

## Cobra Comments

# Logistical-Status Report in Doctrine

by CPT John W. Briley

*CPT Andrews is a forward-support-troop commander for a cavalry squadron. He is co-located with CPT Evans, the squadron S-4, at the combat-trains command post (CTCP). It's 9 a.m., and CPT Evans has yet to receive Alpha and Bravo Troops' logistical-status (LOGSTAT) reports despite the fact that they were due at 7 a.m. CPT Evans is out of frequency-modulation (FM) radio range but has sent several messages over his Joint Battle Command-Platform (JBC-P) to LTs Harris and Jones, the executive officers of Alpha and Bravo Troops.*

*Regardless of the communications challenge, CPT Andrews has a logistics package (LOGPAC) to deploy to the squadron's templated logistical release point (LRP) because his distribution platoon is expected to be there at 2 p.m. with fuel and water.*

*CPT Evans grimaces as he reviews the LOGSTATs he received from Delta Tank Company and Charlie Troop. Based on those reports, he attempts to forecast the fuel and water requirements for both Alpha and Bravo Troops. Clearly frustrated, he tells CPT Andrews, "Just take all the fuelers; we don't want to miss an opportunity to resupply them."*

*CPT Andrews nods his head, concurring with CPT Evans, but he is also frustrated that he's about to backhaul fuel and water once again.*

## Value of LOGSTATs

Thorough and accurate LOGSTATs facilitate forecasting commodity consumption.<sup>1</sup> A maneuver unit at troop echelon that thoroughly completes a LOGSTAT builds situational understanding for logistical planning and execution.<sup>2</sup> Timely submission also gives the distribution platoon the time it needs to understand the requirements and build the LOGPAC in a way that accommodates the requirements. Moreover, good LOGSTATs give logistical planners foresight in projecting commodity requirements for future operations.

When done properly and in requisite detail, a unit will save valuable time while meeting the unit's commodity requirements through resupply at LRPs.

Predictive logistics is vital to sustainment planning and execution; it begins with the LOGSTAT. There is one example LOGSTAT in Army doctrine: Field Manual (FM) 4-0, **Sustainment Operations**, Appendix E-1. However, maneuver leaders at troop echelon typically do not review this FM during planning; when a troop executive officer plans sustainment for his or her troop's mission, he or she likely refers to Chapter 7 of Army Techniques Publication (ATP) 3-20.97, **Cavalry Troop**.

There the executive officer learns he or she must submit the report daily to the squadron S-4 (ATP 3-20.96, **Cavalry Squadron**, 7-8). The troop first sergeant is required to track expenditure rates by commodity (ATP 3-20.96, 7-9). Platoon sergeants submit LOGSTATs as outlined in troop standing operating procedures (SOPs) (ATP 3-20.96, 7-11). Unfortunately, these ATPs lack an example of a LOGSTAT.

The LOGSTAT encompasses critical classes of supply that the commander determines to provide the situational understanding required to forecast future consumption and meet immediate requirements while meeting operational-tempo demands.<sup>3</sup> It designates between what can be reapportioned vs. what is a "sunk cost" commodity, unable to be recovered once issued.

Here are a few examples of the level of detail needed. First, fuel: a troop should highlight its fuel requirements as the amount required to fill the vehicles and the amount of fuel needed for fuel cans separately. This is important because fuel cans can be reapportioned to another troop in the event of an emergency. However, fuel in a vehicle cannot be reapportioned.

Second, water: reporting the gallons of water required to fill individual-Soldier carrying devices should be separated from the requirements for filling water cans and water buffalos when submitting a LOGSTAT.



Figure 1. Soldiers on a National Training Center (NTC) rotation conduct a logistics-synchronization meeting.

Unit/PAX count		On Hand	Request/NMC	CL V		On Hand	Request/NMC
			<u>Line 1</u>				<u>Line 7</u>
Location			<u>Line 2</u>	A	9mm		
(8 digit grid/ graphic control measure)				B	5.56 loose		
CLI			<u>Line 3</u>	C	5.56 link		
A	MRE CASES			D	7.62 link		
B	WATER (GALLONS)			E	.50 CAL		
CL III (B)			<u>Line 4</u>	H	40mm LINK		
A	JP8 G/A/R/B			I	40mm LOOSE		
B	DF-2			J	AT-4		
C	AV GAS			K	JAVELIN		
D	FULL FUEL CANS			L	120mm HE		
CL III (P)			<u>Line 5</u>	M	120mm SMOKE		
A	15W40 ENGINE OIL			N	120mm ILLUM		
B	COOLANT (GAL) RADIATOR FLUID			O	120mm IR		
C	GEAR OIL 80/90W			P	120mm WP		
D	TRANSMISSION FLUID			Q	SMOKE GRENADE		
E	OTHER			R	FRAG GRENADE		
CL IV			<u>Line 6</u>	S	FLASH GRENADE		
A	C-WIRE			T	ILLUM FLARE		
B	METAL STAKES			U	60mm		
C	SANDBAGS			V	M3 CARL GUSTAV		
D	4X4, 2X4, PLYWOOD			W	STINGER		
E	NAILS			X	CLAYMORE		
H	SCREWS			AC	TOW		
I	WOODEN CHOCK BLOCK			CL VIII			<u>Line 8</u>
J	WOODEN LATERAL						
				CL IX			<u>Line 9</u>
				OTHER			<u>Line 10</u>

Figure 2. A "how to" LOGSTAT for the troop-echelon level. (Developed by 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiment during NTC Rotation 20-02, November 2019)

## SOPs define reporting

The unit SOP must articulate reporting requirements. The unit must outline a primary, alternate, contingency and emergency plan to provide the platform for LOGSTAT submission in a dispersed and contested environment.<sup>4</sup> A best practice includes submission using JBC-P and incorporating voice submission via FM and high-frequency radio as an option.

A unit must plan to deliver an analog, hand-filled LOGSTAT directly to the CTCP if the situation requires.

The SOP must provide the frequency of LOGSTAT reporting. A best practice is for two LOGSTATs to be submitted per day, providing logistical planners adequate time to accurately forecast commodity consumption rates.<sup>5</sup> Time of submission should remain flexible and be informed by the squadron S-2's analysis of likely enemy contact.

Another best practice is to schedule LOGSTAT submissions during periods when enemy direct and indirect-fire contact is projected to be at its lightest.

## Takeaway

LOGSTATs drive sustainment planning and execution, impacting the probability of success or failure of mission. This underscores the importance of a comprehensive LOGSTAT that addresses all commodities and is published in the unit SOP. With it, units can expect to receive timely and adequate resupply.

It also provides logistics planners the time and foresight to meet their demands and plan future operations. An example of a best practice for a detailed LOGSTAT can be found at the conclusion of this article, ready for use at the troop echelon.

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## Notes

<sup>1</sup> FM 3-96, *Brigade Combat Team*, October 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> FM 4-0, *Sustainment Operations*, July 2019.

<sup>4</sup> FM 3-96.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

## Acronym Quick-Scan

**ATP** – Army techniques publication

**CTCP** – combat trains command post

**FM** – field manual

**FM** – frequency modulation

**JBC-P** – Joint Battle Command-Platform

**LRP** – logistical release point

**LOGPAC** – logistics package

**LOGSTAT** – logistics status

**NTC** – National Training Center

**O/C/T** – observer / coach / trainer

**SOP** – standing operating procedure