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Supply and Logistics - Enabling the Maritime Strategy

"Supply professionals stand out in support of the warfighter – serving as the Navy's business leaders, as operational logistics professionals, and as Quality of Life service providers."

– Rear Adm. Mike Lyden, Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command and Chief of Supply Corps

In 214 years, the responsibilities of the Supply Corps have increased from outfitting a fleet of six frigates to supporting a globally-engaged Navy. Today members of the Supply Corps and civilian logisticians at the Naval Supply Systems Command manage the global logistics support network and supply the Navy's ships, aircraft, facilities and expeditionary forces with the essential items needed to execute their missions. In addition, they provide business expertise on supply, logistics, acquisition, and financial management afloat and ashore.

Enabling the Maritime Strategy

In managing the global logistics support network, the supply professionals perform vital work that enables the core capabilities of the Maritime Strategy. Logistics support – food, fuel, supplies, ordnance and mail – is delivered world-wide to the global Navy. Effective supply and logistics are key elements across the portfolio of emerging Navy missions.

- Supply and logistics support humanitarian assistance/disaster response missions around the world.
 - More than 3.3 million pounds of food, water and other relief supplies were delivered by USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) to devastated Haitian communities following several tropical storms and Hurricane Ike in 2008.
 - During the southern California wildfires in 2007, the U.S. Navy provided more than 8,000 cots, blankets, and bedding sets and more than 6,000 respirators to evacuation shelters throughout San Diego County.
- New distance support techniques allowed the shore logistics infrastructure to monitor and support USS Freedom (LCS 1) during its transit to Norfolk, Va. New systems moved workloads (such as record-keeping and financials) ashore and set the template for expansion to future and legacy platforms.

Supporting the Warfighter

Supply professionals bring critical expertise to warfighters. Agile capability in supply chain management, contingency contracting, operational logistics, fuels management and physical distribution, has become a key success factor in Navy and Joint warfighting capability.

- Supply and logistic support also contributes directly to stabilization and economic reconstruction missions. In Afghanistan, the Navy supply team helps procure materials to equip and sustain the Afghan security forces, and rebuild national infrastructure.

Key Messages

- Combat capability through logistics contributes to executing the Maritime Strategy and ensures the success of the Navy's diverse missions.
- Throughout history, supply professionals have played a pivotal role in supporting the Fleet, and today, continue supporting new requirements in areas far and wide—from the U.S. homeland to the mountains in Eastern Afghanistan.

Facts & Figures

- On February 23, 1795, Philadelphia businessman Tench Francis became the first U.S. Purveyor of Public Supplies, the precursor to the Navy Supply Corps.
- One-third of all active component Supply Corps officers and two-thirds of enlisted personnel are currently assigned to ships and operational units.
- The Navy Supply Corps School, established in Washington, D.C., in 1920, was moved to Harvard University during World War II; Athens, Ga., in 1954; and will relocate to Newport, R.I., in 2010.