# CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER
## FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

## AIR FORCE DOCTRINE PUBLICATION (AFDP) 4-0 COMBAT SUPPORT

## GENERATE THE MISSION NEEDS

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Generation of airpower missions requires preparation of the tasked aircraft and installed payloads (munitions, pods, etc.). Generation is characterized by the following operational considerations:

- ✪ **Type of Base:** Capabilities at various bases may differ based on location and type. For example, main operating bases (MOBs) may differ from capabilities at forward operating sites (FOSs), particularly if the FOS is austere. MOB resources generally provide capabilities for surge and sustained operations, whereas FOS resources may provide only short-duration surge capability, which may be followed by reconstitution at a MOB.

- ✪ **Type of Aircraft:** Capabilities for generating missions depend on the logistics support necessary for various types of aircraft. For example, large-frame aircraft generate high demand for petroleum, oil, and lubricants, which may require additional base defense measures, and combat aircraft may generate a high demand for munitions items.

- ✪ **Threat and Operating Tempo:** The presence of various threats may require flexibility and adaptation of mission generation activities to meet the commander's intent. Missions may have to be generated from cover or concealment, on non-standard timelines, or from alternate facilities to overcome adversaries' attacks and attempts at degradation.

- ✪ **Surge Operations:** Operational requirements may drive mission generation capabilities to surge for extended periods. Air operations center and Air Force forces staff planners should identify limiting factors of surge operations and their impact on future air tasking orders, and should provide estimates of post-surge recovery time required to restore the health of the aircraft fleet. If the capability to perform major maintenance is not resident in-theater, surge operations may result in a requirement to accelerate the rotation of aircraft back to home station.

- ✪ **Communications:** Communications infrastructure is critical to supporting mission generation activities. Delivery of electronic mission folders, authentication data, crypto keys, and a multitude of other data to the weapon system are essential to operations. Recovered weapon system video, sensor data, maintenance records,

etc., can be used to support future operations.

⊛ **Facilities:** Suitable parking ramps, hangars and shelters, engine trim pads, live-ordnance loading areas, fuels maintenance, firefighting capability, aircraft arresting systems, and other infrastructure requirements should also be provided to support mission generation.

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