



# CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



## ANNEX 4-0 COMBAT SUPPORT

### **LINES OF COMMUNICATION**

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Air, ground, and sea lines of communication (LOCs) are transportation bridges to deploy, sustain, and redeploy forces to and from the continental US and within a theater. Establishing protected inter- and intratheater LOCs is vital to the success of combat support (CS). The Air Force establishes LOCs among selected aerial ports of embarkation, en route locations, forward support locations, and aerial ports of debarkation (APODs). CS forces are integral to establishing and operating the air LOCs and the supporting nodes.

Bases used for APODs, either en route or at the final destination, are frequently non-US controlled and require extensive support provided by the host nation. Such host nation support reduces the need to lift Air Force support to the new location. Planners should consider the following when developing LOCs:

- ✦ Overflight, landing, port, ground transportation rights, and diplomatic clearances provided by the host and en route nations.
- ✦ Existence or feasibility of establishing agreements, including status of forces agreements, with host and en route nations.
- ✦ Availability of support (e.g., security, fuels availability, and materiel handling).
- ✦ Pre-sited munitions handling areas, especially at ports of debarkation for afloat prepositioning forces and standard munitions packages hot cargo areas.
- ✦ Ability to protect the LOC and transit corridors.
- ✦ Distances to prepositioned war reserve materiel and between APODs.
- ✦ Ability to establish secure command and control for air operations center-to-unit communications.