

Sustainment Operations Center synchronizes logistics

By Jody Laird, FORSCOM G-4

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (March 27, 2012) – U. S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) is developing a concept created by field sustainers called the Sustainment Operations Center (SOC). The SOC is no-growth to the Army and does not change command and control relationships, but creates an architecture to enable synchronization and collaboration within the sustainment community. The SOC is not an organization, but an environment where sustainment synchronization occurs.

The SOC co-locates representatives of all sustainment providers in order to assist customers by providing a single sustainment entry point on an installation for the senior commander and units, and by leveraging all available support capacity—tactical, installation and Army Materiel Command—against requirements.



Photo courtesy of 1st Sustainment Brigade, Fort Riley, Kan. Depicts Sustainment Operations Center in operation at Fort Riley, Kan.

In line with the Chief of Staff of the Army's and FORSCOM Commanding General's priorities, the SOC will better facilitate and synchronize the needs of the senior commander in support of home-station mission and training requirements. The SOC enhances leader development, training, and readiness through synergy and collaboration. The SOC allows better planning and synchronization of operations through

an efficient installation posturing of our sustainment community.

The 1st Sustainment Brigade (SB) located at Fort Riley, Kan., the 43rd SB at Fort Carson, Colo., and the 4th SB at Fort Hood, Texas have operational SOCs in coordination with the senior commander and other installation stakeholders embedded. Their proof of concept was a resounding success and showed the efficiencies gained by this concept.

As we develop the concept plan for the SOC, an Operational Planning Team (OPT) has been established with all the key sustainment enablers as well as the SBs in the field to ensure continued collaboration and coordination through mission analysis and planning in order to achieve success.

Two SBs currently developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to stand up their SOC's are 15th SB at Fort Bliss, Texas and 82nd SB at Fort Bragg. The remaining SBs will operationalize their SOC's through a phased timeline in coordination with their Army Force Generation cycle. These SBs will work in coordination with FORSCOM headquarters to ensure the SOC concept is in support of the senior commander and meets the intent of the concept through fiscal year 2015.

The SOC allows for better planning and synchronization of sustainment operations through an efficient posturing of our sustainment community on an installation. Our end-state is to codify the SOC concept into doctrine.

As FORSCOM G-4 develops our Integrated Sustainment Strategy (ISS), we will refine the ability to integrate and optimize sustainment operations to include other installation missions and activities in order to achieve true integrated sustainment management between Readiness and Materiel Enterprises. The ISS is executed through the SOC by the ability to address readiness, Army Force Generation, brigade combat team redesign, tactical wheeled vehicle strategy, Afghanistan retrograde, and Global Combat Support System–Army fielding.

The intent is to posture the sustainment community for a more constrained / restrictive resource environment.

In the continuous environment of constrained resources, we are no longer going to let resources drive strategy. Brig. Gen. John “Jack” O’Connor, FORSCOM deputy chief of staff, G-4, has charged the team to create strategy that will drive resourcing at the appropriate level and the SOC is an example of how collaboration will enable that process.

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