

Field Manual
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FORWARD SUPPORT BATTALION

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Preface

This manual provides information on the structure and operations of the FSB. It is directed toward the commander and staff of the FSBs of divisions organized and operating under L-edition TOES as modified by the Force Design Initiatives for an Army of Excellence Study. It is also designed to be used by commanders of the FSB's subordinate companies.

The manual outlines the functions and operations of each section within the FSB and how the FSB commander and staff integrate their activities. This includes both the logistics and medical mission and the tactical responsibilities. The manual describes the many coordination links the FSB must maintain with supported and supporting units.

This manual is based on doctrine in FMs 100-5, 100-10, 71-3, and 63-2-2. FM 100-5 is the Army's keystone doctrinal manual. It outlines how the Army will fight the AirLand Battle. FM 100-10 is the Army's keystone CSS doctrinal manual. It provides an overview of the CSS system for supporting the Army in the field. FM 71-3 is the doctrinal publication on armored and mechanized infantry brigade operations. It provides information vital to the FSB commander's understanding of the unit he must support. FM 63-2-2 describes the support provided by resources within and outside of the division. It is directed toward commanders and staff who are concerned with providing CSS within armored, mechanized infantry, and motorized divisions organized and operating under "Division 86" TOES as modified by the Army of Excellence Study. (Work is currently underway on a new FM 63-2, which will cover the operations of a heavy division support command in depth. The new manual is designed to supersede FMs 63-2-2 and 63-22.)

A wide range of publications support this manual by providing details in specific CSS functional areas. FM 42-4 covers the organization and operations of the FSB forward supply company. FM 43-12 describes division maintenance operations, including those of the forward maintenance company of the FSB. FM 8-15, currently under development, will detail the operations of the forward support medical company. Numerous other functional manuals are referenced throughout this manual and listed in the References section at the end.

The proponent of this publication is HQ TRADOC. Submit changes for improving this publication on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) and forward it to Commander, US Army Logistics Center, ATTN: ATCL-CLD, Fort Lee, VA 23801-6000.

Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.

CHAPTER 1
Sustaining the Heavy Brigade

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THE HEAVY DIVISION BRIGADE

A brigade of a heavy division is a flexible organization designed to close with and destroy enemy forces on the battlefield using mobility, fire power, and shock effect. Its main focus is to defeat the enemy by conducting close operations while protecting its combat support, combat service support, and command and control facilities with successful rear operations. The brigade normally fights as part of a division. It influences the battle by task organizing assigned and attached combat and combat support forces, assigning missions and sectors, applying force multipliers, assigning and changing CS and CSS priorities, and constituting and committing the reserve.

The brigade is assigned varying numbers of armor and mechanized infantry battalions by the division commander to accomplish a specific mission. CS and CSS units are task organized to support the brigade as required. How the DISCOM commander task organizes to support units in the brigade area is

addressed in Chapter 2. Though the supported units will vary, they will likely include both division and nondivisional elements. Corps units that may be operating in the brigade area are addressed in Chapter 3. Division elements which may typically operate in the brigade area include—

- Brigade HHC.
- Maneuver battalion task forces,
- Field artillery battalion.
- Engineer company.
- Air defense artillery battery.
- Military police platoon.
- Military intelligence company.
- Forward signal platoon.
- Chemical platoon.
- Smoke platoon.
- Attack helicopter battalion.