
Logistics Operations



U.S. Marine Corps

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

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

15 April 1999

FOREWORD

1. PURPOSE

Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 4-1, *Logistics Operations*, expands on the themes developed in Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication (MCDP) 4, *Logistics*, and provides essential information needed to understand the conduct of logistics planning and operations in a joint environment. *Logistics Operations* provides commanders and logisticians with a broad perspective on the Marine Corps' logistics missions and objectives. It addresses the Marine Corps' core logistics capabilities at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels of war. This publication describes how activities at each level of war interact with and support activities at other levels of war, ensuring that effective logistics support exists down to the tactical commander.

2. SCOPE

MCWP 4-1 introduces the Marine Corps logistics organization and support structure, depicts an overview of the processes used to plan and execute logistics support, and discusses how emerging operational concepts impact logistics. MCWP 4-1 builds on the foundation established in MCDP 4, and it should be read by all Marine officers.

MCWP 4-1 provides an overview of Marine Corps logistics at all levels of war. Detailed information on the conduct of logistics at each level of war will be found in follow-on, logistics warfighting publications: MCWP 4-11, *Tactical Logistics* (and subordinate functional publications in the 4-11 series); MCWP 4-12, *Operational Logistics*; and MCWP 4-13, *Strategic Logistics*. These publications in conjunction with MCDP 4, *Logistics*; Joint Publication 4-0, *Doctrine for Logistic Support of Joint Operations*; and Naval Doctrine Publication 4, *Naval Logistics*, provide the information and background necessary to effectively plan and execute logistics operations at all echelons.

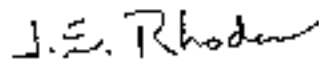
3. SUPERSESSION

None.

4. CERTIFICATION

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.E. Rhodes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

J.E. RHODES
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
Marine Corps Combat Development Command

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Logistics Operations

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Chapter 1

Overview of Marine Corps Logistics

As defined in Joint Publication (Joint Pub) 1-02, *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*, logistics is “the science of planning and carrying out the movement and maintenance of forces.” In its most comprehensive sense, logistics provides materiel support, health service support, facilities support, and service support. Materiel support is the design development, acquisition, storage, movement, distribution, maintenance, evacuation, and disposition of materiel. Health service support is the movement, evacuation, and hospitalization of personnel. Facilities support is the acquisition or construction, maintenance, operation, and disposition of facilities. Service support is the acquisition or furnishing of services. Specific logistics needs are tailored to meet the conditions and the level of war under which a military force operates.

1001. Service Responsibility

United States Code, Title 10, assigns each Service responsibility for organizing, training, and equipping forces for employment in the national interest. Joint Pub 4-0, *Doctrine for Logistic Support of Joint Operations*, states that each Service is responsible for the logistics support of its own forces. Joint Pub 4-0 further clarifies logistics support responsibilities for forces assigned to combatant commanders. The combatant commander may then delegate the responsibility for providing or coordinating support for all Service components in the theater or designated area to the Service component that is the dominant user. However, each Service retains its basic logistics responsibilities except when logistics support agreements or arrangements are established with national agencies, allies, joint forces, or other Services.

1002. Marine Corps Logistics Mission

On the basis of United States Code, Title 10, and joint doctrine, the Marine Corps, in coordination and cooperation with the Navy, has made logistical self-sufficiency an essential element of Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) expeditionary warfighting capabilities. This means that the Marine Corps’ logistics mission, at all command and support levels, is to generate MAGTFs that are rapidly deployable, self-reliant, self-sustaining, and flexible and that can rapidly reconstitute. This goal leads to further corollaries:

- 1 Rapid deployment demands that MAGTF organizations, equipment, and supplies be readily transportable by land, in aircraft, and on ships.
- 1 A self-reliant MAGTF is task-organized to support itself logistically with accompanying supplies for specific timeframes without undue concern for resupply or developed infrastructure ashore.
- 1 A MAGTF’s logistics capabilities and accompanying supplies enable it, depending on size, to self-sustain its operations for up to 60 days while external resupply channels are organized and established.
- 1 Marine Corps maneuver warfare philosophy demands that a MAGTF maintain battlefield flexibility, organizational adaptability, and the ability to react to the changing operational situation.

- 1 A MAGTF's inherent self-sustainment and rapid deployability capabilities allow it to reconstitute itself rapidly and permit rapid withdrawal from a completed operation and immediate re-embarkation for follow-on missions.

1003. Logistics Core Capabilities

At all levels of war, logistics core capabilities provide the commander with the ability to accomplish the defined functions of logistics. The Marine Corps' core capabilities are the individual, functional logistics operating systems that exist at each level of war and are tied together by command and control. Marine Corps logistics core capabilities are essential to the expeditionary

character that distinguishes MAGTFs from other military organizations. See figure 1-1.

a. Logistics Operating Systems

Marine Corps doctrinal publication (MCDP) 4, *Logistics*, indicates that fundamental to all logistics operating systems are distribution systems that consist of functional resources and procedures. Functional resources consist of bases, organizations, people, assets, equipment, and facilities. Procedures include functional processes that not only distribute resources where they are needed but also apply those resources to generate logistic capability. Logistic operating systems joined with command and control address all logistics functions (both functional resources and processes) at every level of war.

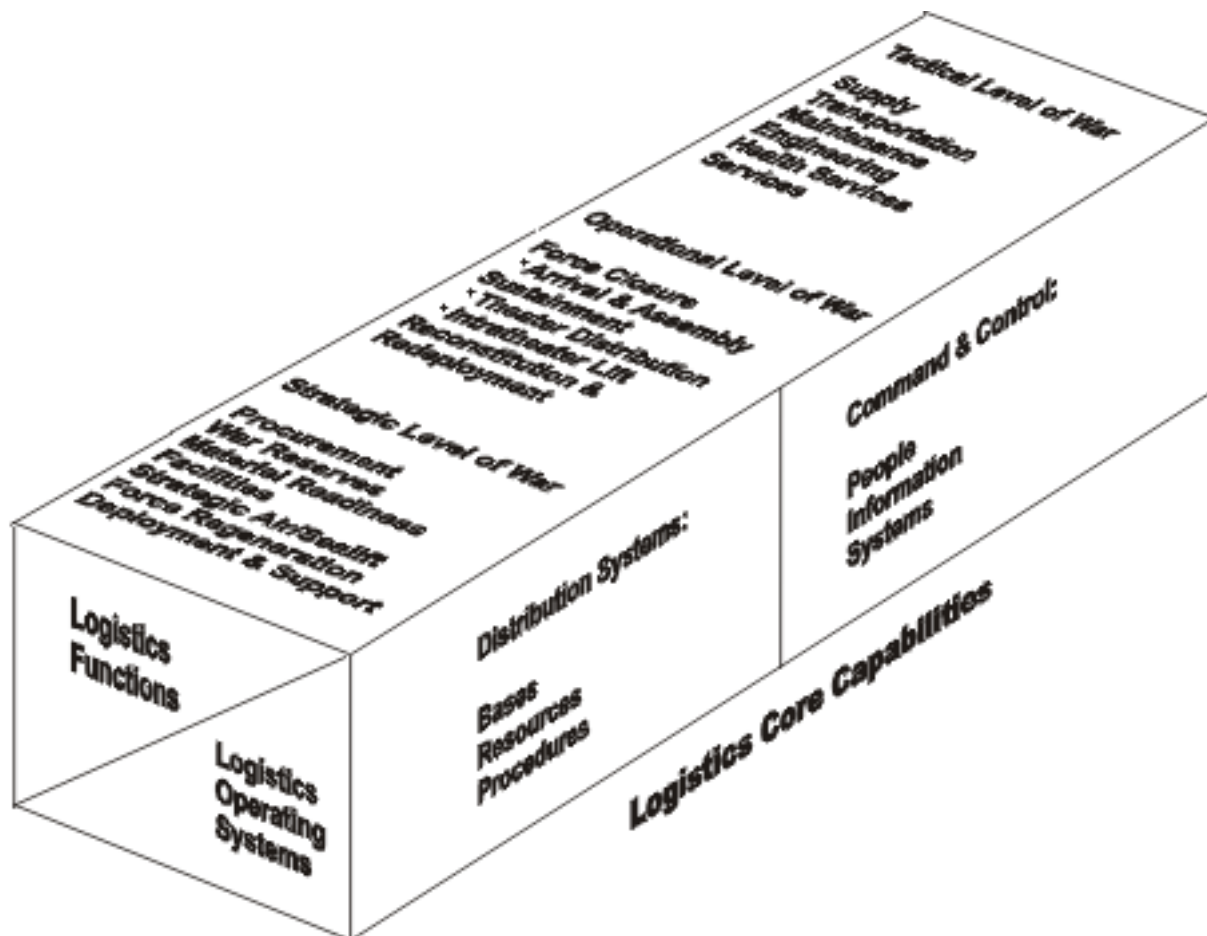


Figure 1-1. Logistics Core Capabilities.