

LEVELS OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT IN UN-MULTINATIONAL OPERATIONS

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Abstract: *The way in which the logistical support is organized, planned and ensured in the multinational operations carried out under the aegis of the UN and the command of this organization, represents not only a main objective of the structures for planning and conducting the logistical support, but also a center of gravity for these military actions. . In this sense, the knowledge of the structures, their role and their responsibilities, from a logistical point of view, is just as important as the knowledge of the policies, strategies or regulations of this extremely important field.*

Keywords: multinational operations, logistical support, regulations, structure, responsibilities.

1. Introduction

In any organization the evolutions in fields such as the normative, conceptual or procedural ones are always influenced by the evolutions in the structural field, as it happens in reverse, in the idea that all structural changes are generated by the realities of the theater of operations, of the physiognomy of military actions and the need to provide consistent and consistent logistical support to the military engaged in such military actions.

The latest multinational operations, conducted globally, under the aegis and command of security organizations, demonstrated whether it was still necessary that the logistical support systems designed to operate at the theaters of operations differ from one operation to another, the structures operating at the levels of logistical, strategic, operational and tactical support are not the same, from one mission to another and, therefore, the logistical support systems evolve with the manner of

conducting military actions, which, in our opinion, is natural.

The structural changes that have occurred in organizing and securing logistical support in the multinational operations conducted by the UN, NATO and the EU have mainly targeted the first three organizations, perhaps due to the fact that the number of its members is large enough to impose these aspects. On the other hand, addressing the various logistical support options fully contributes to accelerating this type of change which, in our opinion, brings logistical support in multinational operations to what should be, to contemporary realities. Thus, the connection of the systems of military logistical support, to the realities generated by the economic environment, especially from the supply-delivery chain, is fully felt, especially as regards the conceptualization and implementation of some of the activities specific to the functional areas.

We want to emphasize that, within the multinational operations for each of the

three levels of military art, we can properly distinguish three levels of logistical support: strategic, operational and tactical.

Thus, for the strategic level, the logistical support is planned and provided / executed by structures of strategic level, operational, respectively logistical, obligatory, which have a united character. Continuing with the operational level, the logistical support is coordinated, respectively provided by coordination and execution structures, multinational and national, some of them (the multinational ones) often having a united character or which, depending on the level of the forces allocated by the categories of forces, for participating in the multinational operation, they may have specialization character (land, naval or air). At tactical level, we find, subordinated, through the operation plans and their logistical support annexes, execution structures, most often from the national contingents, of the TCNs.

We want to mention, that for the successful development (reaching the final state) of the multinational operations, through the planning process, at all its stages, the necessary structures and measures are established for each level of logistical support in order to ensure the forces participating in the multinational operation. with all that is necessary for them to live and fulfill their missions.

The experience gained in the last multinational operations conducted by the UN, NATO and EU highlights the continuous and joint effort of the decision-making, operational and logistical support structures to ensure a higher level of organization, (management of the logistic support system) in the operations theater structures participating in the establishment of the logistical support system, by developing and implementing a unitary concept of logistical support. Based on this conception, for all the theater of operations, areas of logistical responsibility are established, the specific support lines are delimited, according to the level of the

stages participating in the multinational operation and the structures that put into practice the decision of the Commander of the Multinational Force in the approached field are marked. . According to the ones presented, we believe that the levels of logistical support have different implications on the ability to support the combat forces for the accomplishment of the mission.

We would like to highlight the fact that the UN, NATO and the EU as international security organizations do not have, since time of peace, logistical support units (subunits) that have organized command and control systems (Command and Control / C2) well defined and whose operation is checked on various occasions. For this reason, as long as the Multinational Force, regardless of the operation and the organization that runs it, does not have a fixed C2 type mechanism, it will have to be one sized according to the specifics and requirements of the participating forces.

In the following we will present their main structures and responsibilities, in terms of logistical support, in the operations conducted by the UN.

According to the documents that regulate the logistical support in the operations conducted by the UN, the responsibility for the logistical support granted to the multinational forces rests with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations / DPKO. Unlike the operations conducted by NATO and the EU, within the UN, the sustainability of the Multinational Force from a logistical and administrative perspective is analyzed.

2. Structures and responsibilities regarding logistical support at strategic level

In the UN-led multinational operations, at the strategic level we find the Department of Peacekeeping Operations(DPKO). DPKO is responsible for developing policies in the field and conducting multinational operations. This structure

ensures the connection between the General Secretariat of the organization and the Member States, in areas such as operational and logistics [1].

In DPKO subordination we find the Office of Mission Support / WHO which is responsible for: coordinating all the logistical and administrative aspects for the multinational forces structure; developing and implementing specific policies and procedures for logistical support in UN-led operations; planning and coordinating the logistical support at operational and tactical level; liaising with Member States and other organizations regarding their contributions to UN-led operations; coordinating the conclusion of the logistical support agreements; implementation of policies and regulations at the level of operations theater, in the logistics and financial fields.

WHO has two subordinated structures for the coordination of logistical and administrative support: the Logistics Support Division / LSD and the Administrative Support Division / ASD. The organizational structure of the Logistics Support Division is structured on three services, as follows: Operational Support Service / OSS; Specialist Support Service / SSS and Communications & Information Technology / C & IT.

The activities carried out by LSD are materialized in [2]: identification of the logistical requirements of the mission; planning of logistical support structures; setting priorities for the requests received from the mission forces; coordinating the contribution of the Member States; negotiation of procurement contracts with the host nation or international profile companies; negotiation with the transport companies interested in ensuring the transport of forces in / from the theater of operations; executing UN real estate control; monitoring of concluded contracts. The Administrative Support Division (ASD) is responsible for conducting activities in areas such as personnel

management and financial management, for the entire multinational operation. The division is organized into two sections: Financial Management and Support Services (FMSS) and Personnel Management and Support Services / PMSS. Both sections have as main responsibility the management of the Memorandums of Understanding / MOU, establishing the links with the states participating in the operation to determine the necessary financial funds for the value of the goods and services offered to the troops, respectively coordinating all activities for the recruitment and management of the human resource.

3. Structures and responsibilities regarding logistical support at operational level

At the operational level we find the Command of the Multinational Force, whose composition depends on the size of the forces engaged in the operation, as well as on the operational requirements of the military actions.

The head of the mission is, as a rule, an internationally recognized personality in the field of UN diplomacy having the function of Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General (Special Representative of the Secretary-General / SRS) who exercises the authority invested in all areas of the multinational operation led by the UN, including in the field of logistics. From a logistical point of view, each multinational operation conducted by the UN has two major components: a civilian and a military one, both being responsible for providing logistical support at the theater level. For the purposes of the present, the civil component is headed by the Director of Administration / DOA and / or the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

The general responsibilities of the CAO consist of [3]: purchases of materials, regardless of the area of origin; host nation support; approving the documents that involve expenditure of funds for the needs

of the mission; organizing humanitarian aid; submission of information reports or additional requests to the Logistics Support Division; the preparation and centralization of the budget estimates, their agreement with the mission requirements; budget management.

The CAO is the main adviser of the SRS in the field of logistical support and administration and has subordinated an increasing number of structures that ensure the fulfillment of the functional attributions, in the field, as follows: civilian personnel section; integrated logistics support section; financial section; transport section; general services section; technical maintenance section of calculation; building management and maintenance section; communications section and procurement section. Each of these structures has specialized personnel to provide an extensive range of goods and services for the military members of the Multinational Force.

The Commander of the Multinational Force represents the highest-ranking military officer in the multinational operation, being appointed by the UN Secretary-General. He heads the command of the Multinational Force composed of permanent functions, granted to certain nations (chief operations officer, chief logistics officer, advisers), respectively temporary positions, to which UN member states have rotational access.

At the level of the Multinational Force, logistical support is led by the Chief Logistics Officer (CLO), directly subordinated to the Chief of Staff. CLO coordinates logistical support for the Multinational Force, in close cooperation with the CAO, on the basis of financial constraints set by the UN.

Its main task is to establish, organize and operate the Mission Logistics Support Base. He leads the process of elaboration and implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures that ensure the operation of the logistics system of the multinational operation.

The CLO ensures, through the subordinate personnel, the management of the supply, maintenance, transport, campaign services (feeding, mail and courier, medical assistance, etc)[4].

Another officer with duties in the logistics field (in the UN approach and vision) is the Chief Military Personnel Officer / CMPO. It has the following main tasks: human resource management; recreation and maintenance of morale; keeping records; establishing the duties of the service; establishing the rules of behavior; coordinating the development and distribution of military publications.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMedO) who is responsible for maintaining the health status of the staff, respectively keeping a proper situation on the line of preventive medicine, at the theater level of operations. Provides through the specialized personnel and the subordinate structures the aeromedical evacuation (Medical Evacuation / MEDEVAC), in consultation with the head of the Air Operations Section (Chief Air Operations / C Air Ops). At the same time, it ensures the integration of the medical support provided by the national contingents, namely the evacuation outside the theater of operations of the military who need specialized, long-term medical assistance.

Another component of the logistical support at the operational level is provided by the specialized units of the Multinational Force. Depending on the type of operation, the size of the forces and the specific area of the operations, these units (subunits) of logistic support of the Multinational Force may have different destinations and specializations, such as: logistic bases (supply units); genius units for logistics; maintenance units; medical support units; motion control structures; transport units (ground and air); transmission and communications units; coordination structures of the Host Nation Support.

Each of the structures mentioned above have a special role in providing logistical support

for the national contingents participating in the operation, as well as for the international organizations and agencies involved in ensuring the sustainability of the Multinational Force. Among the units and structures mentioned, we want to highlight the special role of the logistic support base, which, by size and the accumulated materials represent an important capability of the Multinational Force.

The logistic support base ensures, as presented above, the operational level of the multinational force's logistics system. As a specialized structure in providing the logistical support needed for the Multinational Force, it has a flexible structure, being sized according to the requirements of the missions and the number of the participating personnel. As a rule, depending on the type of multinational operation, the logistic support base has the following main responsibilities:

- carrying out all the specific activities of the components of the supply-delivery chain (receiving, receiving, transporting and distributing the materials to the existing storage capacities);
- management of requests for logistical support;
- management of materials insured by contracting;
- transport management at the theater of operations;
- establishment and storage of fuel-lubricant stocks;
- checking the quality of the food products obtained by contracting;
- establishment of subunits of logistical support to ensure the forward movement in new areas of responsibility.

The Chief Logistics Officer is responsible for the arrangement and operation of the multinational force's logistical support base, as well as for providing the logistical support offered to the national contingents, through this structure or through its sections. It should be emphasized that, given that the logistical support base is centrally located, its sections can be

arranged near the embarkation-disembarkation, maritime or air points.

4. Structures and responsibilities for logistical support at tactical level

At the tactical level we find the units, sub-units and logistic support formations in the structure of the national contingents, which are intended to provide organic support to combat and combat support forces and a certain relative level of independence logistically.

From the point of view of disposition, the logistical support structures of the national contingents are elements of the logistic support system, their location on the ground based on the decision of the commander of the national contingent (on the proposal of the S4). As a rule, the logistic support structure is located in the same district as one of the fighting subunits and the national contingent command. Within the logistical support structures we find storage formations (intendency materials; armaments and ammunition; technical materials; automotive parts; fuels and lubricants, etc.), as well as the necessary technique to ensure the feeding of personnel, washing of linen, manufacture of bread, repair of the technique, provision of medical assistance, etc [5]. The composition of such structures is diverse, on a case-by-case basis, ranging from warehouses of equipment, armaments and ammunition, technical materials, auto parts to fuels-lubricants.

Experience gained in recent operations shows that the logistical support structures of national quotas may be of different sizes, even if they serve the same number of people, taking into account mutual logistical support agreements concluded by different countries participating in the operation.

5. Conclusions

In conclusion, we would like to point out that the UN's logistical support system has undergone structural changes, at least in terms of organisational and planning structures, located at the operational level.

Thus, it is found that unlike the operations run by the organization, until the first decade, in the 21st century, the logistic support structure of DPKO has reconfigured its organization chart, disappearing the Field Administration and Logistics Division (FALD). The location of this structure was taken by the two sections of the Mission Logistics Support Office, in this case, the Logistics Support Division and the Administrative Support Division.

Changes in logistics have not only had structural consequences, but especially in the conceptual and actionable one. Thus, we note that, as the organisation has almost "withdrawn" from large-scale multinational operations, logistical support has become leaner, more flexible and more connected to the global economic system. From this point of view, the UN continues to use in operations carried out under its command specialist personnel, mainly from the region where military action is carried out, and its support structures are increasingly carrying out contracts with civilian economic operators.

As an organisation which, with small exceptions (The Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy), does not have logistical support structures nor does it use concepts such as NATO and the EU (MILU or MIMIU), in terms of logistical support to TCNs, the UN is based in on the logistics of national contingents, at the level of the Multinational Force it is quite difficult to discuss an integrated logistics system (integrated logistical support). With all these

impediments to the power of the States participating in the multinational operation, the lack of standardization of the technique, equipment or procedures used by the TCNs, although in recent times the UN has increasingly turned to organisations such as NATO and the EU for crisis resolution, the organisation shall ensure in appropriate terms the support needs of the military under its command.

In our view, it is urgently necessary for the UN to engage in a large-scale multinational operation, not only to prove its ability to lead and resolve such crisis situations, but also to check its technique, equipment, personnel and working procedures, including logistical ones. We support this view because, in our view, the organisation is on the verge of falling behind, in terms of ways and ways of providing logistical support, after years of being at the origin of the transformation process in the field of Approach.

Last but not least, we believe that the UN will have to insist on ensuring an optimal balance in the use of military and civilian resources given the organisation's tendency to use supply from the civilian environment. Experience has shown that the small number of military logistical support structures in UN-led multinational operations has burdened the level of mobility and response of the Multinational Force in crisis situations operating theatre. For this reason, we believe that access to the two types of sources of supply must be balanced and actively applied in the logistics support planning process at its initial stages.

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