



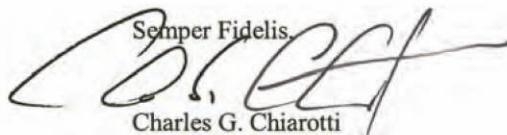
21 December 2018

The present and enduring requirement of the Marine Corps Logistics Enterprise is to enable the lethality of the MAGTF. This focus never changes, even as the fight evolves into different domains and locations. And it is undeniable that the fight is changing. Last year, the National Defense Strategy (NDS) reoriented our military posture for the first time in over a decade, from a focus on low end conflict in the counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism realms, to a focus on high end near peer/peer competitor competition. For Marine Corps logisticians, applying the NDS will require a significant and rapid evolution of the enterprise to avoid any deterioration in the quality of support available to the warfighter. Instead, our objective is to increase and enable the lethality of the MAGTF through the application of innovative, responsive, and resilient logistics capabilities. To be effective, this transformation will have to include the accounting for all existing inventory, sustaining valuable legacy equipment, enhancing close partnerships with industry, academia, allies and partners, and innovating successful best practices and technology.

The changing strategic objectives within the NDS make the precise outcome of the Logistics Enterprise transformation challenging and complex. Our ability to shape the future will depend on a deep understanding of the threat and alignment of our resources, which are vital to sustaining current capabilities while developing new ones. Success will depend on our ability to recognize and accept risk, understanding the adverse outcomes of resource shortfalls and working to mitigate or accept these risks where we can. This is our challenge and should not be viewed as insurmountable—we can and will scale this “Everest.”

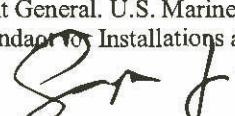
We must aim our efforts precisely so we do not delay our transformation. As the Marine Corps embarks towards the visions outlined in Force 2025, the Marine Operating Concept (MOC), and emerging concepts like Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations (EABO), our application of logistics must be consistent with the principles of logistics: responsiveness, simplicity, flexibility, economy, attainability, sustainability, and survivability. Our ability to call upon a menu of capabilities tailor-made to meet the tactical demands of the fight will be the difference. These capabilities will be based on networked, autonomous, and data-driven technologies. The speed of understanding and the selection of capabilities to answer the demand will be facilitated by the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI)—speed of decision and swift action is what we will strive for.

To answer the challenges of tomorrow, we are publishing a **Sustaining the Force** concept for the logistics community. This concept serves as an aiming point to support innovation, align efforts, and ensure timely application of resources to achieve our desired endstate: *a Marine Corps Logistics Enterprise capable of generating and sustaining combat power in contested environments across the warfighting functions*. The Sustaining the Force framework drives progress through four lines of effort all directed at increasing the lethality MAGTF: Global Logistics Awareness, Diversified Distribution, Improved Sustainment, and Optimized Installations to Support Sustained Operations. Your close scrutiny and thoughtful engagement on this concept will prepare us to face the challenges ahead. I invite your comments and input on the concept outlined in the next article.



Semper Fidelis.
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