



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



VOLUME 1 BASIC DOCTRINE

MANEUVER

Last Updated: 27 Feb 2015

“Maneuver” is one of the principles of war.

Maneuver places the enemy in a position of disadvantage through the flexible application of combat power in a multidimensional combat space. [Airpower's](#) ability to conduct maneuver is not only a product of its speed and range, but also flows from its [flexibility and versatility](#) during the planning and execution of operations. Maneuver, like the [principle of offensive](#), forces the enemy to react, allowing the exploitation of successful friendly operations and reducing friendly vulnerabilities. Airpower maneuver allows engagement anywhere, from any direction, at any time, forcing the adversary to be on guard everywhere.

The principle of maneuver is not limited to simple weapons delivery. **Maneuver may involve the strategic positioning of capabilities that bring potential airpower to bear within striking distance of potential or actual adversaries.** Forward deployment of airpower assets is one example of maneuver that, by its very presence, can reassure allies and deter aggressors. Also, in airlift operations such as SUPPORT HOPE in Rwanda, PROVIDE HOPE in the former Soviet Union, or PROVIDE PROMISE in Bosnia; focused [civil-military operations](#) and exercises that support theater security cooperation goals, such as PACIFIC ANGEL; or combat operations such as ALLIED FORCE in Serbia, ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan, or IRAQI FREEDOM in Iraq, airpower has played a critical role in American national security by providing unmatched maneuverability. Whether it involves airlift or attack aircraft, in small or large numbers, the versatility and responsiveness of airpower allow the simultaneous application of [mass](#) and [maneuver](#).