

## TEXT 8

### **Logistics**

Logistics is the military branch having to do with procuring, maintaining, and transporting material, personnel, and facilities.

It plans and carries out the movement and maintenance of forces. It deals with the following aspects of military operations:

- Design and development, acquisition, storage, movement, distribution, maintenance, evacuation, and disposition of materiel;
- Movement, evacuation, and hospitalisation of personnel;
- Acquisition or construction, maintenance, operation, and disposition of facilities;
- Acquisition or furnishing of services.

Logistics plays an integral role in the structure of all armed forces. It satisfies the material needs and provides services for all service members. It has to be an integrated system, flexibly responding to the conditions of the market economy and the economic situation in the country.

Logistics services should be knowledgeable and they should be able to react fast under all circumstances.

Talking about the logistics capabilities required for the future, logistics should assess potential science and technology logistics programmes, and execute the logistics investment strategy for the armed forces.

Optimizing stocks of supplies and materiel as well as numbers of equipment of every type, together with reducing of financial costs for all acquisition operations provides for streamlining of the logistic support system. Also, centralized stock levels contribute towards the expected operational use of the forces.

A promising trend in logistics seems to be the compounding of storage facilities, depots and warehouses into several so-called multi-depots (where multiple categories of materiel will be stored), which employ state-of-the-art storage, handling and transportation technologies. The mobile part of the logistic support system comprise units providing national logistic support to the forces taking part in multinational or allied operations. The former is fully mobile, capable of providing support to combat units in real time, regardless of weather and terrain conditions or combat situation. The deployable forces retain their own logistic support elements needed to provide direct support to combat units and to deal with transportation and storage of appropriate stocks of supplies and materiel at every level.

As far as services are concerned, there is a fashionable trend to rely upon an optimized ratio of in-sourced (own system of services) and outsourced (services purchased from civilian entities) services.

A merger of economically sound and promising military repair depots dealing with repairs of ground equipment and aircraft technology with enterprises operating on a budgeting basis generates sufficient capacities needed to maintain and repair weapons and weapon systems. At the same time, they are also used to store mothballed equipment issued to units mobilised in wartime. Such arrangements are beneficial and efficient for both parties concerned, i.e. armed forces and cooperating entities.

Some repairs of commercially available products or special equipment which military repair depots are not able to tackle may be outsourced. Such arrangements with civilian companies have to be subject to contracts based on competitive bidding. These relations will provide for the repairs to be carried out even in times of war or crises.