



ANNEX 4-0 COMBAT SUPPORT

COMBAT SUPPORT PRINCIPLES

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The foundation of [combat support](#) (CS) is a ready force, properly sized, organized, trained, and integrated. The structure comes from diverse functional communities that train and are equipped to provide a wide variety of capabilities. CS derives its capabilities from three overarching principles:

- ★ **CS enables operations in peacetime and wartime with effects supporting US national interests at any time or place across the [range of military operations](#).** CS includes the essential capabilities, functions, activities, and tasks necessary to employ all Air Force elements of air, space, and cyberspace forces at home station or while deployed. The increasing frequency of operational missions conducted from outside an operational area (e.g., remotely piloted aircraft, cyberspace operations) renders the term expeditionary combat support obsolete. When organized as, or as part of, an air expeditionary task force, CS remains under the [operational control](#) of a [commander, Air Force forces](#), to accomplish assigned missions and tasks.
- ★ **CS provides essential support while minimizing the forward footprint and maximizing reachback,¹ thus increasing effectiveness and responsiveness.** This essential support ensures the Air Force can quickly respond to a mission with a right-sized force, and with maximum effectiveness worldwide.
- ★ **CS provides the ability to transition swiftly from home station to a deployed environment and between operational requirements.** CS planners should carefully examine requirements at deployed locations while operations continue at home station.

¹ Reachback is “the process of obtaining products, services, and applications, or forces, or equipment, or material from organizations that are not forward deployed.” (Joint Publication [JP] 3-30, [Command and Control of Joint Air Operations](#))