

The cavalry squadron in Korea is the main organization the CFTF commander has available for reconnaissance and security across non-contiguous artillery positions, two corps boundaries and the Korean peninsula. The forward-support company (FSC) is a profound multiplier to the CFTF. The FSC increases capacity in every measurable metric. The FSC enables the CFTF to move more assets along multiple lines of communication; this enables the CFTF to mitigate restrictive urban terrain and civilian traffic (25 million people live in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan Area), and reduces cross-boundary coordination requirements with the Republic of Korea (RoK) army. –MAJ Demarius Thomas, squadron executive officer, 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 1st Armored Division

Sustaining the Counterfire Task Force-Korea

By CPT Patrick F. O'Brien

The FSC provides 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment, effective distribution of all classes of supply as well as conducts responsive and efficient sustainment support in the Pacific Command (PACOM) area of operations.

Effective distribution

If combat operations commence, the FSC has several planning considerations:

- One, all personnel, vehicles, equipment and classes of supply must be loaded and transported.
- Two, whatever is not loaded and transported will not be available due to the tactical situation.
- Three, speed is essential for the distribution and upload of all classes of supply based on the squadron's mission of providing route reconnaissance, area reconnaissance and area security for the supported battalions.
- Four, the FSC will displace the field-trains command post (FTCP) to the brigade-support area (BSA) and have limited transportation capacity during this phase of the operation.

Based on these considerations, how does the FSC distribute and load four days of supply (DoS) for all classes of supply in a timely, efficient manner and extend the cavalry squadron's operational reach?

One method to expedite distribution is to create configured combat loads (CCLs) for the four main classes of supply: Class I, Class III (bulk/petroleum), Class V and Class IX. Class I meals-ready-to-eat and water are carried by each troop; the troop is responsible for maintaining, loading and transportation.

For Class III, the FSC has six M978 fuel tankers and six tank rack modules (TRM), transported on a Palletized Loading System trailer; this provides 30,000 gallons of bulk fuel capacity. To extend operational reach, continuity of uninterrupted resupply and sustainability, the FSC will assign operational control of one M978 and one TRM to each line troops; this provides them with 5,000 gallons of bulk fuel capacity or five DoS of Class III-bulk.

The Class V CCLs are broken into three types: mission-essential ammunition, dismounts' unit basic load and non-immediate required Class V. This is tailored to the troop level and in a manner that facilitates quick distribution based on time-limiting factors. The mission-essential package is based on the anticipated threat level and the need for expedited ammunition upload. The dismount package, containing all small-arms ammunition, is consolidated and loaded into speedball bags for ease of use. Distribution of the third package, the non-immediate required Class V, is based on the cavalry troop's time requirements, either by immediate distribution at the designated issue point or transported on a future logistics package (LOGPAC).

The final aspect is repair parts or Class IX. This is broken down into two packages. The first is bench stock. These parts are moved with each cavalry troop and are packaged and maintained by their field-maintenance teams (FMT). To support this requirement, each FMT is assigned more equipment to meet this intent. The second package is shop stock list (SSL), maintained with the FSC. This SSL is 200 lines of mission-essential repair parts. The SSL accounts for up to 15 DoS of repair parts and is available for immediate resupply from the FTCP to the troop FMT.

Sustainment support

After the initial issue of all classes of supply to the cavalry troops, the next phase for the FSC is preparing and establishing the FTCP for future logistical resupply and support. The FTCP's mission is to provide logistical and sustainment support to the squadron as well as direct coordination between the squadron and the brigade-support battalion (BSB). The capability of the FTCP is Class I support through the FSC's field-feeding section, bulk-fuel transportation, ammunition transportation and additional recovery and maintenance support.

Unique to the PACOM mission, the FSC provides direct logistics to the cavalry squadron and more capabilities/capacity to the supported brigade. Capabilities include another 15,000 gallons of bulk fuel; another 2,000 gallons of bulk water for consumption or limited operational decontamination; and field-feeding support at the BSA. The cavalry FSC is a combat multiplier for the supported brigade not only through the additional capacity it brings but through the capability brought by the fires-brigade BSB's modified table of organization and equipment.

The BSB, as it is currently, is limited in fuel and transportation assets and must rely on outside supporting units. The FSC's location within the BSA provides a vital resupply link to each troop from the BSA and from echelons-above-brigade sustainment elements. This dynamically changes the support relationship of the cavalry FSC. The FSC provides direct-sustainment support to the squadron while also providing much-needed throughput to the supported battalions within the brigade.

The relationship between the BSB's support-operations officer (SPO) and the cavalry FSC commander is integral to the forecasting, anticipation and synchronization of logistical resupply for the supported brigade. As logistical statistics are reported by the cavalry troops and the battalions to the brigade S-4/SPO, daily logistics synchronizations are a must to establish resupply requirements.

Based on the requirements by location, the SPO and brigade S-4 synchronize LOGPAC support through several means:

- One, they divide LOGPAC convoys based on location/supporting unit requirements. For example, instead of sending multiple LOGPACs to the same location, they determine support through the FSC's organic assets to all units in that location while a different LOGPAC resupplies a different unit/location.
- Two, they allocate more logistics assets to outgoing LOGPACs to meet resupply requirements. If multiple units in different areas require resupply, they conduct a LOGPAC using a ring-route method to each of the unit areas and add additional logistics assets to meet the requirement.

Responsiveness

Paragraph 5-79 in Field Manual 4-0 states that "[a] unit uses a logistics release point (LRP) to maximize efficient use of distribution assets and reduce the amount of time and distance the supported unit requires to travel to receive supplies needed for missions." This effective method of resupply is from a central LRP that supports multiple company/battalion-level organizations to minimize the number of convoys on the road, time on location and risk to the supporting logistics assets.

However, several factors determine the best course of action to meet the intent of uninterrupted resupply. A centralized LRP location may not be sustainable based on the distance to each supported unit, the terrain or the anticipated threat level across the battlefield. The RoK's terrain is mountainous, with dense foliage and restrictive to wheeled vehicles. There are dense urban areas that pose a threat to any ground movement; enemy forces can easily blend into the population.

Based on these factors, the best method for resupply is to use a ring-route method; augment the LOGPAC convoys with more logistics assets; and stop at each unit location to conduct unit distribution. This limits the number of vehicles on the road and reduces security and synchronization requirements to mitigate risk to the formation.

Conclusion

The FSC must provide the cavalry squadron with effective distribution of all classes of supply and responsive, efficient sustainment support in the PACOM area of responsibility. It can do this by packaging CCLs to expedite

initial movement; providing additional Class I and V to troops for movement; and maintaining efficiency during resupply operations.

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Acronym Quick-Scan

ABCT – armored brigade combat team

BSA – brigade-support area

BSB – brigade-support battalion

CCL – configured combat load

CFTF – counterfire task force

DoS – days of supply

FMT – field-maintenance team

FSC – forward-support company

FTCP – field-trains command post

LOGPAC – logistics package

LRP – logistics release point

PACOM – Pacific Command

RoK – Republic of Korea

SPO – support-operations officer

SSL – shop stock list

TRM – tank rack module