Although much work remains to define and prepare Air Force units for Expeditionary Aerospace Force (EAF) responsibilities, it is clear that EAF concepts will play a central role in the future Air Force. The EAF relies on rapidly deployable, immediately employable, and highly flexible forces to serve a strategic role as an alternative to a large permanent forward presence in deterring and responding to aggressive acts. EAF success will, to a great extent, depend on the effectiveness and efficiency of the system supporting flying operations. The Air Force has named such a support system one of its six necessary core competencies and labeled it the Agile Combat Support (ACS) system.

ACS efficiency and effectiveness are affected by decisions made across planning, programming, and budgeting system timelines. Far-term ACS decisions affect support structures required to meet future operational requirements. Mid-term ACS decisions affect the design, development, and evolution of the support infrastructure for meeting operational requirements within the programming and budgeting time horizons. Near-term decisions affect where, when, and how existing resources are employed. Across this time spectrum, logistics requirements can be satisfied in a variety of ways, each with different costs, flexibility, response times, and risks. This study addresses logistics structure alternatives for meeting demands for Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night (LANTIRN) across the spectrum of EAF operational requirements from major theater wars to peacetime operations and amends earlier RAND research with new data collected during the Air War Over Serbia (AWOS).
In this study we compare the current decentralized policy, in which intermediate maintenance capabilities are deployed with flying units, with consolidated options in which maintenance capabilities do not deploy. This dipole decision space offers many opportunities while introducing multiple risks—all of which the Air Force must consider.

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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.