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Logistics: More Than Just a Tail

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FROM THE E-RING

Logistics: More Than Just a Tail



Lt Gen Loren Reno

Let me share with you what I told a group of our industry partners at a recent NDIA [National Defense Industrial Association] conference about my role in DOD logistics.

Our first AF priority is to continue to strengthen the nuclear enterprise. We have taken good strides in enforcing the standards of precision and reliability. We have improved our culture of critical self-assessment. We are in the process of securing positive inventory control of all our nuclear weapon related material.

I chose the foregoing verbs carefully—then and now. These actions aren't completed though we have made good progress. The Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force recently co-signed a memorandum recognizing our significant progress in this area and praising those who have brought us so far forward. I add my thanks. And, I add my observation that we need to continue to strengthen...

I talked secondly about supporting the joint and coalition team to win today's fight. As logisticians, we have to provide resilient, refreshed, and ready forces to our Combatant Commanders. We have an obligation to capture efficiencies to strengthen our support. We also have an overarching duty to prepare materiel when, where and how it is needed.

Many of our number are supporting not only combat operations but also humanitarian operations. Logistics is what gives our Combatant and Joint Task Force Commanders all they need. What a great opportunity and responsibility.

The third point I made was that we have to sustain transformation. This list is long, and industry is involved in most on the list. The three biggies for me are ECSS, RNI, and AFSO21.

ECSS [Expeditionary Combat Support System] will provide for us an integrated, auditable enterprise resource planning tool with which we can transform our logistics processes. I'm talking about eliminating 240+ systems and the tail of expense that clings to them and affect more than 250,000 users. We need what ECSS can deliver...we have to get it right.

RNI [Repair Network Integration] offers opportunity to integrate the repair network like we have done for the supply network. Some of the MA-JCOMs, with AFMC's lead, have started us down this very promising road. As a retired logistics GO pointed out at LOA...we do need to quicken the pace.

And, you're all very familiar with AFSO21 [Air Force Smart Ops for the 21st Century]. We need to use the Lean and Six Sigma tools to reduce our wait and waste. Look for us to move toward more standards—standard work and standards for efficiency.

At the conclusion of the time I had to make remarks, I added the following thoughts about logistics, tooth, and tail. Logistics is more than "tail." It's the feet that take us to war, and the hands that carry the load. It's the head that figures what to bite and what to chew. It's the backbone that gives us staying power and the muscle that gives us strength. And it's the skin that holds us together and the heart that converts a will to win to a way to win. Yes, logistics is more than "tail." That's my view.

Lt Gen Loren Reno

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COL DALEY,

We are so grateful to you for the leadership and sacrifice you have provided through the years. We know it wasn't easy – juggling great big jobs – group commander et al. Still you found time to put together a WORLD CLASS publication (and put up with Marta) thank you, thank you! You are indeed a class act. Fletch- you have some mighty tall boots to fill.

In your debt,

The Men and Women of LOA