GENERAL DYNAMICS
Information Technology

MeriTalk

From Threat to Opportunity: Transforming Contested Logistics

MeriTalk, in partnership with General Dynamics Information Technology, explored the evolving challenges of contested logistics and the urgent need for supply chain resilience in modern military operations.

THE GROWING THREAT TO SUPPLY CHAINS

The U.S. military remains the most formidable force in the world, but today's conflicts extend beyond the battlefield. Adversaries are increasingly targeting critical support systems – such as **supply chains** and **transportation networks** – through:
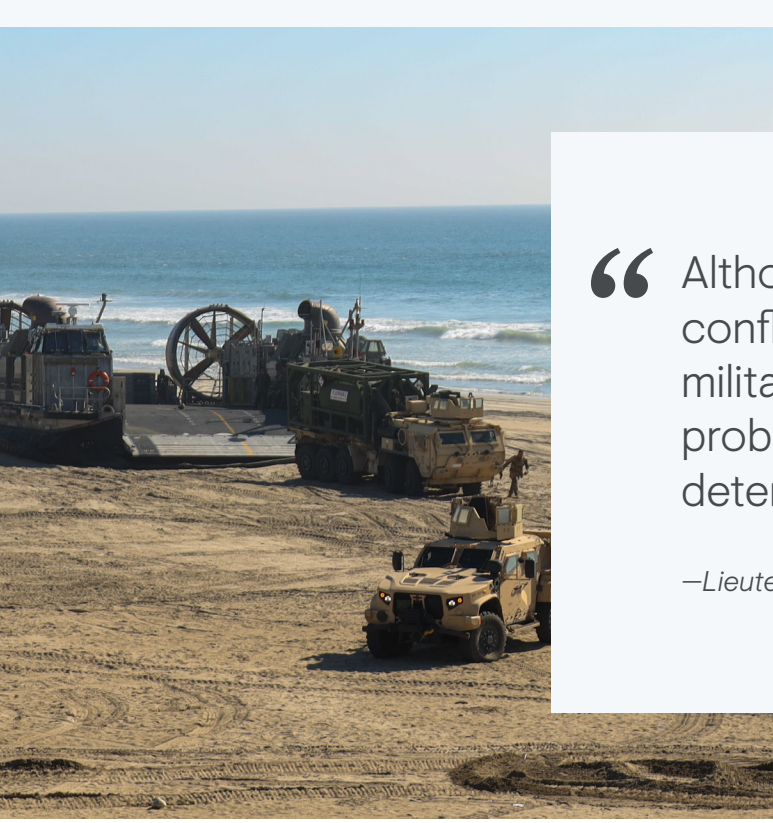
- Commercial disruptions and market manipulation
- Economic coercion and control of critical suppliers
- Cyberattacks and intrusions[1]

> "Although a hypothetical U.S.-China conflict would be complex, in terms of military considerations, **logistics** is probably the dominant factor determining success or failure."
>
> —Lieutenant Colonel Zachary S. Hughes, U.S. Air Force[2]
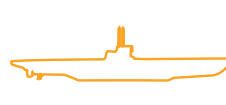
CONTESTED LOGISTICS 101

Contested logistics describes an environment where adversaries challenge logistics, operations, facilities, and activities – whether in transit, at home, or abroad

While the term may be new, the reality is not. U.S. forces have always operated in contested logistics environments:

General Sherman's troops destroyed enemy supply chains during the Civil War

German U-boats targeted shipping lanes in surprise attacks during both world wars[3]
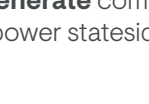
> The front line has become digital, where **"data** is the ammunition now and into the future."
>
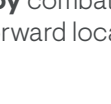> —Jim Pasquarette, vice president, strategy and business development, General Dynamics Land Systems[4]
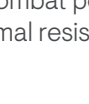
MOVING TARGETS

At a moment's notice, U.S. forces must be able to:

- **Generate** combat power stateside
- **Deploy** combat power to forward locations
- **Move** combat power with minimal resistance
- **Establish** footholds in theaters of conflict
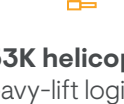- **Sustain** forward forces[5]

> "The ability to sustain military forces in contested environments around the world requires secure **supply chains**, access to **natural resources**, a strong **industrial base**, and multiple modes of transportation."
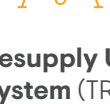>
> —Jim Pasquarette, vice president, strategy and business development, General Dynamics Land Systems[4]
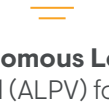
Innovation in Action:

The Marine Corps and Navy are actively testing over a dozen new technologies to navigate contested environments, including:

- **CH-53K helicopters** for heavy-lift logistics
- **Tactical Resupply Unmanned Aircraft System** (TRUAS) for autonomous resupply
- **Autonomous Low-Profile Vessel** (ALPV) for stealth transport[7]

THE LOGISTICS EDGE

The next decade will redefine military logistics, as threats grow more sophisticated and interconnected

To maintain global logistical superiority, the U.S. must:

- Use data, AI, and **predictive analytics** to inform real-time decisions[8]
- Develop **new technologies** and methods to stay ahead of adversaries[8]
- Create a network of **supply** and **production** capabilities around the world[9]
- Supply only what is **essential** to the **point of need** through predictive analytics[8]
- Build a supply network that is **reliable** and **dynamic**[8]

> Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., said the key to material readiness in a contested logistics environment will be expanding the scope of how and when logistics is considered, planned, and executed. **"We have to act like there is a crisis without the crisis ... to make the changes needed now."**[10]

From state-of-the-art combat vehicles and nuclear-powered submarines to global military operations, General Dynamics has unsurpassed expertise operating global supply chains. General Dynamics Information Technology is combining the power of this expertise with technology innovation that moves at the speed and agility of Special Operations Forces. Our commitment to logistics delivers precision sustainment at the point of need anytime, anywhere in the world.

For more information, please visit: gdit.com/GlobalLogistics

[1] gdit.com/perspectives/latest/battling-contested-logistics-with-uncontested-commitment
[2] dis.mil/About-DLA/News/News-Article-View/Article/3962305/giving-our-paper-tiger-real-teeth-fixing-the-us-militarys-plans-for-contested-l
[3] ausa.org/publications/contested-logistics-primer
[4] https://www.meritalk.com/articles/navigating-disruption-sof-logistics-in-contested-environments
[5] cmc.marines.mil/Speeches-and-Transcripts/Transcripts/Article/3759255/statement-of-general-eric-m-smith-commandant-of-the-marine-corps-on-the-posture
[6] youtu.be/IOU2QVAxd9Y?list=TLGG30tZdN-jY8wyOl5xxA8pAhQ
[7] youtu.be/Cd1Yo3DscI?list=TLGG34fsc7NJBby0G4vMihkJsQ
[8] defense.gov/News-Stories/Article/Article/3909148/military-leaders-industry-partners-brainstorm-solutions-to-logistics-challenges/
[9, 10] dod-tra%20described%20becoming%20resilient%20like%20world%20rank%20doing%20today.

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