

AIRMAN

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CONTESTED LOGISTICS

The Department of the Air Force logistics enterprise is engaged in both evolutionary and revolutionary changes to stay ahead of potential adversaries and to ensure readiness today and tomorrow



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Contested logistics is a term describing an environment in which an adversary presents challenges in all domains and directly targets logistics, operations, facilities and activities in the United States and abroad, or in transit from one location to the other. To remain ready to face threats posed by peer adversaries. General David W. Allvin, the Air Force Chief of Staff, emphasizes four core areas that urgently demand our attention; how we develop people, generate readiness, project power and develop capabilities.

The National Defense Strategy unambiguously identified the People's Republic of China as the pacing challenge and identifies logistics and sustainment as a key operational area. Considering the evolving threat landscape and the Air Force's efforts to adapt and refocus its force design, the service has deemed that the logistics enterprise must engage in a combination of evolutionary and revolutionary changes to stay ahead of potential adversaries and to ensure readiness today and tomorrow.

The Department of the Air Force intends to overcome the challenge of contested logistics by enabling agile combat employment, improving the forward posture, driving decision advantage with logistics, information management tools, and fielding improved active and passive defenses as part of the Joint Force.

In this issue of Airman Magazine, we look at some of the ways the U.S. Air Force is prioritizing logistics as a cornerstone of an integrated defense and the contributions of commands in multiple domains and building a more resilient, agile and responsive logistics enterprise. We will examine the contributions of the 557th Weather Wing and the Space Force to logistical resilience and readiness, how training and exercises hone the interoperability of Allies, Partners, and the Joint Force in securing logistics across the globe and the need to incorporate new technologies to ensure navigation, timing and supply line integrity, as forces are on the move and actively in combat.



U.S. Air Force loadmasters with the 144th Air Support Squadron, 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, secure mission-essential cargo inside of a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft in support of the U.S. Air Force 4th Fighter Wing as a part of Exercise Southern Strike in Gulfport, Mississippi, April 19, 2023. Exercise Southern Strike 2023 is a total force, multinational training event hosted annually by the Mississippi National Guard in Gulfport with distributed basing sites and complex scenarios designed to test and validate shared agile combat employment (ACE) concepts. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Emily Batchelor)



The Debrief Podcast **WEATHER AND CONTESTED LOGISTICS**

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The Debrief **WEATHER AND CONTESTED LOGISTICS**

Podcast by Tech. Sgt. Janiqua P. Robinson

Contested logistics is an environment in which an adversary presents challenges in all domains and directly targets logistics operations, facilities, and activities in the United States, abroad, or in transit from one location to the other.

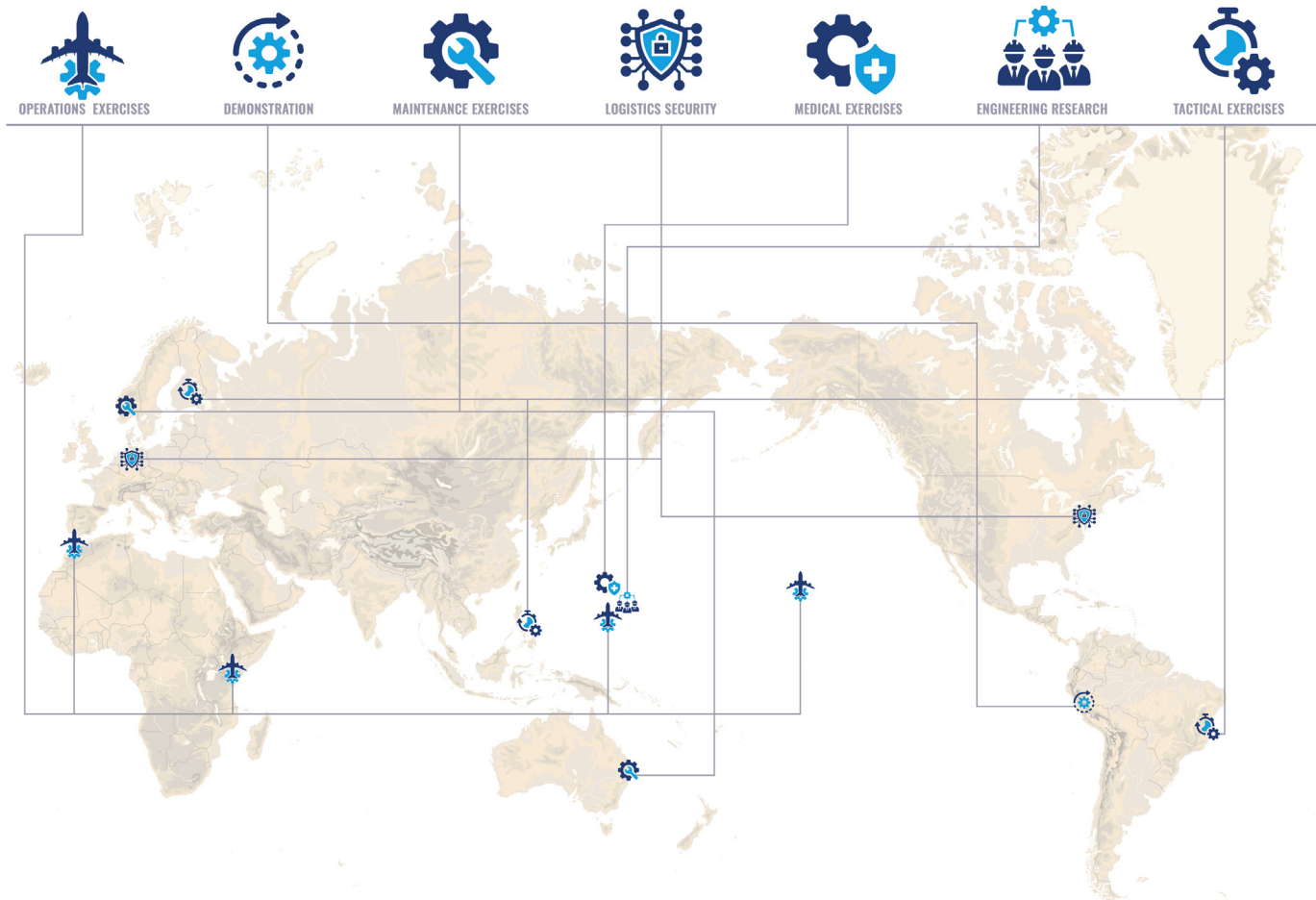
In this episode of 'The Debrief,' Lt. Gen. Tom Miller, deputy chief of staff for Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection and Col. Patrick Williams, the Air Force director of weather, explain the current security environment and weather Airmen's role in Great Power Competition.

GLOBAL EXERCISES AND INTEROPERABILITY

PRACTICE HOW WE PLAY

The Air Force is teaming up with the joint force, industry, academia, and allied/partner forces to rethink how to transport, position and protect fuel, supplies and facilities that sustain equipment and personnel around the globe. Learning the rules, capabilities and limitations of our joint partners makes us a more harmonious and resilient force. Leveraging industry and academia enables us to bring the freshest, strongest, and most secure technologies, tools, and mindsets to the fight. And when we train with partner and allied forces, we build flexibility into our operations and planning.

Check out the map to see how the U.S. Air Force is exercising with new and established partners worldwide.



JOINT



Airmen trained with joint and multinational troops on forward arming and refueling tactics in [Brazil](#), [Finland](#), and the [Philippines](#), combining base defense, swift refueling, and safe weapons loading to enable fast turnaround of aircraft in austere locations.



Joint troops exercised multinational tactical airlift procedures in the [Republic of Korea](#), [African Lion](#), [Kenya](#), enhancing interoperability in loading, dropping, and recovering supplies.



Around the Pacific, one phase of exercise [Mobility Guardian 23](#) tested Airmen and Marines' combined rapid global mobility, with Air Force C-5 Galaxy aircraft moving Marine troops, aircraft and cargo.

MULTINATIONAL



U.S., Australian, Japanese, Canadian, French, and South Korean Air Forces focused on interchangeability at exercise [Cope North 24](#), practicing hub-and-spoke models and dispersed basing essential to Agile Combat Employment.



Airmen conducted integrated maintenance support of F-35 Lighting II aircraft in [Norway](#) and C-17 Globemaster IIIs in [Australia](#), sharing supplies, techniques and facilities to keep aircraft flying around the globe.



Civil Engineers demonstrated rapid, precise installation of a [mobile aircraft arresting system](#) to airmen in Peru, adapting a runway so it was capable of launching and recovering fighter aircraft.



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to Ramstein AB, Germany, collaborated with Lithuanian and Finnish Airmen to practice [transporting Airmen and cargo necessary for quickly launching and recovering aircraft](#) in locations across Europe.

INDUSTRY & ACADEMIA



On remote Pacific islands Yap and Saipan, medics with the 317th Airlift Wing practiced [managing medical emergencies](#) with Starlink, integrating the satellite internet service with tactical medical operations to coordinate long-distance evacuations.



Civil Engineers at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, are testing technology to [protect critical infrastructure](#) from cyberattacks, fielding industry-developed security measures for resources like water, power, and wastewater treatment that could expand across the DoD.



The Air Force Research Laboratory fielded [Scientist and Engineer Demand Force Teams](#) in support of Exercise Agile Reaper, exercising quick generation of innovative solutions in rapidly changing expeditionary environments.



Joint leaders and staff from more than 35 commands met at a Fort Meade [conference on protecting and advancing cyber resilience in logistics technology](#), committing to interagency unity, investment, and innovation.



CONTESTED LOGISTICS

and Space Sustainment



MAJ DANIEL KRIEVS

CHIEF DATA OFFICER, SPACE LAUNCH DELTA 45



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DIVISION CHIEF, POINT TO POINT DELIVERY, SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND



JONDAVID M. "JD" DUVALL

SPACE LOGISTICS OFFICER, SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND

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CONTESTED LOGISTICS AND SPACE SUSTAINMENT

Video by **Delano Scott**

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“Space logistics is going to provide an additional capability to the joint war fighter as we start to emerge and grow the space domain and provide true logistics capability. We’re going to be able to support combat forces forward deployed, providing resupply of critical support and equipment.”

- JonDavid M. “JD” Duvall, Space Logistics Officer, Space Systems Command

The U.S. Space Force is pioneering advancements in space sustainment to enhance satellite durability and functionality in hostile environments. The video showcases how the integration of new technologies, collaboration with industry,

and strategic initiatives are enhancing the readiness and capabilities of our space assets. By developing robust space logistics and sustainment strategies, the Space Force ensures that our warfighters remain supported in modern warfare and logistics.



LOGISTICS

on the Attack

LT. GEN. TOM D. MILLER

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR ENGINEERING,
LOGISTICS, AND FORCE PROTECTION

GEN. KEVIN B. SCHNEIDER

COMMANDER, PACIFIC AIR FORCES

LOGISTICS ON THE ATTACK

Video by **Tyler Prince**

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“Through the course of military operations throughout history, success or failure in military operations can largely be driven by the logistics sustainment that has enabled them in a contested environment.”

- Gen. Kevin B. Schneider, Commander, Pacific Air Forces

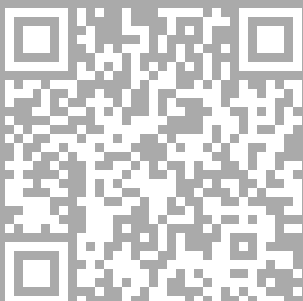
Over the last few decades, the Air Force's primary focus has been on eliminating the national security threat presented by violent extremist organizations. Now, its attention shifts to a new great power competition with sophisticated near-peer adversaries like China, Russia, and North Korea, who seek to hinder its ability to maneuver and supply missions crucial to our nation's defense. To meet these challenges, Airmen and Guardians are employing future-

focused strategies like Agile Combat Employment and Resilient Basing to make our forces more versatile and responsive.

Commander of Pacific Air Forces, Gen. Kevin Schneider, and the Deputy Chief of Staff for Engineering, Logistics, and Force Protection, Lt. Gen. Tom Miller lay out the challenges faced, and some of the solutions implemented to meet these new, but familiar threats.

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