

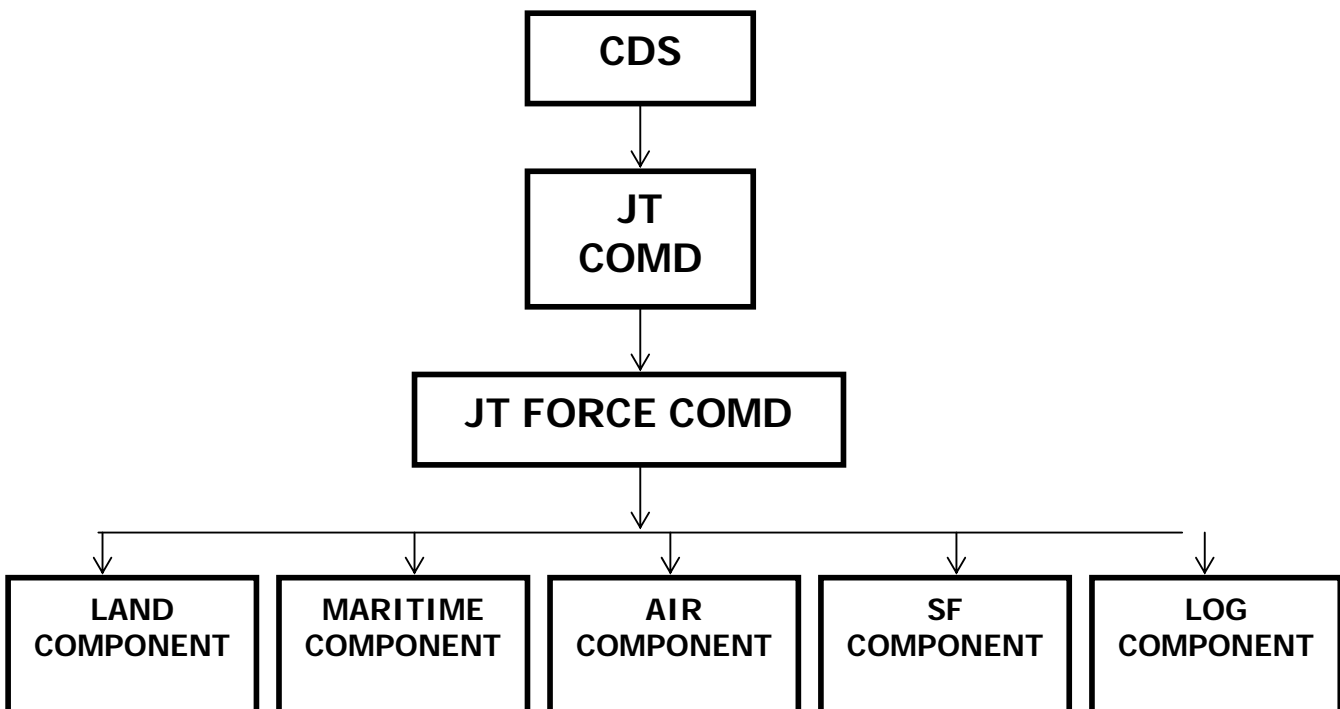
**ROLES AND ORGANISATION OF
THE LAND COMPONENT**

INTRODUCTION

1. Gentlemen, you will recall that during the foundation phase of your course, you were introduced to the organization and roles of the Nigerian Armed Forces through a series of presentations on the Nigerian Army (NA) including its arms and services, Sea Power and Air Power. You were also acquainted with the principles of joint operations. You were told that war has become a sophisticated human endeavour in which a well coordinated employment of land, sea and air operations would facilitate success.

2. To a large extent then, one may assume that you are all well informed about the Army's role in a joint operation. Consequently, this presentation is aimed at emphasizing on what you earlier learnt in this regard. In a nut shell, I shall discuss the Army's structure in relation to joint operations. Remember that the manoeuvrist approach to warfare necessitates jointness.

3. But before I proceed further, it is necessary that you take a close look at this force structure:



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I believe you are quite familiar with it. The structure indicates the military strategic, operational and tactical levels. Let us turn our attention to the Joint Task Force Comd whose responsibility is to ensure a well – knit organization, by putting together the command, control communications and information systems of all components of the force. In this respect, I am referring to the Maritime, Air, Special Forces and Logistics components as well as the big masquerade – the LAND COMPONENT. The Joint Force Comd's directives will outline his concept of operations, composition and order of battle, deployment, containment and recovery of the force from the theatre. Above all, he will designate the supported and supporting components and direct the main effort at the operational level.

4. A supported component, obviously and usually the land component, is one in the main effort, while the others are considered as supporting components. A supported component receives priority attention especially in combat logistics support, and any other assets that will enhance its success. Let it be known however, that the supported component commander has no command over the other components. If so, my attempt to refer to the land component as the big masquerade a while ago was to an extent subjective. Do not mind me. Lord Mountbatten put it more succinctly when he said, "the Army, and Air Force are equal and interdependent. None is an auxiliary to the other". Of course, you know that the Navy is no less a partner in this business. Nevertheless, without prejudice, I want to urge you to stay on ground with me just for a few minutes, where we talk man-to-man, eye ball to eye ball, and where plans, tactics and techniques may not work without boldness, mental alertness, courage and audacity. This was aptly captured by George C Marshal, when he said "when the smoke cleared away, it was the man with the sword, or the crossbow, or the rifle, who settled the final issue on the battle field". Gentlemen, he was referring to the land component.

AIM

5. The aim of this presentation is to acquaint you with the roles and organization of the land component.

SCOPE

6. In order to achieve this aim, we shall cover the following:
- a. Examine the constituents of a land component.

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- b. Take a look at the organization of the Land component.
- c. Highlight the land component Headquarters.
- d. Discuss the roles of the land component.

CONSTITUENTS OF THE LAND COMPONENT

7. The land component is a potent force comprising of various arms and services closely linked together and organized under a headquarters to provide the guidance and proper administration necessary for its employment. Let me quickly highlight these constituent parts.

a. **The Infantry.** The infantry is often referred to as the sole battle winning factor and in some cases, as queen of the battle. It is usually the largest of the constituents. The infantry's mission is to close with and engage the enemy in all operational theatres and environments in order to bring about his defeat. Additionally, it would seize, control and hold ground as well as fight in built up areas, deserts, mountains, jungles, woods and forests. Indeed, other arms and services have their roles integrated to enhance the effort of the infantry. Little wonder then that when Wellington was asked whether he would beat Napoleon, he answered, pointing to an infantry private that walked by, "It all depends upon that article, whether we do the business or not. Give me enough of it and I am sure".

b. **Armour.** The armour is the dreadful arm that possesses virtually all the battle winning features required by every soldier, strangely packaged in one whole. These are fire power, mobility, protection and shock action. Its roles include aggressive mobile action to destroy enemy armour, close combat in conjunction with the Infantry and creating a shock effect similar to an aircraft from an unexpected direction. In defensive operations it will use the tank offensively to defeat the attacker. In offensive all arms operations, it will normally be the armour that takes the lead in the break-in and exploitation of initial success. Guderian once said of the armour "Where the tanks are is the front. Whenever battle is fought in future wars, tank troops will play the decisive role".

c. **Artillery.** These are the boys that do it with a bigger bang. Close support (CS) artillery would provide fire for formations and units in contact. In offensive operations, it would destroy the enemy's will to

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resist and restrict his movement. In defensive and delaying operations, it would disrupt the enemy's advance and make him vulnerable to direct fire weapons. The efforts of the close support artillery are usually augmented by the general support artillery. On the other hand, the Air Defence (AD) artillery will defend specified point targets and where possible, destroy attacking aircraft and attack helicopters. Surprisingly, within the framework of the battlefield, it is only the artillery that can engage targets anywhere and at any point in time. Consequently, it would fight the rear, close and deep battles. Who would then doubt Napoleon's believe that "It is with the artillery that war is made".

d. **Engineers**. The Engineers, sappers as they are fondly called, provide both intimate battlefield engineering support to the combat arms to allow them to move and fight. It would provide more general engineering support throughout the area of operations in the form of essential services and facilities to allow them to live, move and fight. The sappers are proficient at basic field engineering, equipment and non-equipment bridging, fortifications, watermanship and provision of essential services and facilities. The major roles of military engineers include: mobility support, counter mobility support, survivability support and general engineer support. The versatility of engineers is hinged on their knowledge and a wide variety of roles. Anon could not hide his sentiments for the engineers when he stated that "In the final analysis, no military force gets far without its engineers, who were the first among educated soldiers and remain to this day among the elite of every well-founded army".

e. **Aviation**. The term 'Aviation' applies to the function of Army flying operations. It is used to differentiate from the term 'Air' that describes comparable naval or air force operations. It primarily uses Attack Helicopters to undertake both attack and reconnaissance functions within its combat role. It is an integral part of a viable land component. Unfortunately, the NA Aviation is at rudimentary level. Thus I will not discuss this further.

f. **Signals**. The provision of reliable Communications and Information Systems (CIA) essential to Command and Control (C2) of operations is the sole preserve of the signal elements. The signal elements would normally provide communication infrastructure in land environment, robust communications and information systems in support of operations and conduct tactical electronic warfare in order to win the information battle for the commander. Unquestionably, communication is the nerve

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centre of all operations. Mahan confirmed this when he said "communications dominate war: broadly considered, they are the most important single element in strategy, political or military".

g. **Combat Service Support.** Combat Service Support (CSS) encompasses medical support, personnel support, logistics support, equipment support and logistics engineering support to formations. Note that the 3 core functions of find, fix, strike and exploit will be carried out at both operational and tactical levels and combat service support will have to take account of the needs at both levels. At the tactical level which the land component belongs, the ability to switch combat service support assets rapidly is fundamental to being able to sustain combat power. Understanding the demand and importance of combat service support to operations is indeed a step above knowing tactics and techniques for employment of forces. In Field Marshall Montgomery's words "Any cowboy can handle an armoured division – but it takes a soldier to administer one"

8. Gentlemen, all the constituent parts of the land component just explained would normally be woven into a tapestry of functional entity. These could be at various levels of Army, corps divisions, brigades and possibly battalions. The status of the land component that would be used in operations would depend on the scale of the operation and national resources.

ORGANISATION OF THE LAND COMPONENT

9. Having discussed the elements that make up the land component, it is important to know how they are organized to enhance their functionality as an entity. In this regard, we have decided to consider a NA division, for obvious reasons. Now, you probably would have discovered that the Nigerian Army divisions are established to be able to respond to external threat in their zones. This situation would invariably place the forces under the command of the COAS during operations. The question is whether this arrangement is normal in light of the new concept of joint operation. No of course! It is expected that while initial deterrence may be acceptable, if the nation would go into war either in or outside the country, a task force, organized and controlled by the Defence Headquarters have to be raised. Consequently, I do not expect 1 Div, 2 Div or any of the divisions as established to constitute the task force in question. You may however feel otherwise, depending on the exigencies of the situation.

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10. In any case, let us assume that the division forming the land component would be raised through gathering of resources from the existing formations of the NA; then we are likely to have the land component organized as follows:

a. **Combat Arms/Manoeuvre Forces**. The infantry and armour constitute the combat arms of the division which would be composed of 3 brigades of infantry and armour, task organized according to the nature of the terrain or design for battle. When it is armoured heavy, there would be 2 x armoured brigades and one infantry brigade. On the other hand, if it is infantry heavy, it would be 2 x infantry brigades and one armour brigade. There are 3 battalions under each of these brigades.

b. **Combat Support Arms**. The combat support arms are essentially artillery, engineers and signals. They are structured to support the manoeuvre division as follows:

(1) **Artillery Brigade**. The division has an artillery brigade which is made up of 2 x field regiments and one Air Defence regiment.

(2) **Division Engineers**. A division engineers will support the division. Though called division engineers, because it supports the division, this is actually a brigade with one x field engineers regiment for first line combat engineering support and one support engineers regiment for second line combat engineer support. The third outfit is a maintenance outfit which would not pass for a regiment because of its high civilian content and its relevance for peace time employment only.

(3) **Division Signals**. Like the division engineers, the division signals support the division with 2 regiments. These regiments comprise an operations regiment and a support regiment. The operations regiment provides communication support to the division, while the support regiment gives technical and strategic support for operations.

(4) **Other Units**. The other 2 battalions grouped under the combat service support in the new concept comprise an armoured reconnaissance battalion and an army aviation regiment.

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c. **Combat Services Support**. Combat service support is provided by combat service support units. These units comprise a division medical center which provides medical support in form of field ambulances to the brigades, the division electrical and mechanical engineers which provides equipment support by deploying base workshops. Others are the division supply and transport unit for supply and transport services and division ordnance services which establishes ordnance field parks in the brigades. These combat service support outfits are organized and controlled in operations through a system of brigade support groups and division support groups, which are used to channel the required logistics support to the formations. Their operations are also conducted along 4 lines of support which I do not intend to discuss in this presentation.

(5) **Other Services**. There are other services which must be provided to the division to facilitate its efficiency. Prominent among the units responsible for these services are the division intelligence group and division provost group. Usually, the intelligence detachments and provost companies are attached to the brigades for their operations. Services provided by these units include:

(a) **Reinforcements**. Division rendezvous are established for holding and calling forward reinforcements. It is the responsibility of the G3 staff to assess and provide the requirements, while G1/G4 staff arranges for the call forward and deployment of reinforcements.

(b) **Refugees**. The control and handling of refugees could be a major operational and combat service support task requiring close liaison between the staff branches. However, G5 and G3 public information staff are likely to be key elements of the staffing procedure required to produce a refugee plan.

(c) **Prisoner of War**. A prisoner of war collection point will be established within the division support group close to the division rendezvous.

(d) **Defence Stores, Mines and Explosives**. The provision of defence stores is the division engineers' responsibility. It should however, be noted that mines and explosives are provided by the ordnance but it is usual for the engineers to control the forward movement of stocks for pre-

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planned major obstacles. Equally, infantry defence stores are palletized in platoon packs and where possible battle groups will store mines and explosives.

(6) **Rear Area Security**. A key combat service support requirement is a secure rear area in which to operate. While it is an operational responsibility to maintain the security of rear areas, there will rarely be sufficient combat forces to ensure adequate security. Therefore, combat service support units must be able to make a contribution to this task. The command and control system at the division level in this regard will be provided by a division's rear headquarters or division support group.

THE LAND COMPONENT HEADQUARTERS

10. Let us now turn our attention to the land component headquarters. In this regard, I shall consider the division headquarters. The component commander requires the support of 2 principal aids. These are his staff, and a command system (communications and data process) to be able to command effectively. At this point, let me acquaint you with the staff system, which is now being implemented in the Nigerian context.

11. The staff is constituted into a number of cells, each having clear functions and responsibilities. These are:

- a. G1 staff – personnel, provost and medical support (administration).
- b. G2 staff – intelligence and security.
- c. G3 staff – operations (including air) and plans, as well as nuclear biological and chemical concern.
- d. G4 staff – logistics and equipment support.
- e. G5 staff – civil military relations.
- f. G6 staff – CIS and headquarters staff.

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12. The Arms and Service advisers to the Commander include:

- a. Combat support artillery, engineers, air aviation and electronic warfare.
- b. Combat service support – medicals, supply and transport, equipment management and provost.

13. Note that the principal staff officer in the headquarters is the chief of staff. He is directly responsible for the work of G2 and G3 branches (Intelligence/Security and operations). On the other hand the deputy chief of staff controls the G1/G4 and normally G5 branches (administration, logistics and civil/military relations).

14. Because of the conditions of war and the size of the headquarters, it is normally divided into several functional groups. The first is the Main Headquarters, where the preponderance of staff, communications and command systems are located. The component commander and his key staff operate from here. In addition, it is from the main headquarters that he can best exercise command. Next is the Forward Headquarters, which is kept to a minimum and from which the commander, assisted by principal arms advisers and provided with the facilities to move about the battlefield quickly, move closer to the forces and direct operations. Following closely is the Rear Headquarters. It is the headquarters that ensures that the land component is able to retain its freedom of action. It encompasses combat service support activities and operations concerning establishing and securing lines of communications and the protection of combat service support and uncommitted forces. It is commanded by a rear operations commander – usually the deputy chief of staff.

15. In an ideal situation, the main headquarters may be put out of action or rather; the commander may wish to move it elsewhere. In order to maintain continuity of command, an Alternate Headquarters is deployed. However, because of the difficulty of duplicating manpower, vehicles and equipment, a Step – up Headquarters, which is considerably smaller and only partly manned, is preferred to the alternate headquarters.

THE ROLES OF THE LAND COMPONENT

16. A while ago, we touched briefly on supported and supporting concept in joint operations, and emphasized that no component is less important than the other. This presupposes that land forces will rarely operate in isolation and commanders will invariably need to achieve true land and air or land, air and

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maritime integration. The roles of the land component can therefore only be reasonably conceived from the perception of what part it is expected to play in a joint warfare concept in order to achieve the goals of the Joint Task Force Commander.

17. Broadly speaking, the main role of the land component is to conduct fluid and flexible land operations either simultaneously by elements within the force or sequentially by the force as a whole in order to ensure the collapse of the enemy's combat power. In order to do this the land component must be able to perform roles such as:

a. The conduct of offensive operations to defeat the enemy by imposing own will on him by the application of focused violence, not only on the enemy's forward elements but throughout his depth. Additionally, it should be able to route paralysis and confusion thereby destroying the coherence of the defence and thereby fragmenting and isolating the enemy's combat power.

b. The conduct of defensive operations to defeat or deter a threat in order to provide the right circumstances for offensive action. The object will be to force the enemy to take action that narrows his options, rescues his fighting power and exposes him to a decisive counter offensive.

c. The conduct of delaying operations to provide the basis for other operations by yielding ground, which is, trading space for time, slowing the enemy's momentum and inflicting maximum damage in such a way that the force conducting the operation does not become decisively involved in offensive action.

d. The conduct of transitional phases to link the 3 primary operations of war.

e. Gather intelligence on and to take measures to locate and neutralize enemy systems that are capable of delivering nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. To ensure that successful combat operations can be conducted under threat of nuclear, biological and chemical attack or in an environment contaminated with nuclear, biological and chemical substances.

f. Conduct of operations under conditions of limited visibility, be it darkness, fog, precipitation or smoke and indeed aim at taking advantage of such conditions to seize and maintain the initiative.

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g. Conduct speedy and flexible air mobile operations with great reach to cause the enemy to dissipate his strength by protecting vital installations and key terrain in his rear area, which would otherwise be inaccessible to the attack of other ground forces.

h. Conduct airborne operations to insert forces by parachute, by air land operation or by a combination of both, either directly onto the objective or onto adjacent drop zones, landing zones or airfields. These could be done independently or in conjunction with the forces operating on the ground in order to prepare, expedite, supplement or extend their actions.

CONCLUSION

18. In conclusion gentlemen, we have exposed you to the important aspects of the organization and roles of the land component. Most importantly, you now understand how the land component headquarters is organized to provide the required guidance and direction to the elements under command. It is however worthy of note to state that the status of the land component could be a battalion, a brigade, division, or corps depending on the scale of the operation. What we have done so far was to discuss a Nigerian division as example. Nevertheless, we will like to end on this note – that regardless of the relative sizes of the land, maritime and air component in a joint task force, none will be subordinate to the other. Thank you for your attention.