This report addresses support of emerging Air Force employment strategies associated with Expeditionary Aerospace Forces (EAFs). EAF concepts turn on the premise that rapidly tailorable, quickly deployable, immediately employable, and highly effective air and space force packages can serve as a credible substitute for permanent forward presence. Success of the EAF will, to a great extent, depend on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agile Combat Support (ACS) system in supporting expeditionary operations. This study is one of a series of RAND publications that address ACS issues in implementing the EAF. Others address planning, practices, policies, and technologies that can enhance the effectiveness of the EAF (see, e.g., Tripp et al., 1999).

Our initial work, documented here, shows that to implement the EAF concept the Air Force will need to develop a comprehensive system of forward support infrastructure. This work has been widely briefed within the Air Force at two meetings sponsored by the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics (AF/IL) and the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations (AF/XO), one meeting of the Logistics Board of Advisors, and several seminars held with functional experts on the Air Staff, as well as at Headquarters U.S. Air Forces Europe. Some of this material was presented by AF/IL at the CORONA meetings sponsored by the Air Force Chief of Staff. The research here is being extended and refined as part of the ongoing study of supporting expeditionary aerospace forces.

This research was conducted in the Force Modernization and Employment and Resource Management and Acquisition Programs.
of Project AIR FORCE as one element of a project entitled “Implementing an Effective Air Expeditionary Force.” The project was sponsored jointly by AF/IL and AF/XO. This report should be of interest to logisticians and operators in the Air Force concerned with implementing the EAF concept.

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PROJECT AIR FORCE

Project AIR FORCE, a division of RAND, is the Air Force Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) for studies and analyses. It provides the Air Force with independent analyses of policy alternatives affecting the development, employment, combat readiness, and support of current and future aerospace forces. Research is performed in four programs: Aerospace Force Development; Manpower, Personnel, and Training; Resource Management; and Strategy and Doctrine.