



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-17 AIR MOBILITY OPERATIONS

AIRLIFT EFFECTS

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[Airlift](#) provides the core of the Air Force's ability to deploy and sustain itself as well as the other Services and government agencies worldwide. Transport aircraft as well as [air refueling](#) aircraft perform airlift operations. Airlift forces provide the joint force with rapid global mobility, generating strategic, operational, and tactical effects across the [range of military operations](#). Whether projecting combat power in new operations, providing logistics for sustainment of current operations, [aeromedical evacuation](#), or conducting humanitarian missions, airlift is a vital component for success.

Mobility forces allow the joint force to rapidly respond to military operations around the globe. Airdrop and [airland](#) delivery operations meet the fundamental principles of speed, mass, and maneuver. They deliver combat power throughout operations including initial combat deployment, airdrop of personnel and equipment, and forcible entry. The effect is constant pressure on adversaries. Airlift sustains joint forces through combat support. Organic and commercial aircraft provide rapid and responsive resupply of personnel and equipment into areas which may not be reached by other modes of transportation. These forces also provide retrograde of equipment and injured personnel. The effect is persistence of combat operations across the operational area. Airlift forces can support humanitarian relief operations and [noncombatant evacuation operations](#) (NEO). These missions provide flexible support through airdrop and airland operations delivering medical care and relief supplies. They may also execute NEO from hazardous environments. The effects are lives saved and rapid recovery.