

Combat Service Support to the Future Engineer Force: A Modular Approach

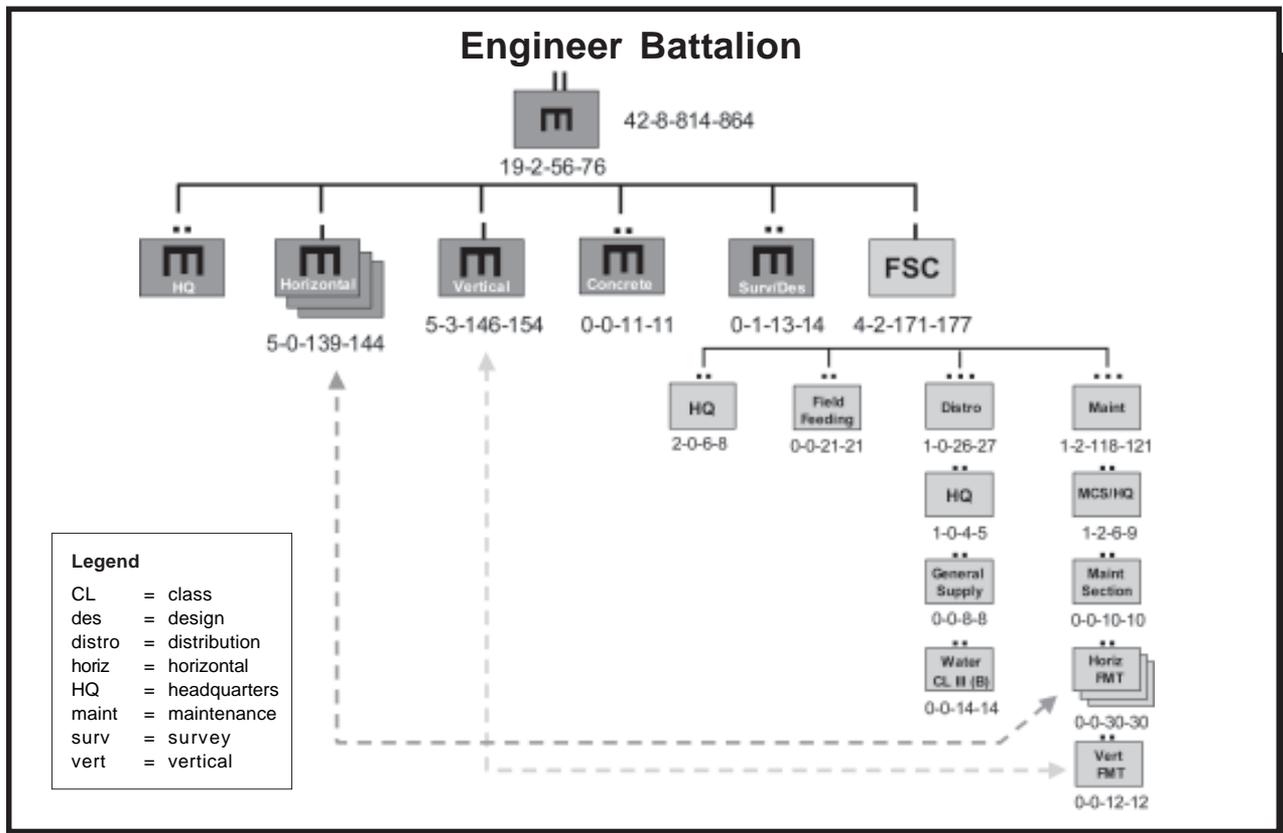
By Major Brian D. Slack

By now, almost everyone in the Army has heard of the terms *modularity* and *expeditionary*. Most of the uncommitted Army (not currently deployed or preparing to deploy in support of the Global War on Terrorism) is consumed with transforming its Cold War formations into brigade combat teams (BCTs), units of employment (UEs), and support brigades. As the Army moves along its transformation path, a fundamental change in how these new organizations are supported will be required if they are to be truly modular and expeditionary. The concept of modularity is predicated on units that are flexible and agile: scalable formations that can be mission-tailored for specific operations. For these

units to be sustainable, a new modular approach to combat service support (CSS) is needed. In conjunction with the US Army Engineer School, the Combined Arms Support Command has developed a modular support organization for the Future Engineer Force (FEF) that is modeled after the CSS being provided inside the new BCTs. The forward support company (FSC) is the cornerstone of sustainment for the FEF (today's corps- and theater-level engineer battalions). The figure below shows an example of an engineer battalion with its FSC and forward maintenance teams (FMTs).

The concept of maintenance support for the FEF starts with uniquely designed FMTs that are organic to each engineer company. These FMTs perform field-level

maintenance (previously referred to as organizational- and direct-support maintenance) under a two-level maintenance concept. In the two-level concept, the FMT is manned and equipped to perform both organizational- and direct-support maintenance. In garrison, FMTs plug into the maintenance platoon of an FSC that is organic to each engineer battalion. If an engineer company gets task-organized with a different deploying engineer battalion, the engineer company's FMT also gets task-organized under the gaining engineer battalion's FSC maintenance platoon. Each FMT—equipped with its own Unit-Level Logistics System-Ground (ULLS-G) and prescribed load list (PLL)—performs all repairs, parts requisitioning, dispatching,



and services for its engineer company. This plug-and-play concept of maintenance support truly enables sustainment of any combination of forces tailored into an engineer mission force (EMF). The base maintenance section of the FSC is designed to provide maintenance support for the engineer battalion headquarters and any specialty platoons/sections, as well as the FSC. In the maintenance control section (MCS) of the maintenance platoon, a maintenance control officer and two warrant officers (senior automobile maintenance officer and engineer equipment repair technician) provide maintenance management of the engineer battalion's equipment.

Concerning the remaining areas of CSS, the FSC is designed to provide a 90 percent solution for the sustainment of an engineer battalion composed of five to seven engineer companies combined into an EMF. The field-feeding section is equipped to provide mess

support for five to seven engineer companies. The distribution platoon orders and distributes all classes of supply within the battalion or EMF. It carries the sustainment stocks that exceed the organic carrying capability of the engineer battalion for three days of high-intensity conflict or seven days of low-intensity conflict. Medical support is provided by organic medical assets in each engineer company headquarters and a medical treatment section in the engineer battalion headquarters. Combat engineer companies are supported by a senior medic and one trauma specialist per line platoon. Construction engineer companies are supported by one trauma specialist. The engineer battalion medical-treatment section is composed of a physician's assistant, a trauma sergeant, two trauma specialists, and a four-litter ambulance.

Based on a still-developing concept, future engineer brigades will receive CSS on an area support basis from a combat

service support battalion (CSSB). The CSSB will provide the link between the FSCs that support each battalion-sized EMF and higher-level sustainment forces in the theater support command. As required, the CSSB will augment FSCs with maintenance, transportation, and other logistical support. The combination of FSCs and CSSBs will provide sustainment across the full spectrum of operations for the FEF and would be in concert with the Army's construct for support of the Total Army Force. 

Major Slack is an engineer concepts officer in the Directorate of Combat Developments, US Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. His past assignments include engineer observer-controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center; commander of A Company, 70th Engineer Battalion; and Task Force Engineer for 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, and 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, in Alaska.



Dedication

The following members of the Engineer Regiment have been lost in the Global War on Terrorism since the last issue of *Engineer*. We dedicate this issue to them.

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| Second Lieutenant Christopher W. Barnett | 1st Battalion, 156th Armored Regiment | Shreveport, Louisiana |
| Specialist Justin B. Carter | 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment | Fort Benning, Georgia |
| Staff Sergeant Joseph E. Rodriguez | 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division | Fort Hood, Texas |
| Sergeant Andrew L. Bossert | 44th Engineer Battalion, 2d Infantry Division | Camp Howze, Korea |
| Private First Class Michael W. Franklin | 44th Engineer Battalion, 2d Infantry Division | Camp Howze, Korea |
| Specialist Bennie J. Washington | 44th Engineer Battalion, 2d Infantry Division | Camp Howze, Korea |
| Specialist Matthew A. Koch | 70th Engineer Battalion, 3d Infantry Division | Fort Riley, Kansas |
| Specialist Johnathan Castro | 73d Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division | Fort Lewis, Washington |
| Private First Class Lionel Ayro | 73d Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division | Fort Lewis, Washington |
| Sergeant Lynn R. Poulin | 133d Engineer Battalion | Belfast, Maine |
| Specialist Thomas J. Dostie | 133d Engineer Battalion | Portland, Maine |
| Sergeant First Class Sean M. Cooley | 150th Engineer Battalion, 155th Armor Brigade | Lucedale, Mississippi |
| Specialist Robert A. McNail | 150th Engineer Battalion, 155th Armor Brigade | Lucedale, Mississippi |
| Specialist Seth K. Garceau | 224th Engineer Battalion | Burlington, Iowa |
| Second Lieutenant Richard B. Gienau | 224th Engineer Battalion | Burlington, Iowa |
| Specialist Lyle Rymer | 239th Engineer Battalion | Fort Chaffee, Arkansas |
| Specialist Nicholas C. Mason | 276th Engineer Battalion | West Point, Virginia |
| Specialist David A. Ruhren | 276th Engineer Battalion | West Point, Virginia |
| Staff Sergeant Johnathan R. Reed | 1088th Engineer Battalion | New Roads, Louisiana |
| Specialist Michael S. Evans II | 1088th Engineer Battalion | New Roads, Louisiana |
| Specialist Christopher J. Ramsey | 1088th Engineer Battalion | New Roads, Louisiana |