

## GNOSEOLOGY ASPECTS OF CZECH MILITARY LOGISTICS IN 2008

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**Abstract:** *Military logistics in the Army of the Czech Republic (ACR) complies with and, at the same time, participates in the implementation of organizational changes in accordance with the ACR goal attainment model. The goal attainment model sets the standards of the ACR to comply with the standards of allied countries, primarily from the viewpoint of compatibility, interoperability, demographic and economic possibilities of the Czech Republic.*

**Keywords:** *Military logistics, logistics functions, logistics goal and role, logistic support system, logistics principles.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The defence system of the Czech Republic can be efficient and operate even with minimum overall expenditures. However, achievement of the objectives of the defence system must be a condition. Finding optimum sources is fully dependent on the spectrum of tasks of the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic (MoD CR).

In the course of last several years, reduction of the budget chapter of the MoD CR has become a trend. This does not comply with the agreement made by the Alliance countries which have undertaken to spend two percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) for defence. The Czech Republic plans to spend approximately 1.4 percent of GDP for defence in years to come. In that case military logistics plays a role of a bridge linking the Czech Republic (CR) economics with the MoD CR in such an economic climate. On the basis of allocated resources military logistics arranges required material and non-material resources for military units and military installations within the MoD CR.

### 2. DEFINITION CONCEPT OF MILITARY LOGISTICS

Military logistics (hereinafter logistics) is a systematic and open theory for planning movements and supporting armed forces.

In a broad sense it includes the following activities (see Figure 1):

- acquisition, acceptance, recording, stocking, movement, distribution, use, maintenance of materiel and disposal of unserviceable materiel;
- providing for the movements of armed forces;
- acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, repairs to and liquidation of immovable property;
- provision of logistics services; and
- medical support (in the ACR the Medical Corps is a part of logistics).

The definition of logistics encompasses a wide range of measures to support the activities of the armed forces. The importance of logistics is based on early and effective accomplishment of tasks.

It is necessary to consider logistics as a continuum of options-development, decision-taking and control of materiel, technical, information, economic and transportation processes or, if need be, activities. Similarly, logistics may be taken as a tool or instrument to achieve specific ends. Logistics can also be considered as an institution or a system – with a systematically oriented organizational structure responding flexibly to the development of processes within the defence department and in the conditions of a market economy.

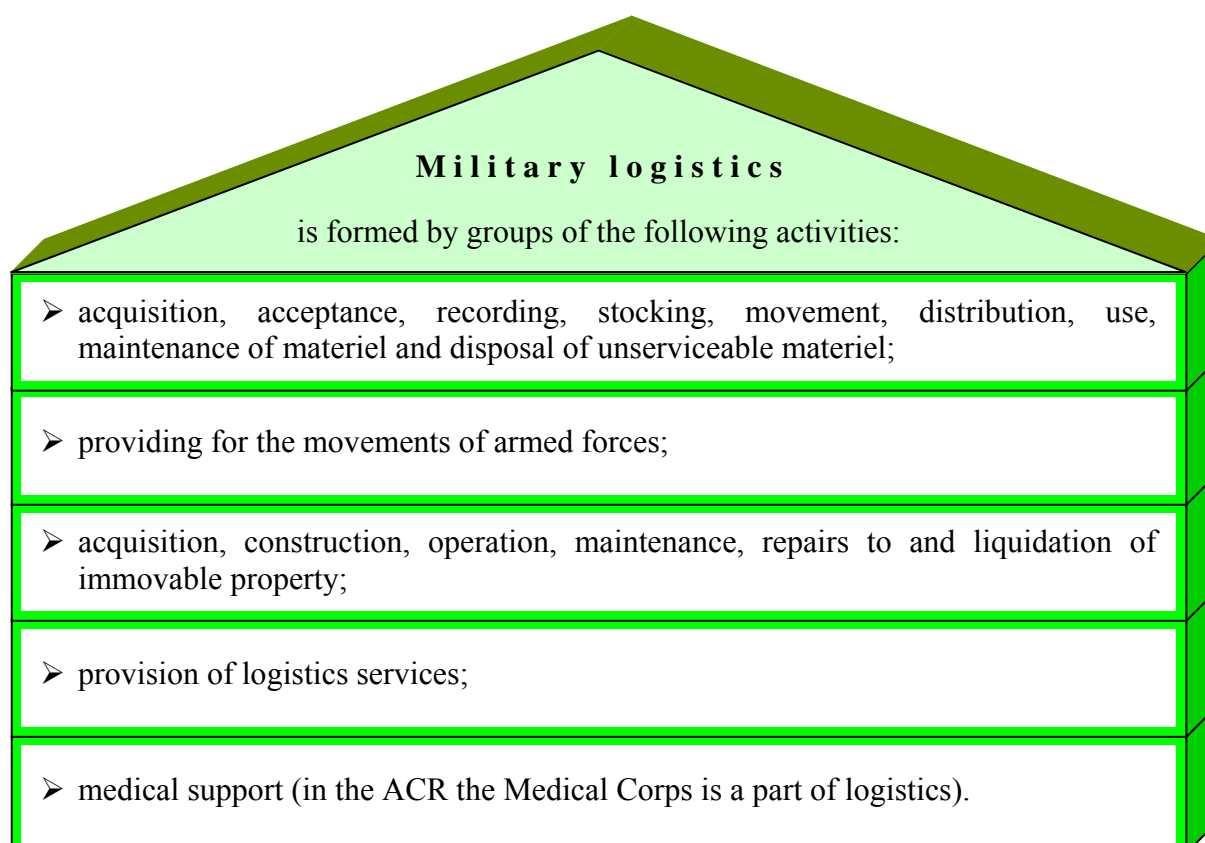


Fig. 1 Military logistics and its foreground activities, Source: MAREK, P., Brno, 2008

### 3. FUNCTIONAL CONCEPT OF LOGISTICS

These are as follows:

- property procurement and materiel supply;
- provision or support of services (provision of personnel);
- maintenance and repairs;
- movement and transport;
- support of logistics infrastructure (quartering service, ecology, immovable infrastructure, fire protection);
- medical support;
- contractual (contracting) support; and
- support of allied forces as a host country.

### 4. CONCEPTS OF LOGISTICS GOAL AND ROLE

The major goal and role of logistics is to create and maintain a logistic support system having the required efficiency and performance and within which costs are optimized.

### 5. SYSTEMS CONCEPT OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT

Logistic support is a primary prerequisite for the accomplishment of appointed tasks and a basis of success for any military operation. It is formed by a set of command, organizational, materiel, technical, medical, veterinary and service measures. Logistic support is based on the implementation of logistics functions.

In the logistic support system basic processes of property procurement, distribution, warehousing, use, maintenance, operation and disposal are in progress. The system meets the materiel and technical needs, provides logistics services and their support for all planning levels. The logistic support system is formed by the following:

- forces and resources (units and equipment) of logistics on tactical and operational levels that are linked with the strategic level and the budgets of the CR;
- logistics command and control bodies having necessary communication and information systems.

## 6. CONCEPTION ON THE INCLUSION OF LOGISTICS IN THE STRUCTURE OF ORGANIZATION

Logistics is applied at strategic, operational and tactical levels of the ACR command and control systems:

A) Logistics at the strategic level is aimed at the definition of measures to support the achievement of objectives set out in the document titled Military Strategy of the CR. Logistics on this level includes the field of acquisition and property policy, research and development control, verification and support of military production, disposal of surplus property or materiel, performance of tasks assigned by appropriate authorities and promoter of organizations and agencies, participation in performance of tasks relating to mobilization, build-up of units, military installations and military rescue units, strategic mobility and concentration of logistic resources in the area of operations.

B) Logistics at the operational level is focused on the achievement of logistic support tasks within its competence. It determines measures for logistic support for subordinate units. Logistics at this level encompasses the acceptance, movement and issue of materiel, the movement of units, the development of infrastructure, the training of logistics specialists, supply, contracting, service support and transport management. It is a link between logistics at the command and control strategic level and logistics at the command and control tactical level.

C) Logistics at the tactical level is aimed at supporting functions of logistics that relate to performance of logistic support tasks and measures. Logistics at this level carries out logistic support using its own capabilities or using forces and resources earmarked from operational logistics or through outsourcing.

## 7. CONCEPTS OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT PRINCIPLES

Logistics principles have to be observed when effective and continuous logistic support is carried out. Logistics principles are applied in peace, in states of crisis, military exercises,

the Washington Treaty Article 5 and non-Article 5 operations as well as operations led by the European Union (EU), the United Nations Organization (UNO) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Logistics principles are interconnected from the viewpoint of their significance. They are obligatory for members of the CR armed forces and require creative application based on specific conditions. Fundamental logistics principles are as follows (see Figure 2):

- *responsibility* means commanders' responsibility for logistic support of subordinated forces and resources;
- *authority* means that the commander is empowered to take decisions on the use of directly subordinated or attached logistics forces and resources including contractual services and other resources for effective or purposeful acceptance, deployment, sustainability and withdrawal of armed forces under his command;
- *joint responsibility* is based on the requirement for the NATO and EU member states and the states participating in an operation to coordinate particular procedures for the use of logistics forces and resources with the aim of effective logistic support of detached forces;
- *priority of operational requirements* means that the entire effort of logistics has to aim at meeting operational requirements that ensure success for the performance of tasks. Logistics acts as an efficient factor of combat power and is incorporated in the structure of detached forces. The commander is responsible for creating logistics structure of organization corresponding to an operational situation;
- *cooperation* means importance of joint actions of defence department bodies with state administration and self-administered bodies as well as enterprise entities based on the CR system of law. This principle also includes cooperation of NATO and EU member states, further, cooperation with governmental, non-governmental and international organizations in the area of operations;

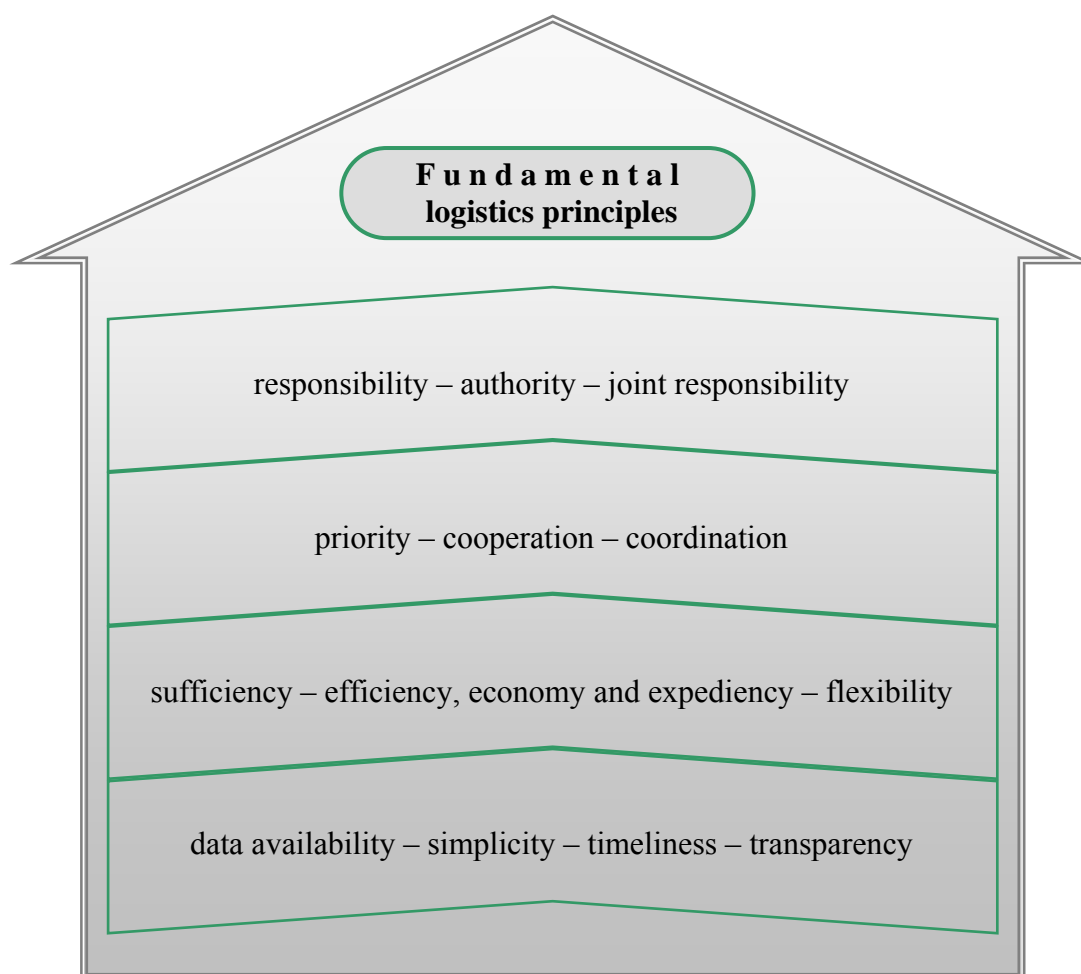


Fig. 2 Military logistics and its principles, Source: MAREK, P., Brno, 2008

- *coordination* means cooperation of the defence department bodies, state administration and self-administered bodies and, if need be, other organizations in the field of their responsibilities based on pre-prepared plans and contractual arrangements. It determines the requirement for harmonizing the activities of bodies, logistics forces and resources in multinational operations;
- *sufficiency* means that logistic support has to be carried out in the required range, place, time, entire spectrum of activities and adequate quality;
- *efficiency, economy and expediency* – necessary resources are expensive and in short supply. For this reason, it is necessary to achieve an optimum relationship of efficiency, economy and expediency in providing and using available resources (in relation to performance of the logistic support system);
- *flexibility* is required to achieve goals of military operations (political, strategic, operational or tactical). The logistic support system has to be capable of adapting and reacting to any change;
- *data availability* – timely and complete data (information) about logistics forces and resources as well as other sources allow effective coordination of processes in logistics during of planning, preparation and conduct of operations;
- *simplicity* means the requirement for the development of general and clear plans and directions for logistic support provision;
- *timeliness* means necessity for commencing the planning and build-up of the logistic support system, its activities and further cooperation in the field of

logistics;

- *transparency* means the effectiveness of information to provide a clear picture of logistics forces and resources. It supports efficient control and coordination of detached forces.

## 8. CONCLUSION

The logistic support system, the objective of which is to support ACR capabilities to operate efficiently, is one of the systems built within the MoD CR.

The Logistic Support System is interconnected with the command and control system, the planning system and the finance support system.

Military logistics proceeds from basic division of competences between the Integrated Ministry of Defence (IMoD) as a top (governing) body within the MoD CR and logistics integrated into the Army of the Czech Republic.

It is required to respect the principle that the IMoD provides strategic management of resources, planning and control of long-term development programs and operational commands execute functions of logistic support based on instructions and requirements of the IMoD.

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