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AIR FORCE DOCTRINE PUBLICATION (AFDP) 4-02 HEALTH SERVICES

MEDICAL LOGISTICS

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Medical logistics underpins medical operations and is of utmost importance in operational and expeditionary planning. The medical logistics system provides support and sustainment to all air expeditionary task force medical forces.³ The medical logistics function includes planning for blood and other transfusion products. Medical planners and personnel implement the logistics and blood distribution processes to meet the deployment and sustainment challenges of deployed forces. For additional information, see Air Force Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (AFTTP) 3-42.8, Expeditionary Medical Logistics System.

Expeditionary Medical Logistics (EML)

The EML system provides tailored logistics packages to the deployed medical unit by using a predetermined supply chain.

The expected results of fielding focused logistics capabilities include a timelier and more precise delivery of mission-ready forces and their essential support to the joint force commander's specified destinations. Expected results also include a right-sized (and potentially reduced) support footprint in the operational area and more cost-effective logistics support for the warfighter.

The EML process uses a sustaining base to receive a deployed medical unit's requirements and to process orders to approved vendors or depots that meet strict Air Force availability, time, and shipping criteria. Commercial transportation should be used as far forward as possible and may connect with the military transportation system. The EML system is the linking process for a complex supply chain.

Air Force Medical Logistics Operations Center (AFMLOC)

The AFMLOC is central to Air Force medical supply chain management. It is the focal point for coordinating and integrating medical logistics planning and support. The AFMLOC functions as the supply chain manager and creates and maintains responsive,

³ Air Force Manual (AFM) 41-209, Medical Logistics Support.

visible sustainment to deploying and deployed forces.⁴ The AFMLOC integrates information, commercial technology, logistics, and transportation strategies to meet the full spectrum of operational requirements.

Medical Logistics Management Center (MLMC)

In theater, there may be a jointly staffed MLMC linked to the combatant commander (CCDR), joint task force Surgeon (SG), Air Force forces SG, deployed medical units, continental US sustaining base, or the AFMLOC. The MLMC supports the theater lead agent for medical materiel (TLAMM) by identifying supply chain planning. The TLAMM is responsible for providing theater customer support, materiel management, medical maintenance distribution, and assists CCDRs' MLMC with planning.

Patient Movement Items (PMIs)

PMIs are the jointly designated supplies and equipment necessary to support patient movement within the aeromedical evacuation (AE) system.⁵ Medical logistics and AE personnel manage inventory availability at PMI centers, cells, and nodes and ensure asset visibility and flow of PMI through available transportation methods to meet requirements. Asset visibility is provided via the PMI tracking system. Deployed PMI system teams collocate at key interface points and theater medical treatment facilities to provide initial AE operational capability, sustain AE operations, and minimize equipment turnaround time. During contingency operations, PMI assets and tracking system requirements are initially identified by the CCDR and pushed to support patient movement at key patient insertion points in the AE system. Steady-state PMI support is supplied by the combatant command as required. For additional information see Joint Publication 4-02, [Joint Health Services](#); AFTTP 3-42.5, [Aeromedical Evacuation](#); and AFTTP 3-42.8, [Expeditionary Medical Logistics System](#).

⁴ AFM [41-209](#).

⁵ AFM [41-209](#).