

	<h1 style="margin: 0;">CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION</p>	
	<h2 style="margin: 0; color: blue; text-decoration: underline;">AIR FORCE DOCTRINE PUBLICATION (AFDP) 4-0</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0; color: blue; text-decoration: underline;">COMBAT SUPPORT</h3>	

COMBAT SUPPORT CONSTRUCT

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Core effects, the end result of combat support (CS), are produced from the core processes. Core capabilities are used within the core processes to produce the effects necessary to achieve mission objectives. The core capabilities are formed by the employment of functional communities in a synergistic manner. The functional communities are those areas where Airmen who perform CS duties operate. This construct represents an Air Force-wide enterprise; some elements can be deployed forward in direct support of a contingency, while other elements can provide additional support to forward forces through [reachback](#). An overview of CS is depicted in the figure, “Overview of CS Construct.”

Readied Forces Prepared Operational Environment Positioned Forces	<h3 style="margin: 0;">CORE EFFECTS</h3>	Employed Forces Sustained Forces Reconstituted Forces
Readyng the Force Preparing the Operational Environment Positioning the Force	<h3 style="margin: 0;">CORE PROCESSES</h3>	Employing the Force Sustaining and Recovering the Force Reconstituting the Force
Field Forces Base Forces Posture Responsive Forces Protect Forces	<h3 style="margin: 0;">CORE CAPABILITIES</h3>	Generate the Mission Support the Mission, Forces, and Infrastructure Sustain the Mission, Forces, and Infrastructure
<h3 style="margin: 0;">FUNCTIONAL COMMUNITIES</h3>		
Acquisition AFOSI Airfield Operations Chaplain Corps Civil Engineer Communications / Information	Contracting Distribution Force Support Financial Management / Comptroller Health Services Historian	Judge Advocate Logistics Planning Maintenance Material Management Munitions Management Public Affairs
Safety Science / Technology Security Forces Studies, Analyses and Assessments Test and Evaluation Weather Services		

Overview of CS Construct

CS CORE EFFECTS

CS core effects are the products provided to an [air component commander](#), as outcomes of the CS core processes. The six CS core effects are:

- ✦ **Readied Forces.** Mission ready forces able to perform all needed wartime missions in expected threat environments, including chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) and extreme temperature.
- ✦ **Prepared Operational Environment.** An environment conducive to mission execution.
- ✦ **Positioned Forces.** The right types and amounts of forces and materiel at the right places and times to meet mission objectives.
- ✦ **Employed Forces.** Forces, infrastructure, and materiel meeting mission requirements.
- ✦ **Sustained Forces.** Forces and materiel conducting persistent operations.
- ✦ **Reconstituted Forces.** A recovered force readied for operations.

CS CORE PROCESSES

The CS core processes are the standardized, overarching set of macro procedures that use core capabilities to produce CS effects. These macro procedures are the primary means of arranging CS practices due to their cyclical nature. The six CS core processes are:

- ✦ **Readying the Force.** Organizing, training, and equipping a fit force to provide mission capability in all required threat environments, including CBRN and extreme temperature.
- ✦ **Preparing the Operational Environment.** Analyzing, planning, and posturing forces, infrastructure (built and natural), and materiel for rapid employment.
- ✦ **Positioning the Force.** Deploying, receiving, and integrating forces and materiel at the point of employment.
- ✦ **Employing the Force.** Generating the mission, providing right-sized support, and ensuring timely regeneration of forces and materiel.
- ✦ **Sustaining and Recovering the Force.** Maintaining effective levels of forces, materiel support, including the physical plant, and infrastructure capability for ongoing operations. Recovering forces, materiel support, and infrastructure damaged from attack, accident, or other incident.

- ✦ **Reconstituting the Force.** Reset or redeployment of forces and materiel, ensuring airpower can be reapplied to meet operational needs.

CS CORE CAPABILITIES

The CS core capabilities result from the proper employment and integration of the functional communities. These capabilities form the structure of the remainder of this document. The CS core capabilities enable the Air Force to:

- ✦ **Field Forces.** Providing fully prepared CS forces to enable an air component commander to meet the [joint force commander's](#) requirements. It includes organizing, acquiring, and tailoring forces to produce a responsive, sustainable, and survivable force.
- ✦ **Posture Responsive Forces.** Assessing, structuring, scheduling, and processing force capabilities to support mission requirements. It also includes executing a dynamic positioning strategy to maximize CS responsiveness and speed of employment.
- ✦ **Base Forces.** Establishing, sustaining, recovering, and closing airbases and forward operating sites (FOSs). Providing enduring and contingency bases, installations, and FOSs with the assets, programs, and services necessary to support and project airpower. For more information, see Joint Publication 4-04, [Contingency Basing](#) and the discussion on [Execution](#) in AFDP 3-34, *Engineer Operations*.
- ✦ **Protect Forces.** Providing an integrated all-hazards approach for force protection to detect threats and hazards to the Air Force and its mission. Applying measures to deter, pre-empt, negate, or mitigate the identified threats and hazards based on an acceptable level of risk. Actions required to protect forces specifically against hostile action include detecting, identifying, and defeating penetrative or standoff threats to personnel and resources; assessing operating locations for threats and available support from host civil and military agencies; disseminating information and warning personnel; and protecting infrastructure. For more information, see AFDP 3-10, [Force Protection](#).
- ✦ **Generate the Mission.** Preparing, configuring, launching, recovering, and regenerating weapon systems and payloads. It also includes conducting security cooperation engagements with partner nations as required in support of the [combatant commander's theater campaign plan](#).
- ✦ **Support the Mission, Forces, and Infrastructure.** Supplying, distributing, and maintaining goods, services, and infrastructure throughout the operational area.
- ✦ **Sustain the Mission, Forces, and Infrastructure.** Ensuring CS is maintained for the duration of operations, optimizing the use of reachback, to include the industrial base, when needed.

CS FUNCTIONAL COMMUNITIES

CS functional communities are fundamental to effective airpower. Each makes unique contributions to the overall mission. A detailed discussion of these functional communities appears in [Appendix, *Functional Communities*](#).
