE  
ARMoured  
CONTAINER  
COMMAND POST**

PITCHER

**LUKE JUDD**

---

13 November 2018



# ABSTRACT

Headquarters 1 Brigade and most Army units currently rely on tents for the operation of HQ, command and control function in the field and while on exercise. Modern direction finding and integration of long range joint fires and effects from weapons such as High Mobility Artillery Rocket System or the 3M-54 Kalibr / Klub missile systems in accordance mass proliferation of Unmanned Aerial surveillance to observe and call in fire has made the tent an extremely vulnerable point anywhere on the battlefield. When targeted by these indirect fires or close air support, the ability for a tent based command post to survive and move is very limited. Tents are also vulnerable to small arms weapons which are common threats in almost every operational area. Tents also require additional time to setup equipment within, and are not able to move at short notice.

The Armoured container command post would use a standard 20ft container reinforced with armour and fitted with a wide range of digitised communications equipment to enable communications in Joint and coalition environments. This would provide communications, command and control of a Brigade and below sized force, with mobility and flexibility to easily transition through all levels of conflict, in addition to supporting Humanitarian and Disaster relief efforts in a Joint environment.

Armoured containers are provided at Formation HQ and Battalion / Regiment level within Army, and identified units in RAAF and potentially Navy. These containers would have with STANAG (Nato Standardisation Agreement) 4569 Level 1 protection, which provides those operating inside have protection against small arms fire at 30m, and shell fragments from 155mm artillery landing at 100m away. This gives the HQ node or element a better chance of survival, as it is able to be moved at very



# PROPOSAL AND OUTCOMES

short notice. The command post could be left to operate on the back of a HX77 truck utilising the Flat rack system. These containers would have communication equipment permanently installed, and make use of High Frequency Near Vertical Incident Sky Wave, High Capacity Line of sight as primary means with Satellite communications, Ultra High frequency and Very high frequency voice and data communications as a backup.

At Brigade level, 20ft containers are sourced and fitted for operations as a command post. These would work in pairs, and primarily operated off the back of a HX 77, but could also be dropped in place. These would potentially form the basis of a FOB for counter-insurgency operations, or a command post for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

These containers could also for a standard command post arrangement that could be used across the Australian Defence Force and Coalition forces if it contained the communications equipment commonly used by these groups. If this system is to be used in this way, a wide number could be procured and stationed in each key location supported by a Joint Logistics Command ready for use. The cost of this system over tents is more expensive initially, but arguably has a longer life span over a tent, which results in a comparative cost for the capability provided.

With DEFAUS support, a proof of concept trial would be conducted within within 1 Brigade (2019) or 3 Brigade (2020) in order to refine the concept and establish key specifications and integration requirements.