

# HIP-POCKET GUIDE

## COMMAND & SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS



A U.S. ARMY  
LOGISTICS, G-4  
PRODUCT

- 1 What command relationship do I have? What support relationship do I have? Am I the supporting or supported?
- 2 Does this construct facilitate or inhibit sustainment operations?
- 3 What key stakeholders outside the command and support relationships should I consider?
- 4 Is the unit using non-doctrinal terms to describe the command or support relationship? If so, do all parties understand their roles?

BELOW ARE EXTRACTS FROM FM 4-95, LOGISTICS OPERATIONS,  
TO HELP CLARIFY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

**ATTACHED:** Attached places units or personnel in an organization where such placement is relatively temporary.

**OPCON:** The authority to perform functions of command over subordinate forces involving organizing and employing commands and forces, assigning tasks, designating objectives, and giving authoritative direction necessary to accomplish the mission. OPCON normally provides full authority to organize commands and forces and to employ those forces as the commander in OPCON considers necessary to accomplish assigned missions; it does not, in and of itself, include authoritative direction for logistics or matters of administration, discipline, internal organization, or unit training.

**TACON:** A command authority over assigned or attached forces or commands, or military capability, or forces made available for tasking that is limited to the detailed direction and control of movements or maneuvers within the operational area necessary to accomplish missions or tasks assigned. TACON provides sufficient authority for controlling and directing the application of force or tactical use of sustainment assets within the assigned mission or task. It does not provide authority to change organizational structure or direct administrative and logistical support.

**ADCON:** The direction or exercise of authority over subordinate or other organizations in respect to administration and support. ADCON of an Army unit must remain in Army channels and cannot be transferred to a unit of another Service. For OPCON and TACON, parent units retain ADCON.

**DIRECT SUPPORT:** A support relationship requiring a force to support another specific force and authorizing it to answer directly to the supported force's request for assistance. A unit assigned a direct support relationship retains its command relationship with its parent unit but is positioned by and has priorities of support established by the supported unit.

(Continued on the reverse side.)

RELATIONSHIPS CHART ▶

**GENERAL SUPPORT:** Support that is given to the supported force as a whole and not to any particular subdivision. Units assigned a general support relationship are positioned and have priorities established by their parent unit.

**REINFORCING SUPPORT:** A support relationship requiring a force to support another supporting unit. Only like units can be given a reinforcing mission. A unit assigned a reinforcing support relationship retains its command relationship with its parent unit but is positioned by the reinforced unit. A unit that is reinforcing has priorities of support established by the reinforced unit, then the parent unit.

**GENERAL SUPPORT-REINFORCING:** A support relationship assigned to a unit to support the force as a whole and to reinforce a similar type of unit. A unit assigned a general support-reinforcing support relationship is positioned and has priorities established by its parent unit and secondly by the reinforced unit.

## ARMY SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS CHART

IF RELATIONSHIP IS:	THEN INHERENT RESPONSIBILITIES:							
	HAVE COMMAND RELATIONSHIP WITH:	MAY BE TASK ORGANIZATION BY:	RECEIVES SUSTAINMENT FROM:	ARE ASSIGNED POSITION OR AN AREA OF OPERATIONS BY:	PROVIDES LIAISON TO:	ESTABLISH/ MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS WITH:	HAVE PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED BY:	CAN IMPOSE ON GAINING UNIT FURTHER COMMAND OR SUPPORT RELATIONSHIP BY:
Direct Support <sup>1</sup>	Parent Unit	Parent Unit	Parent Unit	Supported Unit	Supported Unit	Parent Unit; Supported Unit	Supported Unit	See note <sup>1</sup>
Reinforcing Support	Parent Unit	Parent Unit	Parent Unit	Reinforced Unit	Reinforced Unit	Parent Unit; Reinforced Unit	Reinforced Unit; then Parent Unit	Not Applicable
General Support Reinforcing	Parent Unit	Parent Unit	Parent Unit	Parent Unit	Reinforced Unit and as required by Parent Unit	Reinforced Unit and as required by Parent Unit	Parent Unit; then Reinforced Unit	Not Applicable
General Support	Parent Unit	Parent Unit	Parent Unit	Parent Unit	As required by Parent Unit	As required by Parent Unit	Parent Unit	Not Applicable

**Note:** <sup>1</sup> Commanders of units in direct support may further assign support relationships between their subordinate units and elements of the supported unit after coordination with the supported commander.

Extracted from Table 3-2. Army support relationships. FM-4-95: Logistics Operations (April 2014).