



ANNEX 3-17 AIR MOBILITY OPERATIONS

THE AIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON AIR MOBILITY OPERATIONS

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The following statements present themes central to [air mobility](#) capability from the [Airman's perspective](#):

- ✦ Air mobility enables joint force commanders to simultaneously exploit mass, [maneuver](#), and surprise (flexibility), thereby influencing effects at the strategic, operational, or tactical levels of war (versatility).
- ✦ The preferred command relationship for intertheater mobility air forces is for the functional command to support the geographic combatant commander. Command and control of air mobility aircraft performing multiple role missions on the same sortie should be vested in one authority, normally the [commander of Air Force forces](#) to whom these forces are attached or assigned.
- ✦ Effective integration of intertheater and intratheater air mobility operations is critical to efficient and timely air mobility support to the warfighter.
- ✦ Because air mobility supports multiple competing common users, the necessity to prioritize and apportion limited resources favors centralized control of intertheater air mobility operations.
- ✦ Successful employment of the [airlift](#) and [air refueling](#) (AR) force is contingent upon establishing and maintaining an air mobility support force enabled by the core capabilities provided by combat support.
- ✦ For mobility air forces performing primarily intertheater operations the normal command relationship between functional and geographic organizations is support.
- ✦ [Airland](#) delivery, as opposed to [airdrop](#), is the preferred method of delivery when conditions permit, because it is the more efficient, safer, and less expensive way to deliver personnel and cargo.
- ✦ The repositioning of [Global Air Mobility Support System](#) forces should be accomplished ahead of combat force deployment (whether Air Force or sister Service).
- ✦ AR significantly expands the force options available to a commander by increasing the range, payload, persistence, and flexibility of other aircraft.

- ★ The success of worldwide air mobility operations depends on the combined efforts of regular forces, Air National Guard forces, Air Force Reserve Command forces, Air Force civilians, and civilian air transportation partners.
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