

## **STRATEGIC MOBILITY**

Mode: Seminar/Lecture

Lesson No. 4-22-S/L

### 1. Introduction.

a. As our defense strategy continues to respond to worldwide regional threats, the rapid projection of military power to protect national security interests remains a vital component of U.S. defense strategy. In peacetime, the U.S. must be able to project power and influence to regions where U.S. forces are not routinely stationed or have been significantly reduced. In wartime, forces must be able to rapidly deploy in the correct mix to reinforce deployed assets and support allies, while countering threats to other areas.

b. The success of U.S. national military strategy calls for deterring a wide range of aggression by lesser regional powers who could employ conventional weapons or weapons of mass destruction. In time of crisis, we must be capable of projecting power quickly and in adequate numbers to achieve our desired outcome. Strategic mobility will become even more critical to safeguarding the U.S. global interests in the future as our deployed forces are reduced.

c. Contingency planners are left with some difficult choices with regard to allocation of scarce strategic mobility resources. This reality makes it imperative that the planner fully understand the components of the Defense Transportation System (DTS) and the capabilities and limitations of strategic mobility assets.

### 2. Learning Objectives. To enable students to:

a. Comprehend current strategic mobility force structure, its capabilities and limitations.

b. Comprehend the significant issues and future challenges facing USTRANSCOM.

c. Analyze the challenges of strategic mobility and its impact on force structures.

d. Analyze limitations in the Defense Transportation System that were identified by Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

3. Student Requirements.

a. Tasks.

(1) Be able to discuss the required readings and use the knowledge to enhance your understanding of strategic mobility planning and applications.

(2) Be able to apply knowledge gained from this lesson to the end of course Campaign Planning Exercise and the Strategic Crisis Exercise.

(3) Identify the guest lecturer's main thesis and supporting rationale.

b. Required Readings.

(1) Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Joint Pub 4-01, "Joint Doctrine for the Defense Transportation System," Chapters I thru II. This Pub discusses Responsibilities, Roles, and Interrelationships of military and federal agencies to meet wartime or contingency transportation requirements. Also examines the transportation resources and the procedures used to employ the defense transportation system. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(2) Gritton, Eugene C., et al. "Summary," Ground Forces for a Rapidly Employable Joint Task Force, First-Week Capabilities for Short-Warning Conflicts. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(3) Tirpak, John A. "A Clamor for Airlift," Air Force Magazine, December 2000. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(4) Little, Robert. "Merchant Marine's Demise Endangers War Readiness," Baltimore Sun, August 5, 2001. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(5) Robertson, Charles T., Jr. "CinCTRANS Congressional Testimony," Defense Transportation Journal, June 2001. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(6) Office of the Chief of Military History. U.S. Army in World War II, The Transportation Corps: Operations Overseas, Chapter IV, North Africa. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(7) Final Report to Congress. Conduct of the Persian Gulf War, Appendix E, "Deployment." (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

c. Suggested Readings.

TRANSCOM Homepage at [www.transcom.mil](http://www.transcom.mil). Review Top Stories, History, Organization, and links to AMC, MSC, and MTMC.

4. Points to Consider.

a. What can the services do to address strategic lift shortfalls? USTRANSCOM? Congress? Who should take the lead? Why?

b. What is the interrelationship between National Military Strategy, future DOD force structure/readiness, and strategic deployment capabilities?

c. What is USTRANSCOM'S role in national defense?

d. How does USTRANSCOM manage defense transportation?

e. What was the role of USTRANSCOM in Desert Shield and Desert Storm?

5. Relationship to Professional Joint Education (PJE) Learning Areas.

a. PJE LA 1.a. Readings, Objectives, Points to Consider

b. PJE LA 1.b. Readings, Objectives, Points to Consider

c. PJE LA 2.a. Readings, Objectives, Points to Consider

d. PJE LA 2.b. Readings, Objectives, Points to Consider

e. PJE LA 2.d. Readings, Objectives, Points to Consider

f. PJE LA 3.a. Readings, Objectives, Points to Consider

- g. PJE LA 3.b. Readings, Objectives, Points to Consider
- h. PJE LA 3.c. Readings, Objectives, Points to Consider
- i. PJE LA 4.b. Readings, Objectives, Points to Consider
- j. PJE LA 6.a. Readings, Objectives, Points to Consider

6. Relationship to USAWC Institutional Learning Objectives (ILOs), Enduring and Special Themes.

- a. ILOs: 4, 5, and 6.
- b. Enduring Themes: History, Strategic Vision, Jointness
- c. Special Themes: Civil-Military Relations, Transformation, Warfare in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century