

# LOGISTICS SUPPORT ELEMENT TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES

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## Preface

Effective force projection logistics requires a seamless logistics system operating across the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. Logistics elements from CONUS and the theater of operations must work together with tactical organizations to form this seamless system.

The concept for the logistics support element (LSE) evolved out of Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The Army and US Army Materiel Command (USAMC) saw a need for a single logistics command and control element to centrally manage strategic logistics personnel, call forward elements as required, and integrate these elements into the theater. The LSE satisfied this need then and continues to do so. Furthermore, the LSE spans the bridge between the strategic and tactical levels, linking the industrial bases with operational logistics units, and extending through the Logistics Assistance Program into tactical logistics.

The LSE is a multi-faceted organization which supports military operations. It is largely a civilian organization which deploys at the request of the supported operational commander to perform doctrinal USAMC missions forward on the battlefield or area of operations. USAMC mans the LSE headquarters with personnel possessing the required skills. It predesignates LSE personnel on a contingency table of distribution and allowances (TDA). The LSE staff can come from table of organization and equipment (TOE) units, TDA activities, individual military/DOD civilians/contractor personnel, host nation personnel, or any combination of these. This tailorable logistics organization can coordinate or perform certain supply, maintenance, and related functions. In addition, it can provide or augment command and control (C2) in the theater.

This manual is designed to assist Army service component commanders (ASCC), theater support command (TSC) commanders, Army force (ARFOR) senior logisticians, LSE commanders, and other Army logisticians and their staffs in translating requirements and needs into logistics support in joint, multinational, and interagency environments. Also, this manual is a handbook for personnel that are or will be assigned to a deployed LSE. This manual implements relevant doctrine, incorporates lessons learned from recent operations, and conforms with Army keystone doctrine. Additionally, it links FM 100-5, FM 100-7, FM 100-10, FM 100-15, FM 100-16, FM 100-17, FM 100-17-1, FM 100-23, and other tactical and logistics doctrine manuals with joint and other Army capstone manuals.

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns or pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

## Chapter 1 Support to the Force

*“Contractors and civilians provide support from within as well as from outside the theater of operations. In theater, contractors and DOD civilians assigned to a USAMC logistics support organization perform specified support functions.”*

FM 100-5, Operations, June 14, 1993

Envision the impact on readiness if Anniston Army Depot were 25 miles behind the forward line of own troops (FLOT), and not just Anniston but all the other depots and selected manufacturers. Visualize the impact on operational capability if the latest technology could be fielded directly to the soldiers in the foxhole. Imagine how responsive the logistics system would be if it could project forward the critical pieces of the industrial base. That is the United States Army Materiel Command's (USAMC) Logistics Support Element (LSE) mission.

Prior to providing a detailed discussion on the LSE, this chapter will discuss the environment in which the LSE will operate, the National Command Authorities (NCA), and theater organization and structure. Also, this chapter explains how the LSE links specific strategic logistics in the continental United States (CONUS) with operational and tactical logistics in a theater of operations.

### CHAIN OF COMMAND

The NCA exercises authority and control of the armed forces through the chain of command with two distinct branches. The first branch runs from the President to the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) to the combatant commanders for missions and forces assigned to their commands. The second branch runs from the NCA to the

secretaries of the military departments to the chiefs of the Services for execution of Service functions.

Commanders of combatant commands (COCOM) are responsible to the NCA for preparedness of their commands and for executing and accomplishing their assigned missions. The secretaries of the military departments are responsible for organizing, training, equipping, and providing forces.

The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) communicates the directions of the NCA within the chain of command. Though he does not exercise military command over any combatant force, all communications between the NCA and the combatant commanders pass through the CJCS. Figure 1-1 displays the chain of command.

### National Command Authorities

This portion of the chain of command begins with the President and SECDEF, who make up the NCA. They alone have the constitutional authority to direct US armed forces into military action. Upon NCA authorization, the decision passes through the CJCS to combatant commanders. The President, with the advice of the SECDEF and CJCS, establishes COCOMs and appoints combatant commanders.