



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



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CONCENTRATION

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One of the most constant and important trends throughout military history has been the effort to concentrate overwhelming power at the decisive time and place. The principles of [mass](#) and [economy of force](#) deal directly with concentrating overwhelming power at the right time and the right place (or places). **The versatility of [airpower](#) with its lethality, speed, and [persistence](#) makes it an attractive option for many tasks.** With capabilities as flexible and versatile as airpower, the demand for them often exceeds the available forces and may result in the fragmentation of the integrated airpower effort in attempts to fulfill the many demands of the operation. Depending on the operational situation, such a [course of action](#) may court the triple risk of failing to achieve operational-level objectives, delaying or diminishing the attainment of decisive effects, and increasing the attrition rate of air forces—and consequently risking defeat. **Airmen should guard against the inadvertent dilution of airpower effects resulting from high demand.**