

Mastering Brigade Support: A Comprehensive Guide for Commanders with Army Techniques Publication ATP 90

The Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) plays a pivotal role in supporting the combat brigade's mission. To effectively fulfill this critical function, commanders and staff officers must possess a thorough understanding of the BSB's organization, capabilities, and operational procedures. Army Techniques Publication (ATP) 90, Brigade Support Battalion, is the authoritative source of information on this vital unit.

ATP 90 provides commanders with essential guidance on the following aspects of BSB operations:

- Organization and structure
- Core competencies and capabilities
- Planning and preparation
- Deployment and operations
- Sustainment and logistics
- Command and control
- Personnel and administration

By studying and applying the principles outlined in ATP 90, commanders can optimize the BSB's performance and ensure that the combat brigade receives the necessary support to achieve its objectives.



Army Techniques Publication ATP 4-90 Brigade Support Battalion June 2024 by United States Government US Army

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 407 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 53 pages
Lending : Enabled



ATP 90 emphasizes the following key principles for effective BSB operations:

- **Integration:** The BSB must be fully integrated with the combat brigade, aligning its operations with the brigade commander's intent.
- **Flexibility:** The BSB must be able to adapt to changing operational environments and mission requirements.
- **Responsiveness:** The BSB must be capable of responding rapidly to the brigade's needs, providing timely and efficient support.
- **Sustainability:** The BSB must possess the necessary resources and capabilities to sustain itself and the combat brigade in extended operations.

The BSB is a modular organization designed to provide a wide range of support functions to the combat brigade. Its structure includes the following elements:

- Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC)
- Forward Support Company (FSC)
- Main Support Company (MSC)
- Medical Company (MEDCO)
- Quartermaster Company (QMC)

Each company has specialized responsibilities, such as:

- **HHC:** Command and control, administrative support, and communications
- **FSC:** Forward medical treatment, maintenance, and logistical support
- **MSC:** Tactical command post, maintenance, and logistical support
- **MEDCO:** Medical treatment, evacuation, and casualty care
- **QMC:** Supply, dining, and field services

Effective BSB operations begin with a comprehensive mission analysis and planning process. Commanders must consider the following factors:

- Brigade commander's intent
- Mission requirements
- Available resources
- Operational environment

Based on this assessment, the BSB commander develops a support plan that outlines the unit's tasks, responsibilities, and timelines.

The BSB deploys with the combat brigade and establishes support operations in accordance with the support plan. Its primary functions during deployment include:

- Providing logistical support (e.g., supply, maintenance, fuel)
- Conducting medical treatment and evacuation
- Establishing and maintaining command and control
- Ensuring personnel and administrative support

The BSB must continually adapt its operations to the evolving operational situation, supporting the brigade's maneuver and combat actions.

Sustaining the combat brigade and the BSB is critical for mission success. The BSB is responsible for the following logistical functions:

- Maintaining a robust supply chain
- Managing fuel and water resources
- Procuring and distributing necessary equipment
- Providing maintenance and repair services

The BSB's ability to sustain itself and the brigade is essential for long-term operations.

Effective command and control is crucial for BSB operations. The BSB commander exercises command and control through the following means:

- Headquarters staff officers

- Communications systems
- Situational awareness tools

The BSB commander must maintain constant communication with the brigade commander and subordinate units to ensure a cohesive and coordinated support effort.

The BSB's personnel are its most valuable asset. The unit's administrative functions include:

- Personnel management (e.g., recruitment, training, evaluations)
- Finance and accounting
- Legal support
- Morale and welfare activities

Effective personnel management ensures that the BSB has the necessary human resources to fulfill its mission.

Army Techniques Publication ATP 90, Brigade Support Battalion, is an invaluable resource for commanders and staff officers seeking to enhance the operational effectiveness of their BSBs. Its comprehensive guidance on organization, capabilities, planning, operations, and administration empowers commanders to execute their responsibilities with confidence. By embracing the principles outlined in ATP 90, BSBs can provide the critical support that combat brigades need to achieve victory in the face of adversity.



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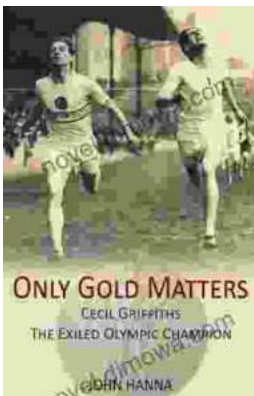
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