



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



VOLUME 1 BASIC DOCTRINE

SIMPLICITY

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“Simplicity” is one of the principles of war.

Simplicity calls for avoiding unnecessary complexity in organizing, preparing, planning, and conducting military operations. Simplicity ensures that guidance, plans, and orders are as simple and direct as the objective allows. Simple guidance allows subordinate commanders the freedom to operate creatively within their portion of the [operational environment](#), supporting the concept of [decentralized execution](#). Common equipment, a common understanding of Service and joint [doctrine](#), and familiarity with procedures through joint exercises and training, can help overcome complexity. Straightforward plans, unambiguous organization, and clearly-defined [command relationships](#) are central to reducing complexity as well.