Multinational Logistics: a rapidly evolving, complex capability

Brigadier Jonathan Downes
Head of Defence Logistic Operations and Plans

UK MOD
Format

- UK Context
- Contractor Support to Operations
- The Logistic Landscape in Afghanistan
- LOGWAR 08 Multinational Study Group – ‘Smaller, Faster, Better’.
- Conclusions.
Context

- Expeditionary Operations: faster, further, longer duration.
- Expect to be part of a coalition.
- Logistic Support will be:
  - Joint by design.
  - Ready and rapidly deployable.
  - Configured for the ‘most likely’ scenarios.
  - Agile, flexible and with minimal logistic footprint.
- Planned and managed ‘end to end’.
Contractor Support to Operations

• Necessary and appropriate in most circumstances – threat, cost and capability driven.
• An increasing trend.
• Reliance on contractors needs to be managed. Key issues are:
  • Legal liability.
  • Preparation and Integration.
  • Protection.
  • MOU/SOFA.
  • Tracking and control.
  • Cumulative Risk.
The Logistic Landscape in Afghanistan
The Logistic Landscape in Afghanistan

- Difficult Lines of Communication – both into and within the country.
- Very limited Host Nation Support (HNS) and In-country Resources.
- Complex matrix of logistic responsibilities:
  - National
  - NATO
  - Bi-lateral
- Shared Infrastructure.
- Extensive use of both national and multinational contracts.
KEY TAKEAWAYS

With the benefit of hindsight, multinational logistic solutions should have been pursued much more rigourously from the earliest stages of national and coalition planning.

Duplication of capabilities and competition for scarce resources has reduced the effectiveness of coalition logistics and, in some cases, has limited the freedom of the operational commander.
LOGWAR 08
Multinational: Smaller…Faster…Better

1. Capability Development
2. MN Planning
3. In-Theatre Solutions

- Smaller
- Faster
- Redundancies
- Aim
- ‘Settlement’ of the Operation
- and Better

Log Footprint

D - x
D
D + x

Op Planning
Deployment

Multinational Logistic Support
National Logistic Support
LOGWAR 08
Multinational: Benchmarking – Quantifying the Potential Benefits

Handler hours required against hours supplied by nations

ACDS (LOG OPS)
LOGWAR 08
Multinational: Planning

Planning Tools

- Improve the range, utility and validity of MN Logistic Planning Decision Support Tools and matrices, and their value to the planning process and the Operational Commander.
LOGWAR 08
Multinational: In-Theatre Solutions

- Multinational Solutions
  - Encourage greater efforts to develop flexible MN Logistics arrangements.
  - Identify and fund MN Logistics Training.

- Current Concepts
  - Re-energise and further develop the NRF Logistic Concept for NATO led operations.
  - Adopt the NRF Logistic Concept as the basis for coalition operations.

Logistics Support Concept
For
NATO Response Force Operations
27 July 2005
• **Contract Support**
  • Development of a concept and agile mechanisms for the adoption of a MN contracting process in support of alliance and coalition operations.

• **Decision Support Tools**
  • Encourage adoption of LOGFAS as the primary application for MN Logistic planning and data integration.

  • Ensure that the future development of LOGFAS takes cognisance of the increasing instances of Coalition operations.
Summary