

## CHAPTER 7

### THE CORPS

#### References

FM 100-10, Combat Service Support, 3 October 1995  
FM 100-15, Corps Operations, 20 October 1996  
FM 63-3, Corps Support Command, 30 September 1993  
FM 54-30, Corps Support Groups, 17 June 1993

#### Objectives

- Comprehend the basic structure of the corps
- Differentiate between a corps in a larger ground force and a contingency corps
- Identify the CSS elements of a corps
- Identify and distinguish the elements of the COSCOM structure
- Compare and contrast the rear and forward CSGs

#### Introduction

**Corps are the largest tactical units in the US Army**, the instruments by which higher echelons of command conduct maneuver at the operational level. (Figure 7-1). **Corps are tailored** for the theater and the mission for which they are deployed. Once tailored, however, they contain all the organic combat, combat support, and combat service support capabilities required to sustain operations for a considerable period.

**Corps may be assigned divisions of any type required by the theater and the mission. They possess support commands and are assigned combat and combat support organizations based on their needs for a specific operation.** Armored cavalry regiments, field artillery brigades, engineer brigades, air defense artillery brigades, and aviation brigades are the non-divisional units commonly available to the corps to weight its main effort and to perform special combat functions. Separate infantry or armored brigades may also be assigned to corps. Signal brigades, military intelligence brigades, military police brigades, civil affairs brigades, chemical brigades, and psychological operations battalions are the usual combat support organizations present in a corps. Other special operations forces may support corps combat operations as required, particularly when the corps is conducting an independent operation. **The combat service support organizations of the corps are the<sup>1</sup>:**

- **Personnel Group (Pers Gp),**

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<sup>1</sup> This structure implies that the COSCOM has a corps medical brigade. The Medical Reengineering Initiative (MRI) will transform the corps MED BDE to a corps MEDCOM that will report directly to the Corps commander. This transformation is in place at Ft Bragg already.

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- Finance Group (Fin Gp), and the
- Corps Support Command (COSCOM).
- Corps Medical Command (MEDCOM) under the MRI.

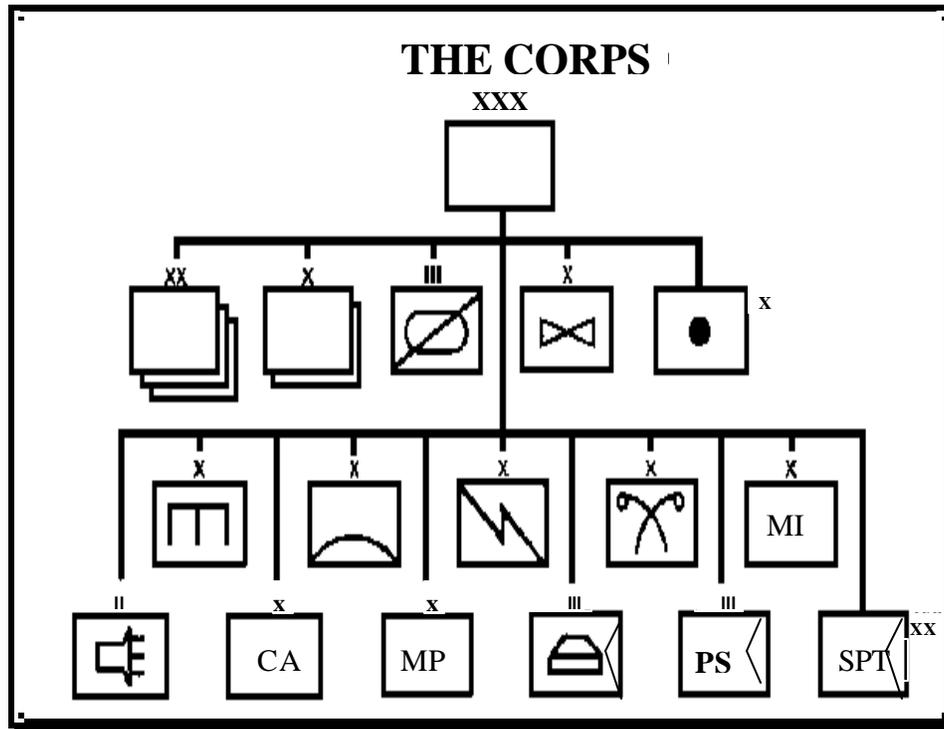


Figure 7-1. The Corps Structure

## Corps as Part of a Larger Ground Force

**Corps permanently located in or to be deployed to an established theater will fight as a component of a larger ground force.** This situation occurs when a significant military threat exists in a specific geographic region or because of treaty obligations, such as in Western Europe where US corps are forward deployed as part of NATO.

**These corps will normally operate as part of a combined force, and as such, will be under the control of a multinational command structure.** They will have specific areas of operations and missions that are relatively well defined even before the outbreak of war in their theater. **Such corps have the advantage of a largely preexisting logistic base;** that is, a combination of US resources and agreements by the host nation to provide specific types of support. The corps may be required to provide logistic support to other US forces or allies.

**These corps can expect to face a significant armor and heavy mechanized threat.** For this reason they tend to be organized with emphasis on heavy maneuver forces and anti-armor capabilities. Although these corps will face low-, mid-, and high-intensity conflict, their main threat remains on the mid-to-high end of the spectrum.

These corps will generally operate in theaters having a well-developed command structure and will fight under the control of a numbered army. **Such corps will have few, if any, operational-level responsibilities. Operational-level planning will generally be done at echelons above corps, while the translation of these plans to tactical execution will be done by the corps.**

While major subordinate elements are normally located with these deployed corps, there will be significant deployment of CONUS based, augmentation forces in the event of war. The time-phased deployment of these augmentation forces is of major concern to these corps and must be well integrated into both tactical and sustainment planning.

## Corps Contingency Operations

The Army must be prepared to conduct combat operations as an expeditionary force anywhere in the world. **Corps with missions to respond to worldwide situations will frequently fight as the largest ground formation in the theater, and possibly with the corps commander serving as the JTF commander.** These corps will plan for employment in theaters of likely hostilities.

The threat encountered by these corps is much less defined than that of corps in a developed theater. Any level of conflict from low to high and any type of enemy force may be encountered.

Corps will deploy to wherever the situation requires. **For this reason, they tend to be organized with an emphasis on light or mixed types of maneuver forces, capable of both rapid deployment and the ability to fight in a variety of situations, and are normally austere organizations.** An exception may be in the area of sustainment, where the existence of little or no in-theater support base may require that a large logistic organization accompany the corps. The corps may require augmentation of selected combat service support to perform EAC sustainment operations.

These corps will have significant joint operations with the other US services. Air Force, Navy, and Marine tactical air support and naval fires will be used in support of combat operations. Corps operations may be in conjunction with amphibious operations. Air Force and Navy assets will also be required to deploy and sustain the corps.

**In a contingency operation, a corps headquarters may function as the land component headquarters of a joint task force or as the joint task force. In such cases, the corps will have the responsibility for both operational (campaign) and tactical (battle) planning as well as the tactical execution of the campaign.** The centerpiece of the corps' operational responsibilities here is to participate in the development of a joint campaign plan. A detailed discussion of campaign planning can be found in FM 100-6.

## Corps Area of Operations

Higher headquarters designates the corps area within the combat zone. The corps area includes areas in which corps forces conduct deep, close, and rear operations. Though situational and geographically dependent, the corps AO could

encompass an area roughly 100 by 210 kilometers or 21,000 square kilometers. Refer to Figure 7-2. The corps organizational structure is not fixed. Its size and composition depend on the situation and mission. The corps usually consists of 2 to 5 divisions and the combat support (CS) and combat service support (CSS) units needed to support the maneuver force. One division may have between 17,000 and 18,000 soldiers; thus a corps may have over 100,000 soldiers in its AO. Again, **the major CSS elements of the Corps are:**

- **Personnel Group (Pers Gp),**
- **Finance Group (Fin Gp), and the**
- **Corps Support Command (COSCOM).**

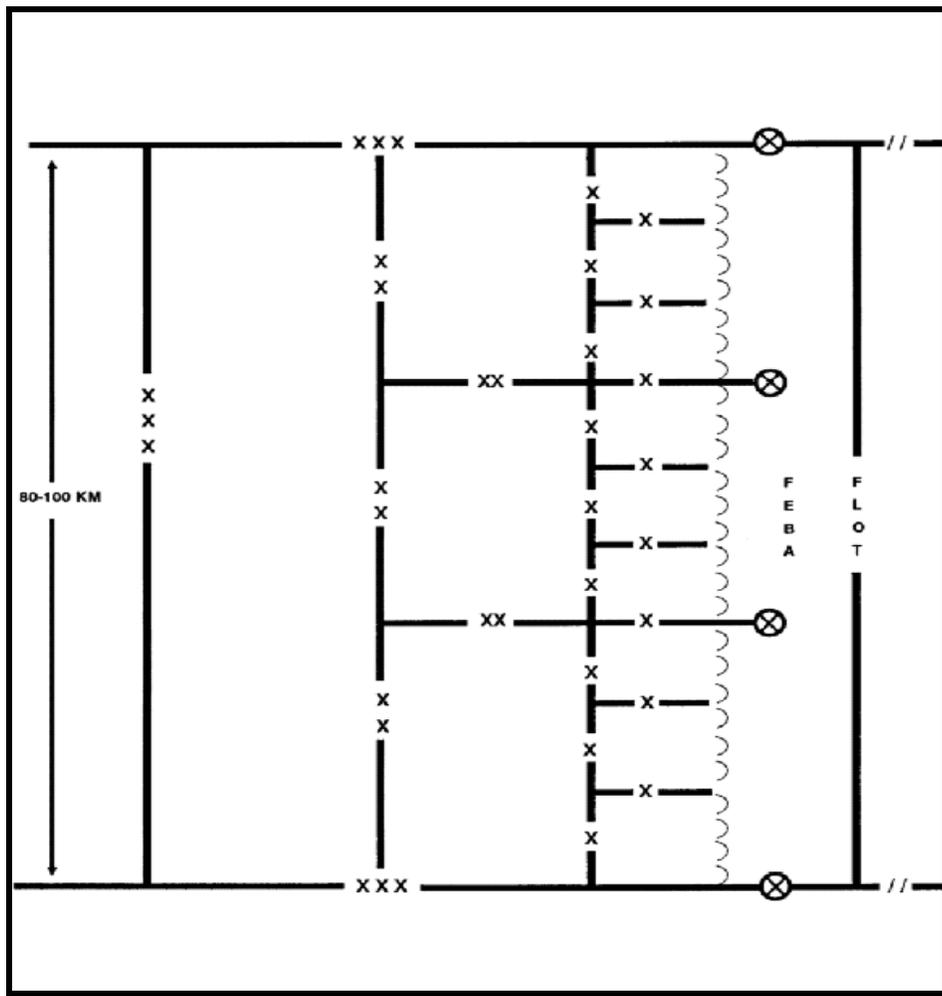


Figure 7-2 Corps Area of Operations

## THE CORPS SUPPORT COMMAND (COSCOM)

The COSCOM is the primary logistics organization in the Corps. It provides supply, field services, transportation, maintenance, and medical support to the divisions and non-divisional units of the Corps. The COSCOM is a **multifunctional** organization,

and its organizational structure is **not fixed**. A typical COSCOM will have a **Medical Brigade** and several **Corps Support Groups** (the normal basis of allocation is one per division and one for the Corps rear area). **Corps support groups usually provide CSS on an Area Support basis**. If there are three or more transportation battalions, they may form a **Transportation Group** within the COSCOM. A typical COSCOM structure is shown at Figure 7-3.

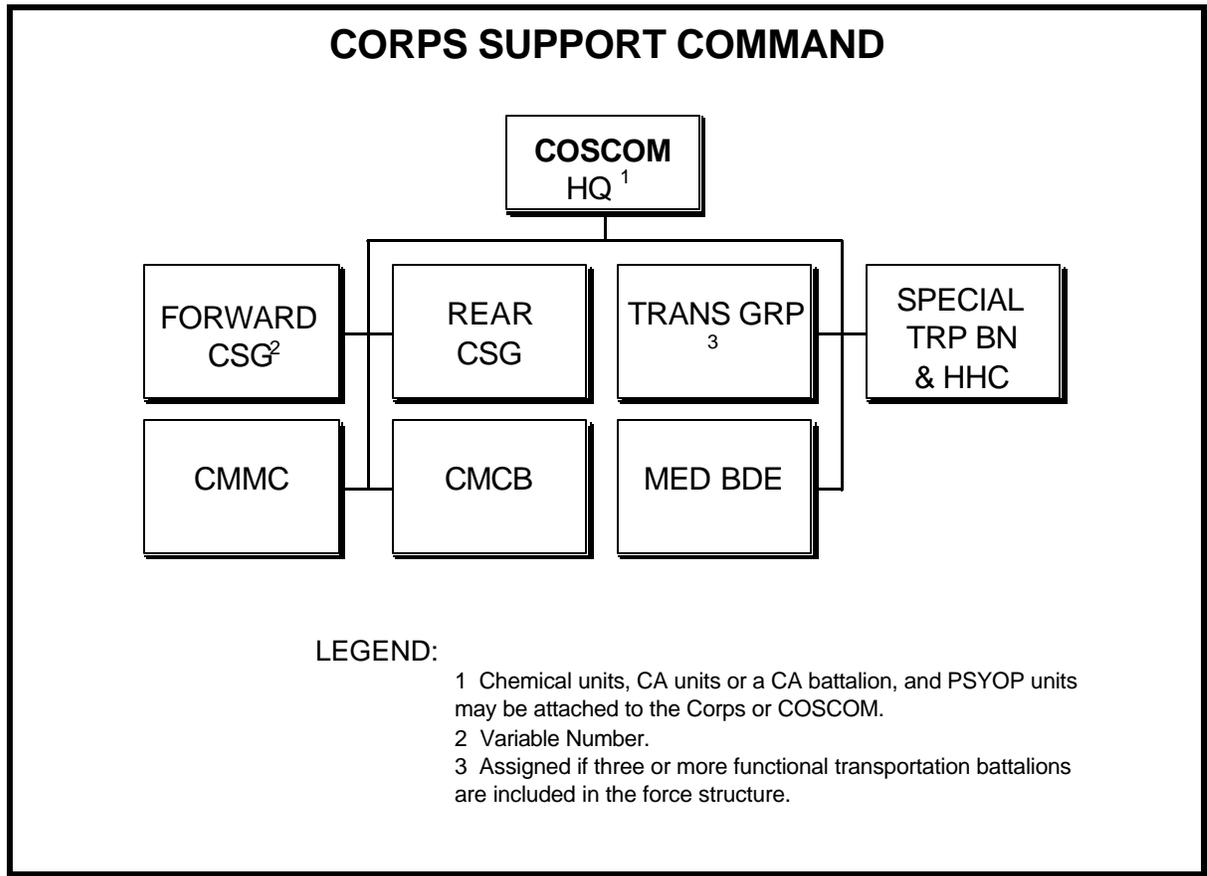


Figure 7-3. The Corps Support Command

## COSCOM Organization

The corps commander assigns or attaches organizations to the COSCOM. The number and types of units assigned to the COSCOM vary based on the support requirements of the corps force. The COSCOM further attaches organizations or units to its major subordinate commands. Corps troop lists and plans identify the actual organization.

The COSCOM (Figure 7-3) consists of a special troops battalion (STB) and headquarters and headquarters company, functional control centers, a variable number of CSGs, and a medical brigade. A transportation group may be attached if three or more functional transportation battalions are assigned or attached to the COSCOM.

Based on the scenario and tactical situation in the AO, the corps commander attaches CA or chemical units to the COSCOM's special troops battalion. To effectively support the theater commander's OPLANs, the ASC commander may attach EAC logistics units to the COSCOM from ASC resources, including TSCs.

## COSCOM HHC

The mission of the COSCOM HHC is to command, control, and supervise assigned and attached units. Its staff officers plan logistics support to the corps and coordinate support and provide advice and assistance to supported commands.

## Functional Control Centers

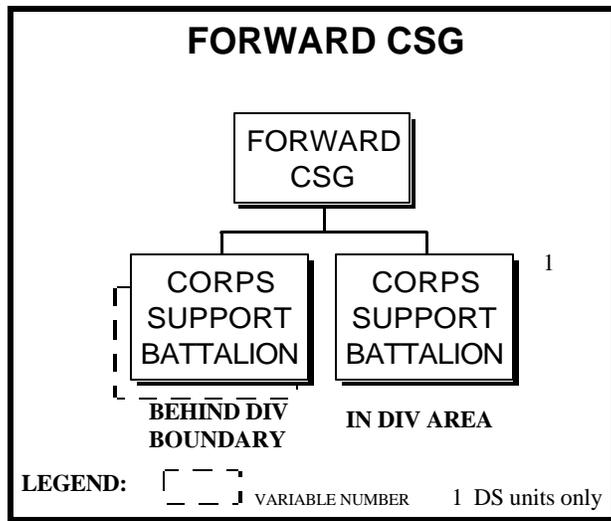
The **CMMC** and **CMCB** implement COSCOM policies and directives. The CMMC provides centralized management over supply and maintenance. The CMC B provides centralized movement control and highway regulation for the corps. The center tasks and manages the workload of all COSCOM units.<sup>2</sup>

## Corps Support Groups (CSGs)

CSG headquarters provides command, control, staff planning and supervision of **three to seven assigned and attached logistics battalions**. There is no standard CSG organizational structure. However, as shown by Figures 7-4 and 7-7, the forward CSG consists of CSBs, the rear CSG consists of one or more CSBs and functional battalions. The COSCOM tailors CSGs based upon logistics support requirements or workloads of supported customer units in their AO.

**Forward CSGs deploy in support of non-divisional forces.** Primary focus is on providing forward support to non-divisional elements operating in the division AO. Forward CSGs provide support on an area basis to corps CS and CSS forces supporting divisions, separate brigades, and ACRs. Because they provide reinforcing support to the committed division, **forward CSG support operations staff officers habitually work with the DISCOM staff. The CSG's support operations officer serves as the initial point of coordination for the DISCOM.**

## Forward Corps Support Groups



<sup>2</sup> Both the CMMC and CMCB are covered in Chapter 3 of FM 63-3.

Figure 7-4. Forward Corps Support Group

Each forward CSG task organizes a CSB to support non-divisional units operating in the division area. The remaining CSBs of the forward CSGs employ behind the division rear boundary to support non-divisional units in their area of responsibility. Based on threat employment in the corps rear area, distance for attrited units to travel and time available, one of these CSBs can provide the nucleus for regeneration operations. The rear CSG then sends supplies to a regeneration site in the forward CSG's AO.

**Forward CSGs are allocated on the basis of one CSG per division.** The number of CSBs that the COSCOM attaches to forward CSGs depends on the workload. The forward CSG is **not fixed** in structure, but it usually consists of **two or more multifunctional CSBs.**

### Forward Corps Support Battalions

Each forward CSG deploys a CSB in the division area to provide more responsive support to forward employed non-divisional elements. This forward CSB reduces the command, control, and communications (C3) problems caused by the long distances between supported non-divisional elements and supporting COSCOM units in the corps rear area. Unlike the DISCOM's MSB and FSBs that are fixed in structure, the Forward CSB is **not fixed** but tailored to the requirements of non-divisional units operating in the division sector. **It consists only of DS level units.**

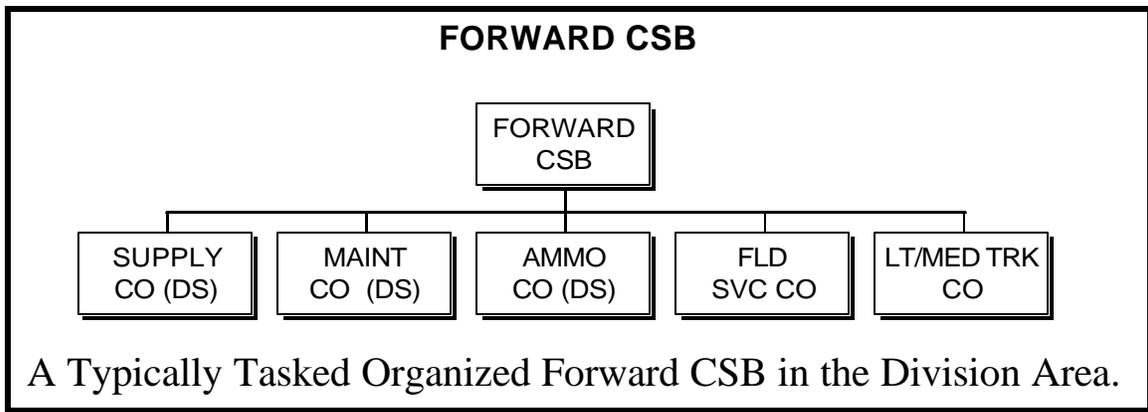


Figure 7-5. Forward Corps Support Battalion

The figure above, Figure 7-5, depicts a Forward CSB task organized to provide DS support in the division area. It consists of a DS supply, ammunition, field services, transportation, and maintenance unit. To ensure more responsive support to corps forces, such as corps FA and corps engineer battalions, employed in the brigade and division area, this CSB provides reinforcing or augmenting support to the FSBs and MSB.

Though employed in the division area and merged with division bases or base clusters for rear operations security, **forward CSBs remain under the command and control of the forward CSG.** However, they will coordinate terrain management and highway regulation with the division rear CP and DTO.

## Rear Corps Support Battalions

The remaining CSBs of each forward CSG deploy behind the division sector. Unlike the forward CSB in the division area, these CSBs consist of GS as well as DS level units. Refer again to Figure 7-6. These CSBs provide area support to units in their assigned area of responsibility. They also provide GS supply, reinforcing maintenance, and field services support to the division, separate brigades, and ACR.

Depending on their task organization, these CSBs can provide:

- DS supply company provides DS supply to non-divisional units.
- GS petroleum supply company, GS ammunition supply company, or GS supply company use habitually supporting truck unit assets to distribute supplies to non-divisional DS supply units or DS ammunition unit, as appropriate. They also resupply DS level supply units of the division, separate brigades, and ACR.
- Field services company provides laundry and shower support to both non-divisional and division units.
- DS maintenance unit provides DS maintenance support to non-divisional units and reinforcing DS maintenance to the committed division, separate brigades, and ACR.

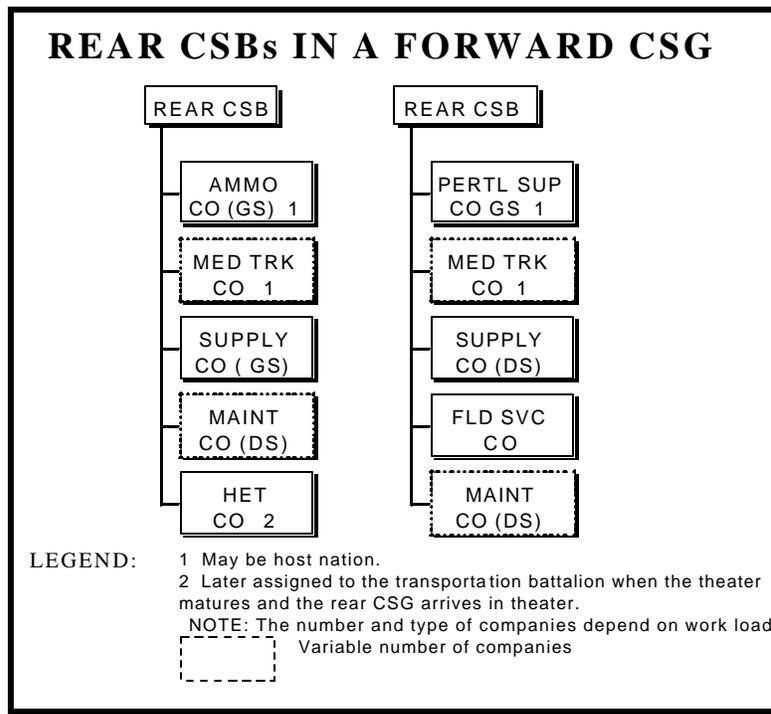


Figure 7-6. Rear Corps Support Battalions in the Forward Corps Support Group

The actual organization of each CSB depends on METT-TC. When the supported division is pulled off line, the forward CSG realigns or tailors its CSBs to more effectively meet the requirements of the CS or CSS elements supporting the new division type.

## Rear Corps Support Group

One rear corps support group is allocated per COSCOM. **The rear CSG focuses on supporting the corps and providing reinforcing support to the forward CSGs.** As shown on Figure 7-7, the rear CSG consists of functional battalions and one or more multifunctional CSBs. The CSBs provide DS level support on an area support basis to units in or passing through the rear portion of the corps rear area. These include

hospitals, replacement units, signal units, corps headquarters elements, and corps units supporting a reserve division. The rear CSG can tailor a CSB to provide the nucleus of logistics regeneration support at a regeneration site in the rear CSG's AO.

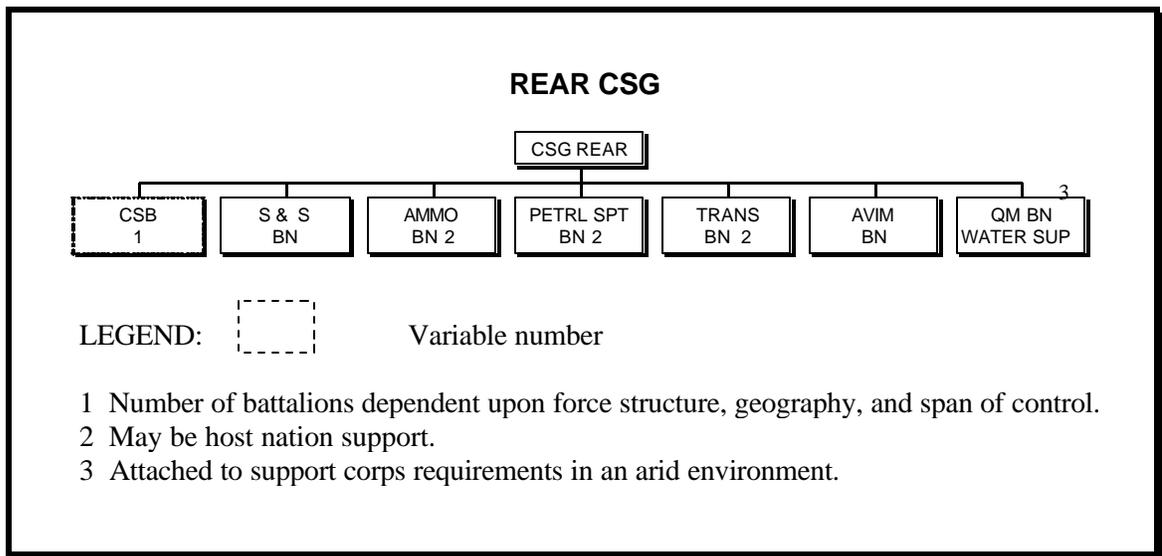


Figure 7-7. Rear Corps Support Group

The following rear CSG's functional battalions provide corps wide logistics support to corps forces as well as reinforcing support to the forward CSGs:

- The S&S battalion, ammunition battalion, and petroleum supply battalion maintain the corps' reserve stocks. These stocks provide the corps commander the ability to support combat and the surge capability to win.
- The transportation battalion provides corps wide transportation support of tactical operations. It supports supply and replacement distribution systems. Depending on its organization, –
  - ⇒ Cargo transfer companies operate either a break-bulk or container operation at air, rail, or road and water terminals with EAC augmentation. They can also support hub-and-spoke distribution at the terminal.
  - ⇒ Truck companies move cargo, equipment, ammunition and relocate heavy maneuver forces.
  - ⇒ Trailer transfer teams operate trailer transfer points to support trailer interchange operations.

- The AVIM battalion provides corps wide AVIM support and reinforcing AVUM.
- A QM battalion (water supply) may be attached to the rear CSG to support requirements in an arid environment.

### Rear CSG Functionality

#### Functional Units

Ammo Bn (GS)  
S&S Bn (GS)  
Petroleum Supply Bn (GS)  
Transportation Bn  
Aircraft Maint Bn (AVIM)  
QM Bn (Water Supply) (GS)

#### Multifunctional Units

Corps Support Bn (CSB) (DS only)

Note: There is **NO GS GROUND MAINTENANCE** in the rear CSG or **anywhere** in the doctrinal Corps CSS force structure.

### Medical Brigade

The medical brigade provides command, control, and administrative supervision of assigned and attached corps medical units. The Medical Brigade HHC task organizes medical assets to meet the patient workload demand and requirements for CHS and medical assets. Figure 7-8 depicts the organization of a medical brigade. Subordinate elements provide dental, psychiatric, laboratory, preventive medicine, and veterinary services. **The brigade structure is not fixed**, but it usually includes one or more Medical Groups. As a general rule of thumb, there are three medical groups per medical brigade. The medical brigade may include:

- **Medical Logistics Battalion (FWD)**
- **Area Support Medical Battalion**
- **Combat Support Hospital (CSH)**
- **Forward Surgical Teams (FSTs)**

Note – The COSCOM Medical Brigade is being transformed into a Corps Medical Command (MEDCOM) under the Medical Reengineering Initiative (MRI). This will create a separate command that will answer directly to the corps commander for all combat health support (CHS) issues. At present, the MED BDE at Ft Bragg has converted to this structure.

The **Medical Logistics (MEDLOG) Battalion (Forward)** provides optical fabrication, biomedical equipment maintenance (DS), and blood storage and distribution to divisional and corps units. The battalion also provides command and control of the corps blood management network, blood processing, on site production of resuscitative fluids/medical oxygen, and Class VIII supply (15 DOS).

The **Area Support Medical Battalion** provides level I and II care and staff advice and assistance to units on an area basis throughout the Corps sector. The companies in the Area Support Medical Battalion operate in much the same manner as the medical

companies in division MSBs and FSBs. Each medical company in the battalion has an ambulance platoon and a treatment platoon; the treatment platoon includes an area support squad, treatment squad, and holding squad. The battalion headquarters provides biomedical maintenance (DS), Class VIII supply (5 DOS), optometry, and fabrication.

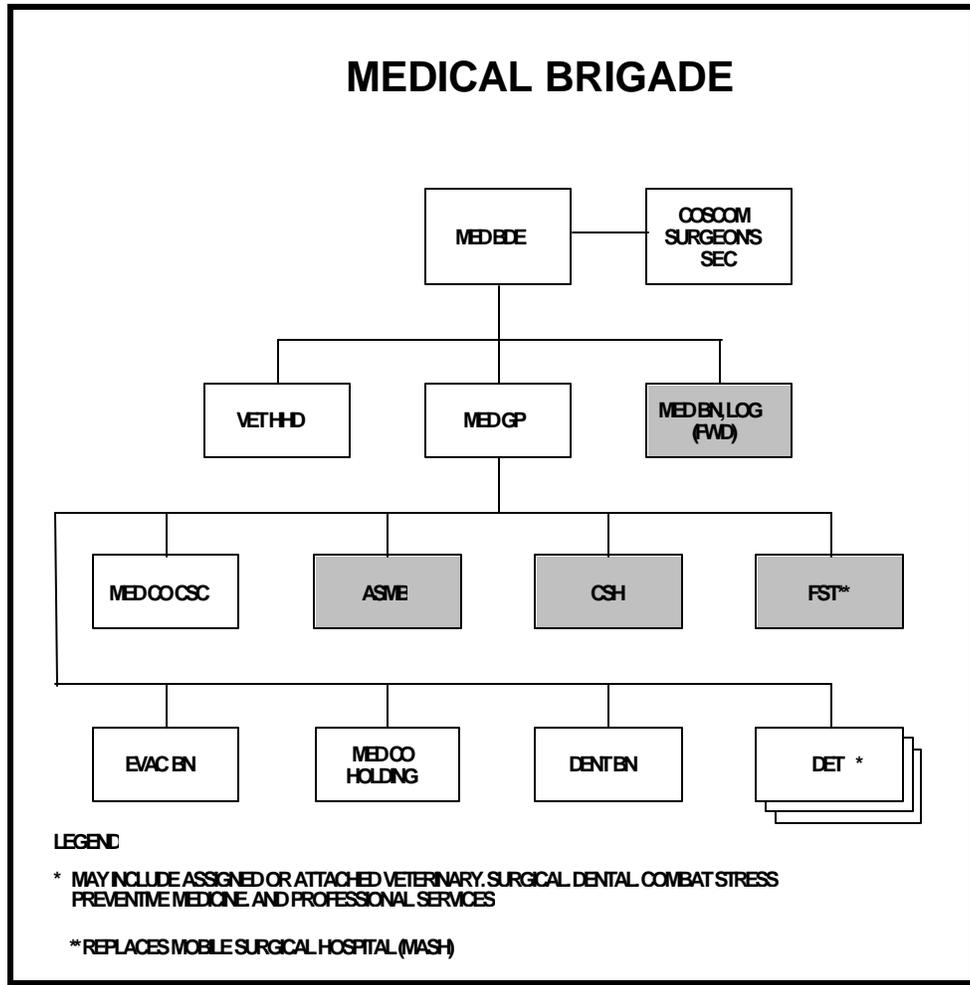


Figure 7-8. Medical Brigade

The **Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) ARE NO LONGER IN THE ARMY INVENTORY**. This organization has been phased out and replaced with the Forward Surgical Teams (FST).<sup>3</sup>

The Corps level **Combat Support Hospital (Corps CSH)** stabilizes patients for further evacuation. The CSH also treats soldiers who are expected to return to duty within the number of days specified by the theater evacuation policy. Located in the combat zone behind the division rear boundary, it is capable of handling all types of patients.

<sup>3</sup> The MASH in existence today is the television comedy M\*A\*S\*H 4077!

## **Forward Surgical Teams (FST)**

The requirement to project resuscitative surgery far forward will increase as a function of the extended battlefield. Forward surgical teams (FST) will meet this need in support of brigade-sized units. Surgical stabilization of otherwise non-transportable casualties is the focus of these forward surgical teams. The teams will have the capability to select (triage) surgical candidates, provide preoperative treatment, surgical stabilization, and postoperative recovery. Generally, FST are corps assets, and employed with, or attached to, a level II medical unit in support of combat operations. **The teams will be attached to corps hospitals when not employed in the division.**

## **TRANSFORMATION CHANGES TO CORPS COMBAT HEALTH SUPPORT**

### **The Corps Medical Command (MEDCOM)**

Under the Medical Re-engineering Initiative (MRI) the structure and command relationship for medical units changes. Under Total Army Analysis 05 (TAA 05) the Medical Brigade under the COSCOM will fall under the command and control of the MEDCOM.

The Corps Medical Command (MEDCOM) (Figure 7-9), normally the senior Army medical organization in the corps, is created and the commander reports directly to the corps commander. It will operate at both the operational and tactical levels of Combat Health Support (CHS). The MEDCOM coordinates with other corps subordinate commands and any attached joint force commands on mutual support requirements. To ensure that adequate CHS is provided throughout the corps, close coordination between the MEDCOM commander and the COSCOM commander and his respective staff is required for synchronization of support services. The MEDCOM headquarters commands and controls all assigned and attached units.

Under the MEDCOM are the corps medical brigades providing C2 and administrative supervision of assigned or attached units. The current medical groups are no longer part of the structure. Medical units are assigned or attached to the brigade by the MEDCOM. Medical brigades located in the corps provide direct support (DS) to forward deployed divisions and to provide CHS on an area basis for units operating in the corps. This support consists of units furnishing patient treatment, patient holding, hospitalization, long- and short-haul patient evacuation, and other support. Assets from the corps medical brigade may be used to replace ineffective units in the Main Battle Area (MBA). Medical brigades may contain attachments such as the area support medical detachment, telemedicine detachments, preventive medicine, dental, and veterinary units. Units will be reallocated between brigades by action of the MEDCOM to accomplish shifts in workloads.

## CORPS MEDCOM

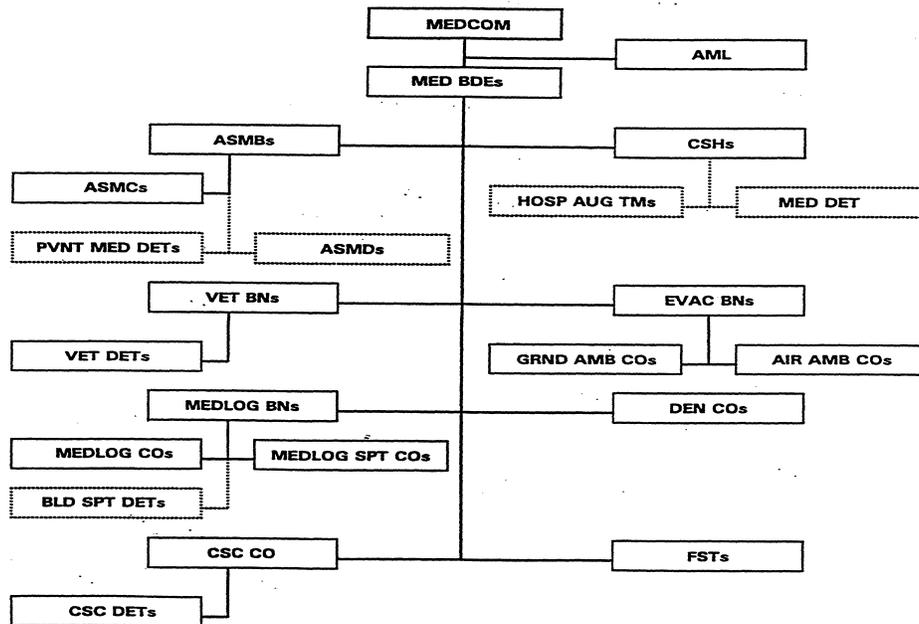


Figure 7-9. Corps Medical Command (MEDCOM)

### Transportation Group

If three or more functional transportation battalions are included in the force structure, a transportation group could be attached to the COSCOM. The transportation group would focus on providing corps-wide transportation support of tactical operations and supporting supply and replacement distribution systems. Based on METT-TC, the corps can attach a railway battalion to supervise the operations and maintenance of a railway approximately 90 to 150 miles long (145 to 240 kilometers).

The transportation group headquarters from EAC force structure provides command, staff planning, and control of the operations of attached transportation battalions and truck units in support of a corps force.

Subordinate transportation battalions provide corps wide transportation support of operations. They support supply and replacement distribution systems.

Cargo transfer companies operate either a break-bulk or container operation at air, rail, or motor terminals and water terminals with EAC augmentation. Trailer transfer teams operate trailer transfer points to support trailer interchange operations.

**Conclusion.**

Combat service support units in the CZ will be arrayed according to METT-TC. Figure 7-10 below, is a pictorial that simplifies the placement of CSS units; note the placement of CSBs.

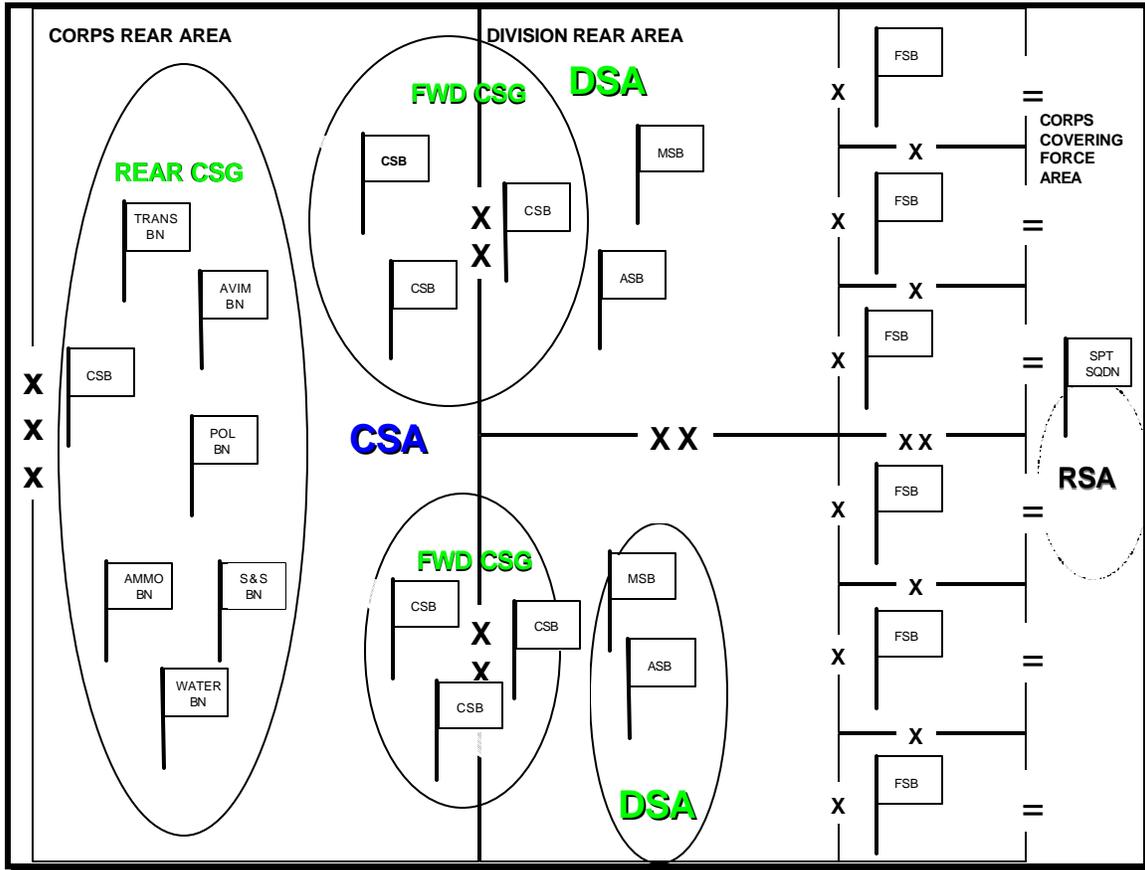


Figure 7-10. A conceptual view of COSCOM, DISCOM and Support Squadron logistics units and their support areas.

## Chapter 7: The Corps

### Homework Assignment

Manuals Required to Complete Homework: Theater Logistics Handbook, FM 100-15 and FM 63-3.

1. Corps may be assigned \_\_\_\_\_ and the mission. They possess support commands and are assigned combat and CS organizations based on their needs for a specific operation. Ref. FM 100-15.
  
  2. The corps CSS organizations are the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
Ref. FM 100-15 p1-1.
  
  3. In contingency operations, a corps headquarters may function as the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ head  
quarters itself. In such cases, the corps is responsible for both operational and tactical planning and operational and tactical execution of the campaign. Ref. FM 100-15.
  
  4. The COSCOM is the \_\_\_\_\_ organization of a corps. It provides supply, field services, transportation (mode operations and movement control), maintenance, and possibly combat health support (CHS) to the divisions and to non-divisional corps units. The COSCOM is a \_\_\_\_\_ organization that's organizational structure is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ref. FM 100-15.
  
  5. Area support is the most efficient and affordable way to provide support. The COSCOM's \_\_\_\_\_ usually operate on an \_\_\_\_\_ basis. Ref. FM 63-3.
  
  6. The CMMC provides \_\_\_\_\_. The CMCB provides \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for the corps. Ref. FM 63-3.
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7. Depending on the structure, the senior medical organization in the corps may be a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. Regardless of the medical command and control structure there are four key subordinate CHS subordinate that support combat operations, they are: Ref. FM 63-3

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Each forward CSG \_\_\_\_\_ organizes to support non-divisional units operating in the division area. The remaining CSBs of the forward CSGs employ behind the \_\_\_\_\_ to support non-divisional units in their area of responsibility. Ref. FM 63-3.

9. One rear corps support group is \_\_\_\_\_. The rear CSG focuses on \_\_\_\_\_ to the forward CSGs. The rear CSG consists of \_\_\_\_\_ battalions and one or more \_\_\_\_\_ CSBs. The CSBs provide \_\_\_\_\_ level support on an \_\_\_\_\_ the rear portion of the corps rear area. Ref. FM 63-3.

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## **NOTES**