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(Original signed)

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Promulgation of report Finabel Nr T.35.R

**RELEVANCE AND POSSIBLE ROLES OF COMBAT SUPPORT
UNITS (CSU) IN ASYMMETRIC WARFARE**

DATE OF PROMULGATION : 26 AUGUST 2008



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10. <u>Key words</u> : Combat Support Units (CSU), Combat Support, Primary Role, Secondary Role, Re-rolling, Peace Support Operations, Implications, Asymmetric Threat.	
11. <u>Summary</u> : The aim of this study is : To assess the ability (potentiality) of CSU to undertake secondary roles in an asymmetric warfare, mainly during peace-support operations. To identify possible secondary roles, which these units could undertake and how they might be adapted to that end. Current deployments, mainly in the context of peace-support missions, show low employment of combat support units in their primary role. Therefore, possible secondary roles for CSUs need to be considered in order to make them as employable as possible, over the full spectrum of operations. A common approach of Finabel countries on that point would be of particular interest. Chapter 2 analyses the current situation regarding the use of CSU in secondary roles, Chapter 3 examines when and why could a CSU be re-roled, Chapter 4 examines the Implications of utilising a CSU in a secondary role(s) and Chapter 5 outlines the recommendations.	

1. FOREWORD

1.1 Aim and Justification

1.1.1 Aim

The aim of this study is :

- To assess the ability (potentiality) of CSU to undertake secondary roles in an asymmetric warfare, mainly during peace-support operations (PSO).
- To identify possible secondary roles, which these units could undertake and how they might be adapted to that end.

1.1.2 Justification

- Current deployments, mainly in the context of peace-support missions, show low employment of combat support units in their primary role.
- Therefore, possible secondary roles for combat support units need to be considered in order to make them as employable as possible, over the full spectrum of operations. A common approach of Finabel countries on that point would be of particular interest.

1.2 The framework of the study will take into account :

- The CSU primary role ;
- The assignment of secondary roles to CSU ;
- The operational environment in which secondary roles could be conducted ;
- The pertinence of assigning secondary roles ;
- How existing CSU capabilities can best be adapted to secondary roles ;

1.3 Definitions

1.3.1 Combat Support

Combat support, as defined in AAP-6, is “ Fire support and operational assistance provided to combat elements ” and constitutes a major element of combat power.

1.3.2 Primary Role

It is the role for which a Unit is structured, equipped and trained for operations.

1.3.3 Secondary Role

It is a different role from the primary for which a Unit might have to be restructured, reequipped or retrained.

1.3.4 Re-roling

Re-roling is the act of moving from a primary role to a secondary role (or vice versa).

2. CURRENT SITUATION

2.1 CSU in Finabel Countries – Current Situation/Tasks

- Most of Finabel countries in virtue of their national doctrine, consider the following as Combat Support Units :

- * Artillery (Field and Anti-Aircraft)
- * Engineers
- * Army Aviation

- Moreover, certain countries consider the following as Combat Support Units :

- * Signals
- * Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR)
- * CBRN Defence
- * CIMIC and Military Police
- * Psychological Operations and HUMINT
- * Electronic Warfare.

- Details per country are given in the following table :

	DE	IT	BE	NL	ES	EL	PT	UK	FR
Field Arty	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
A/A Arty	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Eng	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Sig		YES			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
A Av	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES
PSYOPS		YES	YES			YES	YES	YES	YES
EW		YES			YES	YES		YES	YES
CBRN	YES	YES			YES	YES		YES	
C-IED								YES	
MP		*	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES	
CIMIC		YES	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
ISTAR	YES	YES	YES		YES		YES		

3. WHEN AND WHY COULD A CSU BE RE-ROLED ?

3.1. Introduction

- As the intensity of conflicts varies over time, the type of military activities (offensive, defensive, stabilisation, etc) may vary accordingly and it could be difficult to define. A way to make a distinction is the level of violence employed, starting from the peaceful interaction, increasing to low level conflicts and culminating in war. Military forces should be capable of operating throughout this spectrum.
- In PSO, units could be employed in missions that have no relation to their primary roles, because they rarely use their war fighting weapons, materials, equipment and capabilities.

3.2. Cases where a Unit is re-rolled

- The “Spectrum of Conflicts”, as defined in AJP-3.2 “ Allied Joint Doctrine for Land Operations ”, comprises 4 types of campaigns :
 - * Military Engagement in Peacetime
 - * Peace Support
 - * Counter-insurgency
 - * Major Combat (Warfare)
- Based on these types of campaigns, it could be possible to re-role a CSU during the conduct of Peace-Support Operations. This is applicable because such types of operations are not high intensity. For Counter-insurgency operations the situation will dictate what and how many CSU are needed in their primary role.
- The need to re-role a CSU could be based on the following circumstances :
 - * The scarcity of a specific military capability for a current PSO coupled with spare capacity in CSU.¹
 - * The intent is to allow CSU units (in PSO) to get some operational experience.

3.3. Secondary roles currently assigned to CSU

- 3.3.1. Experience from the participation of forces in peace support missions has made it clear that there is a progressive reduction in the use of CSU, due to the nature of the operations. Correspondingly, there is a growth of their employment in secondary roles.

¹ In extreme circumstances a CSU could be hastily re-rolled in theatre to fill an operational capability gap.

- Recent Operational Lessons indicate that CSUs have been employed in secondary roles, such as :

- * Force protection missions ;
- * Area security ;
- * Protection of installations and infrastructure (military and civilian) ;
- * Patrolling, area and routes reconnaissance ;
- * Convoy escorting, transport and distribution of humanitarian aid ;
- * Transportation of personnel and materials to support friendly forces, local administration, and population of the Host Nation and of International Organisations ;
- * Delegation of Liaisons – Observers ;
- * Fire-fighting operations ;
- * CIMIC ;
- * Conduct of Psychological Operations ;
- * ISTAR ;
- * CBRN reconnaissance ;
- * Contribution to keeping law and order ;
- * Riot control operations ;
- * Army Aviation used in reconnaissance, air-evacuation, and VIP airlift.

3.3.2. It is unadvisable to re-role CBRN Defence, PSYOPS, CIMIC because of the relatively low number of personnel and their roles, which normally demand specialist training. The grounding of helicopters and the use of personnel for other tasks is highly unlikely.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Implications of utilising a CSU in a secondary role(s)

- The employment of CSUs in secondary roles may allow the following positive results :

- * Gaps in capability can be filled by CSU ;
- * It gives soldiers the opportunity of gaining experience in an operational environment; raising their morale and motivation ;
- * It reduces rotation frequency of the same units in operations ;
- * Economy of effort.

- The employment of CSUs in secondary roles has the following negative results :

- * A possible and temporally reduction in their ability to undertake their primary roles ;
- * Training costs ;
- * A re-roled CSU is unlikely to be as effective as a specialist unit.

4.2. Implications to TOE (personnel training, organisation, equipments etc), on assigning secondary roles to CSU.

- Once the secondary roles are determined the minimum requirement will be some organisational adjustments, a well resourced training programme and the equipment to undertake the missions. These roles must be well understood by the units concerned and the correct doctrine available to them well in advance.

- Some specialist external expertise may be required in order that the unit can undertake its role. These experts should train with the units they support in order that they become fully integrated.

- Regarding training points of particular considerations could be :

- * All individuals should maintain their basic military skills ;
- * CSUs will need sufficient time and resources to undertake training in order to re-role; including validation exercises ;
- * When a CSU is deployed in a secondary role there may be opportunities for them to undertake some training in their primary role ;
- * Once the deployment is complete, sufficient time and resources are required for a CSU to train for their primary role.

- Conclusively

- * Individuals and units must be trained well in advance.
- * Any extra specialist equipment must be made available to these units for both the mission and their training. This must also allow for individuals to become accustomed with operating new equipment and for all sub-units to have sufficient time to train on new equipment.

4.3. Special Capabilities of CSUs. Employment – exploitation by the CSU of their organic assets to fulfil their secondary roles

Certain CSUs have organic capabilities that would allow them to more easily re-role to specific secondary roles than other units. Below are some examples of how certain CSUs might use their organic capabilities to effectively re-role. However, these may not all be relevant to each Finabel Nation due to the differences in CSU structures.

4.3.1. Artillery Units

- Artillery Units are trained in observation and target acquisition which can be easily transferred to a secondary role such as monitoring and observation ;
- Topographical support to update maps and surveys, providing weather forecasting service – Reconnaissance (target acquisition and damage assessment) ;
- Capacity to deploy radar to locate cease-fire violation agreements, observe demolitions, or human rights violations ;
- With their organic transportation means, they could move goods and distribute logistics, contribute to the provision of humanitarian aid, medical assistance and mostly need goods, as well as to the evacuation of civilians.

4.3.2. Engineer Units

- Combat Engineer Units are the most suitable CSUs to be re-rolled into Construction and Infrastructure support roles.
- Technical advice to civilian agencies, organisations and companies that operate in theatre.

4.3.3. Signals Units

- Restoration of public utility communication services and to establish a civilian communications network to support the local authorities and International organisations.

4.3.4. Army Aviation Units

- As mentioned earlier it is unlikely for Air Aviation Units to be re-rolled away from their primary role.

4.3.5. ISTAR Units

- As mentioned earlier it is unlikely for ISTAR Units to be re-rolled away from their primary role.

4.3.6. PSYOPS Units

- PSYOPS units are always necessary for their primary role. – no need to consider further.

4.3.7. CIMIC Units

- CIMIC units are always necessary for their primary role. – no need to consider further.

4.3.8. Military Police Units

- The role of the Military Police, while executing their primary tasks is required on all operations and allows no re-rolling. Therefore, secondary roles are not assigned to MP Units.

4.3.9. CBRN Units

- In most Finabel countries CBRN Units are employed in their primary role. This covers nuclear and chemical weapons control, hazardous materials response, monitoring and survey, detection and identification of hazards and decontamination.

5. CONCLUSIONS – RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusions

- From the above discussion the following can be summarized :
 - * It is possible to assign secondary roles to CSUs.
 - * The environment in which within CSU could operate in a secondary role is most likely to be low intensity operations, but not exclusively.
 - * When operating in the secondary role a unit's structure, training and equipment will have to be adjusted according to the mission.
 - * A CSU operating in the secondary role will inevitably lose some of its primary skills. A period of post-deployment training will, therefore, be required on the primary equipment before they will be able to undertake this role again.

* The following secondary missions could be assigned to certain CSU :

- Organisation of training for host-nation police/security forces ;
- Border surveillance, support of local security forces against organised criminality (e.g. drug and human traffic) ;
- Protection against CBRN threat (only Engineers) ;
- Search and Rescue Missions (only Army Aviation) ;
- Survey, observation, surveillance and control ;
- Preventive deployment of forces ;
- Cease-fire control and monitoring of cease-fire agreements ;
- Separation of belligerents ;
- Disarmament and demilitarization ;
- Assistance to refugees ;
- Disaster relief ;
- Self-protection ;
- Area security ;
- Security of installations and infrastructure (military and civilian) ;
- Patrolling, area and routes reconnaissance ;
- Convoy escorting, transport and distribution of humanitarian aid ;
- Transportation of personnel and materials to support friendly forces, local administration, and population of the Host Nation and of International Organisations ;
- Delegation of Liaisons – Observers ;
- Fire-fighting operations ;
- CIMIC ;
- ISTAR ;
- Target reconnaissance and identification ;
- CBRN defence ;
- Contribution to keeping law and order ;
- Riot control operations ;
- Army Aviation used in reconnaissance, air-evacuation, and VIP airlift.

5.2. Recommendations

- For the assignment of secondary roles to CSU the following should be taken into account :

* Some CSU units should not be considered for secondary role for the following reasons: Army Aviation, CBRN Defence, PSYOPS, CIMIC, ISTAR Units, due to their specific equipment, their specialised training of their personnel and, indeed, the specificity of their mission, are not considered suitable to assume secondary tasks.

- * As the tasks undertaken by Engineers cuts across the spectrum of conflict they are often capable of in a variety of roles without additional equipment or training. Whether they have a secondary role is, therefore, questionable.

ANNEX 1

THE ASYMMETRIC THREAT

In the aftermath of 11 Sep 2001, the security environment at the international level has changed and the asymmetric threats are current types of actions by armed or unarmed groups. As defined in AAP-6, an asymmetric threat is a non-traditional threat, which is not visible – direct and is manifested by the use of methods that confer a disproportionate result, in respect to the means used, while it provokes confusion and weakening to the state mechanisms. The essential point of this disproportion lies with the way of action, because either the collective ethics of the opponents is completely different, or the way of action and the factors employed are unknown to the other party.

1. Terrorism

Terrorism means “ the unlawful use of force in an attempt to coerce or intimidate governments or societies to achieve political, religious or ideological objectives ” of a group and/or a country. Terrorism is an unlawful act, which by nature carries a symbolic meaning. Its objective is to coerce not only the victim but also the public opinion.

2. Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

The term “ weapons of mass destruction ” describes weapons which have a large power of destruction. In this category we find the “ chemical weapons nuclear and biological ” which make the object of desire of the terrorist organizations who could use these weapons to create chaos and the destruction. The fight against this threat is a global problem and has to be taken into account in the largest scale. This effort should be carefully coordinated among the organizations and/or countries in the war against terrorism.

3. International Organised Crime and Illegal Immigration

- Is defined as the organization of persons whose aim is the criminal activity in order to obtain cash in and to maintain control over national and international situations.
- In case of acts of large-scale international organised crime, such as drugs smuggling, illegal immigration, etc, the economy would most probably be affected along with the anthropogeography in the broader area of the operations. The identification of the country of origin of the illegal immigrants could help verify the level of their security dangerousness and / or be a criterion for the assessment of their intentions (their relations to the regime in the country of origin, religion and/or religious sect of affiliation, reasons for immigrating, profession, education, age, family status, ect).

4. Information / Cyber Warfare

The objectives of war of information is to saturate the enemy with information with the aim of destabilizing it psychologically.

- Information Campaign is the actions of all parties to shape the thinking of combatants and non-combatants alike. This is especially important when deal with a counterinsurgency campaign.
- Cyber war is all the actions through IT systems, which target is the prohibition of the exploitation of the cyberspace by the enemy and simultaneously maintaining the capability of friendly forces.
- Probable asymmetrical targets in the case of Information/Cyber Warfare could be :
 - * Military information systems, through a non-authorized access, in order either to acquire information or to extort data ;
 - * Land Forces electronic computers, by intrusion and installation of dangerous software (such as computer viruses, software bombs, and other relevant programmes, designed to bypass any protective software), in order to stray their normal operation modus ;
 - * Data bases used by Land Forces that could be destroyed by respective specific software, through alteration and/or neutralisation of the data ;
 - * Military communications based on information systems ;
 - * Information collection system (radars, UAVs, etc).

5. The asymmetrical threat is characterized by a total confrontation exceeding the strictly military fields of confrontation to include the ideology, the ethnics aspects, the cultural one and the monk. It will seek to act on our vulnerabilities, by compensating for by the surprise its inferiority, and will seek to diversify its modes of action. The principal processes implemented are the actions of monitoring, the actions of disappointment, the actions which aim at discrediting, and those whose objective is to develop terror.

- To reduce the vulnerability to asymmetrical attacks and decrease their impacts, Army organisation, training and materials should be modified to provide greater flexibility. Protection measures, such as physical protection and the protection of the operations themselves (force protection), may reduce the impacts from asymmetrical attacks.
- Force Commanders should be able to foresee asymmetrical attacks by developing intelligences capacities in order to anticipate the threat. The military chief must use all the means he has in his possession to fight against an asymmetrical enemy including using asymmetrical action like the misinformation.