

FIREHOUSE®

Weekly Drill

DRILL #68: FUNCTIONS WITHIN LOGISTICS

Introduction

The logistics section is managed by the Logistics Section Chief (LSC), who is a member of the General Staff. As LSC, this individual has responsibility for providing facilities, services and material in support of the incident.

The LSC has a role in developing and implementing the Incident Action Plan (IAP), as well as triggering the mechanism that will fill the needed supervisor assignments for the Service Branch Director and Support Branch Director. It is also his or her responsibility for the safety and welfare of all personnel assigned to Logistics.

Organizational Makeup

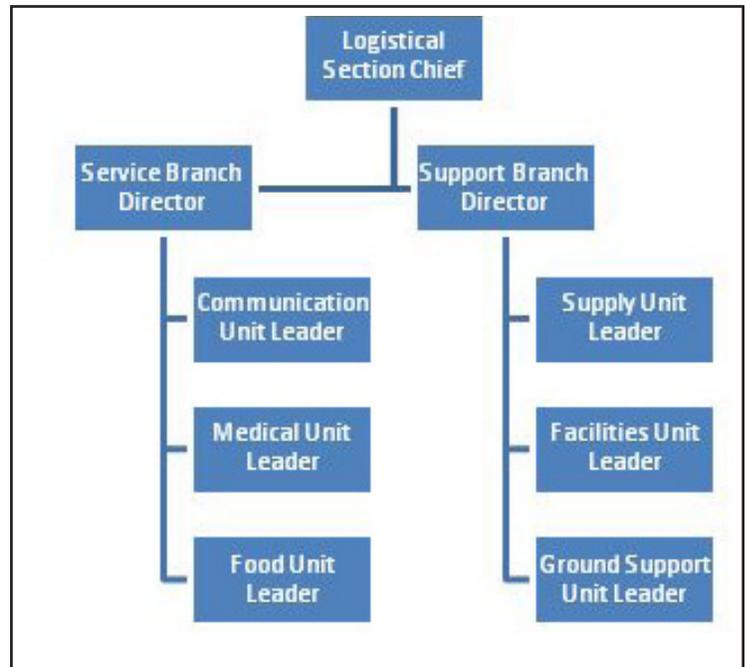
The primary responsibility of the LSC is to plan the organization makeup within the Logistics Section by assigning personnel to the necessary work locations. However, to make sure the operation is running smoothly, an assembly and briefing with the Branch Directors and Unit Leaders is essential.

In addition, once the Logistics Section is up and running, the LSC will participate in the preparations of the IAP for the next operational period. In doing so, he will have to identify the necessary services and support requirements. The Service Branch is responsible for the management of all service activities, which include communications, medical and food. Whereas the Support Branch has to deal with the issues of supplies, facilities and ground support.

Additional Resources

Once these branches are established, the LSC will provide input and review all plans that are submitted dealing with the Communications Plan, the Medical Plan and Traffic Plan. This may require coordinating and requesting additional resources.

Should additional resources be required, the LSC will review the IAP and establish the necessary sections needed for the next operational period to meet these needs. Depending on the nature of the additional resources, the LSC will inform the branch directors and see what the capabilities of the current service and support requirements are and if they are sufficient



enough to support the increases. If not, he must prepare the Service and Support Branches of such for the next IAP.

Just like the escalation of the incident, at some point the incident will start the demobilization process. This demobilization plan will be put together by the Planning Section and will directly affect all operations within logistics. Therefore, the LSC will be given a copy of the demobilization plan for review and make recommendations for the release of unit resources that will conform to the demobilization plan. Finally, the LSC needs to maintain the Unit Activity Log (ICS Form 214).

As mentioned, one area under the supervision of the LSC is Service Branch Director, and subsequently, the Medical Unit Leader. The main responsibility of the Medical Unit Leader is to develop the medical plan, but this person is also responsible for the Fireline Emergency Medical Technician (FEMT). This creates a unique situation because the FEMT is on the front lines working alongside the firefighters. For this reason, the FEMT must establish and maintain a liaison with, and respond to, requests from the operations personnel to whom they are assigned.

—Prepared by Russell Merrick