



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON
INFO MEMO

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

DepSec Action: _____

FROM: Francis J. Harvey, Secretary of the Army
GEN Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff, Army

2005-03-14 A07:06
CSA HAS BEEN SEEN

SUBJECT: Snowflake – Combat Units and Combat Support

- This memo responds to your letter of January 31, 2005 in which you asked why the Army keeps separate and handles separately combat units from combat support and combat service support units, and what the Army is doing to fix it. As discussed below, in the new Brigade Combat Team Unit of Action, combat arms, combat support and combat service support functions are combined into one organization.
- The Army has grouped officers and enlisted Military Occupational Specialties into groups, or branches, of similar functions. These groupings are strictly for management purposes and provides for the development of doctrine, training, and leader development. Joint Pub 1-02, DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms defines the groups as:
 - **Combat Arms:** Units and Soldiers who close with and destroy enemy forces or provide firepower and destructive capability on the battlefield. The included branches are Infantry, Armor, Field Artillery, Air Defense Artillery, Aviation, Special Forces, and Engineer. (There are statutory and regulatory gender restrictions in combat arms.)
 - **Combat Support:** Those units or organizations whose primary mission is to furnish operational assistance for the combat elements. The included branches are Signal, Military Police, Military Intelligence, Civil Affairs, and Chemical.
 - **Combat Service Support:** The essential capabilities, functions, activities, and tasks necessary to sustain all elements of operating forces in theater at all levels of war. The included branches are Adjutant General, Finance, Transportation, Ordnance, and Quartermaster.
- Under the old force design, the Army often had to disassemble division and corps structures to create purpose-built task forces that contain the required combat arms, combat support, and combat service support capabilities. The modular design significantly changes this approach.
- The Army Modular Force initiative transforms operational forces into more powerful, flexible, and rapidly deployable combat formations centered on the Brigade Combat Team. These Brigade Combat Teams are organized the way they will fight and contain embedded combat support and combat service support functions during both peace and war. Additionally, modular support brigades will link theater-level supply and service activities with the Brigade Combat Teams' organic sustainment capability when deployed.

COORDINATION: NONE

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