

Field Manual  
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## DIVISION SUPPORT COMMAND LIGHT INFANTRY, AIRBORNE, AND AIR ASSAULT DIVISIONS

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*Distribution Restriction: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.*

## **\*Preface**

This manual provides information on the structure and operations of the DISCOM in the light infantry, airborne, and air assault divisions. Information specific to the DISCOMs in the airborne and air assault divisions are provided in Appendixes G and H. The division staff, the commander and staff of the DISCOM, and the commanders of the DISCOM's subordinate units are the intended audience.

Logistics and health service support depend on the structure of the divisions, how commanders employ it, how it deploys, and what mission it performs. In its original concept of employment, the divisions deployed as an entity. Accordingly, the divisions logistics and HSS structure consisted of functional battalions, FASCOS, and decentralized materiel management elements. Since then, the divisions employment doctrine has evolved to include split division operations and cross attachments with other forces. To enhance command and control, especially when a brigade-size task force operates apart from its parent division or when operations continue for prolonged periods, the field commanders sought a transition to a design with multifunctional support battalions and centralized materiel management.

FM 63-2-1 (with change 1) outlines the functions and operations of the redesigned DISCOM with a main support battalion, three forward support battalions, an aviation maintenance unit, a materiel management center, and a division medical operations center. It describes how DISCOM personnel integrate their activities to accomplish their logistics and health service mission. Doctrine in FMs 100-5, 100-10, and 71-100 forms the basis of this manual. FM 100-5 outlines how the Army fights. FM 100-10 provides an overview of the CSS system for supporting the Army in the field. FM 71-100 provides doctrine for division operations. It provides information vital to the DISCOM commander's understanding of the organization he supports.

This manual discusses recently approved doctrine and new equipment as they apply to light infantry, airborne, and air assault divisions. These include mobile subscriber equipment, the maneuver-oriented ammunition distribution system, preconfigured unit loads, and the Army field feeding system. The manual also discusses new logistics and health service software, such as SAAS-DAO and TAMMIS-D.

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Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

*Chapter 1*  
**Supporting the Division**

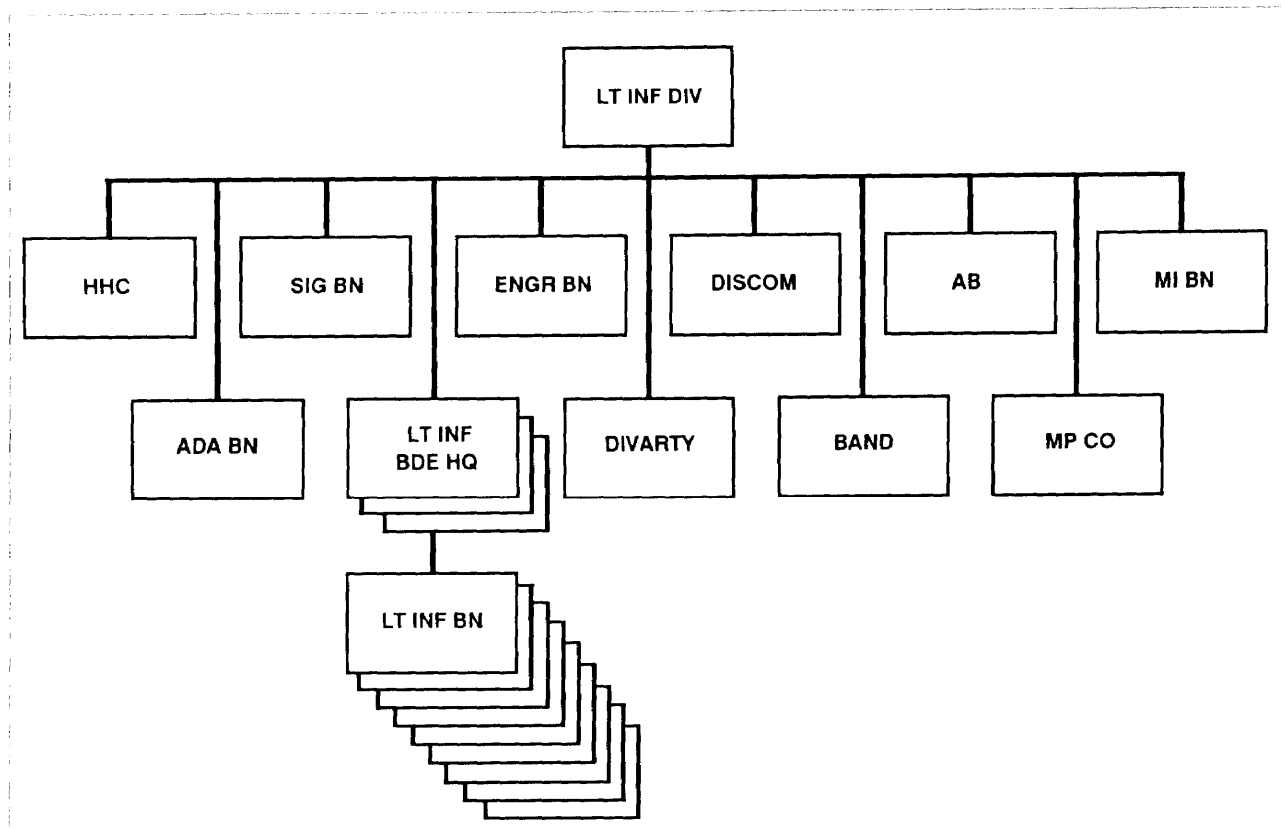
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**LIGHT INFANTRY DIVISION**

The LID (Figure 1-1) is a flexible fighting force. It is designed to conduct combat operations against light enemy forces. The division consists primarily of combat and CS units equipped with lightweight weapon systems. In the right terrain with the right mission and when augmented with forces and support, the division can fight heavier forces.

The LID's primary focus is low-intensity conflict. It also is used in mid- and high-intensity conflicts. When engaged in combat, the LID is predominantly dismounted. It does not have the assets (without augmentation) to close with the enemy's heavy forces in terrain suitable for mechanized operations. It is effective in darkness and limited visibility. It is also effective



*Figure 1-1. Light infantry division.*

on restrictive terrain favoring dismounted operations. This includes urban areas, mountains, and jungles.

The LID is capable of immediate combat operations on arrival and quick extraction once the mission is complete. The lightness of the division involves risks inherent in austere CSS structures. The LID is among the most rapidly and strategically deployable US divisions. Its limited heavy weaponry and equipment allow the LID to move easily into secure AOs. When supported by the Navy, it also quickly gains entry from the sea when other forces have established a beachhead. The LID requires EAD CSS within 48 hours. Once deployed, its limited organic vehicles and aircraft constrain its tactical mobility.

The LID deploys rapidly. This presents war planners with multiple employment options. The LID may deploy in support of contingency operations into areas where US or allied bases are nonexistent. Usually the LID deploys on such contingency missions with only essential corps CSS elements. This slice provides a self-supporting capability for limited periods. Chapter 3 covers contingency operations.

The strategic deployability of the LID enables it to rapidly reinforce US and allied forces deployed anywhere in the world. These conflicts may be at the mid-to-high-intensity level. In such cases war planners have several options. They base their selection of the

preferred option on METT-T. Employment options include employing the LID as it is organized or augmenting the LID before or after deployment. Another option is task organizing the LID to meet theater-specific needs.

Forces augmenting the LID are OPCON or attached to the LID until mission completion. When forces are OPCON to the LID, the parent units remain responsible for the administrative support and logistics of their assigned units. The LID commander has the same degree of control over attached units as he does over organic units. He also assumes responsibility for administrative support and logistics to attached units. However, the LID does not have the assets to support itself for extended times much less those forces augmenting the division. Therefore, it needs additional assets to support attached units.

Task organization is a temporary grouping of forces to perform a particular mission. Combining heavy and light forces is one example. Appendix A covers some basic considerations for such mixes.

Regardless of the option selected, on arrival in the theater, the LID normally becomes an integral part of a corps or JTF. This corps or JTF provides GS supply and field services and reinforcing DS maintenance, transportation, and health services. More information on the LID is in FM 71-100.

## SUPPORT PRINCIPLES

Fluid, nonlinear operations and enormous demands for resources characterize the battlefield. Support in such an environment is the challenge facing support planners and operators. They arm, fuel, fix, and move the division, and sustain its soldiers. These actions allow the LID commander to take advantage of opportunities to achieve tactical advantage. The DISCOM commander and staff as well as support planners and operators at division and brigade incorporate the sustainment imperatives in all actions. The imperatives are anticipation, integration, continuity, responsiveness, and improvisation.

The DISCOM commander and staff anticipate future missions. They do this by understanding the division commander's plan and translating current developments into future needs. Anticipation helps the division commander form a supportable plan. The DISCOM commander and staff focus on responsive support of future operations. They do not merely react

to support needs sent to the DISCOM. They plan ahead and try to foresee unexpected changes while supporting current operations. To better anticipate needs the DISCOM commander and staff have a close relationship with the division staff. The DISCOM commander attends division staff meetings in accordance with the TSOP. He monitors the division command net to anticipate changes while supporting current operations. He closely follows the flow of battle.

CSS is an integral part of a fighting force. A close relationship with the division staff ensures planners integrate support operations with operations of the maneuver force. The division commander and staff plan tactical and support operations concurrently. The DISCOM commander and staff provide input to the planning process. This ensures the scheme of maneuver and fire support plan are supportable. When the LID is part of a corps or JTF, the DISCOM integrates its operations with other Services, the