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# Aviation Logistics

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**U.S. Marine Corps**

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**Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.**

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Headquarters United States Marine Corps  
Washington, D.C. 20380-1775

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FOREWORD

Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 3-21.2, *Aviation Logistics*, establishes the doctrinal basis for the planning and execution of Marine aviation logistics (AVLOG). It provides the philosophy for employing Marine AVLOG in support of the prosecution of war and other operations in support of the Marine Corps' mission as the Nation's expeditionary force in readiness.

Effective AVLOG is the force multiplier of the Marine air-ground task force's (MAGTF's) aviation combat element (ACE). Viable AVLOG support enables the ACE commander to maintain more capable forces in decisive operations longer. Marine AVLOG is an integral part of the MAGTF as it extends the ACE operational reach and flexibility.

This publication is primarily for commanders and staff officers who plan and execute AVLOG. It should be read by all Marines who are supported by or involved in AVLOG. It is also for any other activity requiring an understanding of Marine AVLOG. It provides a common basis for understanding Marine AVLOG and how the MAGTF exploits those capabilities operationally and tactically.

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

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# CHAPTER 1

## FUNDAMENTALS

Within the Marine Corps, the Deputy Commandant for Aviation (DC/A) is responsible for planning and coordinating staff activities for all matters relative to organization, equipment, manpower, training, and support of Marine Corps aviation units and installations, including all AVLOG matters. Marine Corps aviation is an integral part of naval aviation and as such, DC/A is dual-hatted as the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) N782. The DC/A is responsible to the CNO to ensure that Marine Corps aviation is in consonance with the overall Naval Aviation Program. At all levels, ACE commanders and aviation logisticians must plan and execute general logistical operations and aviation-specific (the focus of this publication) logistical operations. These AVLOG operations must sustain the ACE as it provides support to the MAGTF anywhere in the world.

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### Mission

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As a result of United States Code, Title 10, and joint doctrine, the Marine Corps, in coordination with the Navy, has made logistical self-sufficiency an essential element of MAGTF expeditionary warfighting capabilities. This means that the Marine Corps' AVLOG mission, at all command and support levels, is to assist in generating ACEs that are rapidly deployable, self-reliant, self-sustaining, and flexible.

Rapid deployment demands that ACE organizations, equipment, and supplies be readily transportable by land, sea, and air.

A self-reliant ACE is task-organized to support itself logistically with accompanying supplies for specific time frames without undue concern for resupply or developed infrastructure ashore.

An ACE's AVLOG capabilities and accompanying supplies enable it to sustain its own operations for up to 90 days while external resupply channels are organized and established.

An ACE's inherent self-sustainment and rapid deployability capabilities allow it to quickly reconstitute itself and permit rapid withdrawal from a completed operation and immediate reembarkation for follow-on missions.

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### Aviation Logistics versus Aviation Ground Support

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Logistical support of the ACE is more complex than that of the other MAGTF elements because most of the logistical support for the ACE is sourced and funded by the Navy. The ACE must employ two sets of procedures for supply and maintenance operations. Logistical support is provided by units organic to the ACE: the Marine aviation logistics squadron (MALS) and the Marine wing support group/Marine wing support squadron (MWSG/MWSS). The MALS provides AVLOG (aviation-specific support), while the MWSG/MWSS provides aviation ground support (AGS), expeditionary airfield (EAF), aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF), etc., and ground-common combat service support (CSS). An additional CSS detachment from the MAGTF's combat service support element can provide ground logistic support beyond the capability of the ACE's organic logistical units. Detailed information about AGS may be found in MCWP 3-21.1, *Aviation Ground Support*.

Successful deployment, employment, sustainment, and redeployment of a MAGTF ACE are the result of well-coordinated naval AVLOG support