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Global Logistics and Warfighter Focus

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From the E-Ring

Having returned recently from the AOR, it's easy for me to share some thoughts along the theme of "Global Logistics and Warfighter Focus." In no particular order, here are some of my observations:

Our AF logisticians are stepping up to tough and new challenges. I saw logistics readiness officers doing Joint Expeditionary Taskings (JETs), and I saw maintenance officers doing general logistics jobs. Both were excited for the challenge and were doing the jobs well. It's my view that these opportunities make us better rounded logisticians, and there is no doubt in my mind that our AF logisticians are versatile and valued by the joint Warfighters.

Our other Service partners applaud Airmen logisticians. I had an office call with an Army 3-star who called the name of an AF captain at a different base in Iraq who had impressed him with her willingness to tackle a difficult challenge, to do something different than her core skill (a maintenance officer), and put herself at risk outside-the-wire. He called her by name! Don't underestimate the difference you're making.

Innovation is for home station and deployed locations. One location developed some innovative approaches to solve issues which we have wrestled with for years. They found a UK vendor who crafted a solution to flightline fuel cell repair that protects maintainers from extreme temperatures high or low...and, of course, the material was void of static electricity. They crafted a similar protective tent for engine changes...both very affordable. Wow!

Attention to supply chains prevents and solves problems. Those logisticians who understand the supply chain and work it from afar reap the benefits that translate into more MC equipment, fewer work-arounds, and better mission success. It's not a supply "thing," it applies to all aspects of logistics.

Compliance...like in the AOR. We visited 10 bases in as many days. As you would expect, I kept my eyes open to assess compliance...on the flightline, in back shops, in aerial ports, in vehicle maintenance, in warehouses—everywhere I went. Wherever I looked, I found people complying with tech data, AFIs, and SOPs. I used to say we need to comply in the AOR like we do at home. I would suggest, now, that we comply at home like we do in the AOR...always, everywhere.

Honoring our fallen is common. I witnessed the careful, dignified, and honorable loading of a fallen soldier onto a C-17 at one location, the transfer of a civilian's remains at another location, and the arrival to US soil of an Airman only a couple of days after coming home. Though different in some respects, each event was common in that Airmen were involved in honoring the fallen—be they civilian, of another Service, or of ours. Humbling yet so proud.

Logistics is global not just because it's at world-wide locations but because it reaches forward and back. On this trip, I saw firsthand that our logistics officers are both well prepared and succeeding in a very challenging environment. That's my view.



Lt Gen Loren M. Reno

— LT GEN LOREN RENO

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