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HOW SUPPLY CHAINS AND TRANSPORT LOGISTICS AFFECT MILITARY OPERATIONS

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In modern warfare, victory is not solely determined on the battlefield but is profoundly influenced by the efficiency of supply chains and transport logistics. These elements form the circulatory system of any military force, directly impacting its operational reach, sustainability, and combat effectiveness.

A robust logistics network ensures the timely delivery of critical resources: ammunition, fuel, spare parts, and food. The inability to sustain these flows can halt an advance faster than enemy action. For instance, the success of rapid maneuvers and blitzkrieg tactics is entirely dependent on a seamless fuel and ammunition supply. Conversely, logistical failures have historically led to catastrophic defeats, crippling armies not by combat losses, but by attrition and starvation.

Transport logistics dictate the tempo of operations. Control over key infrastructure—ports, railways, and highways—becomes a strategic objective. Modern conflicts highlight the vulnerability of supply lines to disruption, making them primary targets for long-range strikes. Furthermore, the complexity of coordinating multi-modal

transport—from sea freight to final truck delivery—requires sophisticated planning and real-time adaptability.

Ultimately, logistics is a force multiplier. A well-supplied unit can maintain initiative and morale, while a logistically starved force becomes vulnerable. In essence, while strategy wins battles, it is logistics that wins wars, determining not just how to fight, but for how long and at what intensity.

Beyond the front lines of battlefields, a silent war rages—the war of supply chains. In contemporary conflicts, victory is increasingly determined not only by the courage of soldiers or the sophistication of weapons but by the flawless functioning of transport logistics. This "invisible front" forms the material backbone of any army, directly influencing its strategic mobility, operational tempo, and ultimate success.

Modern military operations are characterized by an unprecedented "appetite" for resources. High-intensity combat consumes ammunition, fuel, and equipment at a staggering rate. The ability to continuously deliver these resources to the front over vast distances becomes a critical strategic task. Even the most brilliant offensive can stall within days—or even hours—if the supply chain fails. History is replete with examples of armies defeated not in battle, but through logistical collapse, succumbing to a lack of fuel, ammunition, or food far from home.

The strategic importance of logistics transforms infrastructure into a primary military asset. Seaports, railways, bridges, and highways become key objectives, as their control guarantees the flow of supplies. Simultaneously, they become high-priority targets for the enemy. Modern long-range precision weapons allow strikes deep into rear areas, making the protection of supply routes and logistics hubs as important as defending the front line. This has given rise to a new form of operational art: "logistical warfare," where paralyzing the enemy's supply chain is a primary goal.

The complexity of modern logistics is immense. It involves managing multi-modal transport—from global sea container shipments to final delivery by truck or helicopter—under constant threat. This requires a technological ecosystem of tracking, forecasting, and distribution management. Moreover, the globalization of production creates dependencies: a minor component for a complex weapons system,

produced in a third country, can become a critical vulnerability, directly linking economic policy to military capability.

Ultimately, logistics acts as a powerful combat multiplier. A well-supplied unit maintains high morale and the ability to sustain prolonged combat. Commanders with reliable logistical support gain freedom of maneuver and strategic initiative. Conversely, an army with broken supply lines loses its combat effectiveness, regardless of its numbers or training. Therefore, in the calculus of modern warfare, investments in resilient supply chains and advanced transport logistics are not merely support functions—they are direct investments in combat power and a decisive factor in achieving victory.

While often overshadowed by dramatic combat operations, military logistics constitutes a decisive strategic domain that shapes conflicts before the first shot is fired. Its influence extends far beyond simple transportation, encompassing industrial capacity, technological adaptation, and strategic planning that collectively determine a nation's war-fighting capability and endurance.

The foundation of military logistics lies in the defense industrial base. A nation's ability to rapidly scale production of munitions, vehicles, and critical systems directly determines its strategic staying power. Modern conflicts demonstrate that stockpiles designed for short engagements prove inadequate in prolonged wars of attrition, making industrial capacity itself a weapon. Furthermore, the globalization of supply chains creates critical vulnerabilities, where specialized components sourced from abroad can become strategic chokepoints, elevating economic security to the level of military concern.

Technological transformation has revolutionized logistics, creating both advantages and vulnerabilities. Digital supply chain management systems enable real-time tracking and predictive logistics, while automation increases efficiency in warehousing and transportation. However, this digitalization creates new attack surfaces through cyber warfare, where disabling logistics software can paralyze physical distribution. The emergence of additive manufacturing (3D printing) offers

potential for decentralized production of spare parts at the front, while creating new requirements for raw material supply chains.

Transport infrastructure operates as both enabler and target. Modern militaries require complex multi-modal systems integrating sea, land, air, and space domains. The control of strategic chokepoints—straits, canals, and railway hubs—becomes as important as controlling territory. Resilient logistics networks now feature redundancy, alternative routes, and dispersed storage to withstand attacks, making logistics planning a central component of military strategy rather than a support function.

The human dimension remains equally critical. Effective logistics requires specialized expertise in supply chain management, maintenance, and distribution under extreme conditions. The proficiency of logistics personnel directly influences operational readiness, with training and experience determining the ability to sustain forces in diverse environments from arctic to desert warfare.

Ultimately, military logistics has evolved from a tactical concern to a strategic imperative. It represents the crucial link between national economic power and combat effectiveness, determining not just initial military capability but long-term endurance. In contemporary conflict, victory frequently belongs not to the army that strikes first, but to the one that can sustain operations longest, making logistics the ultimate arbiter of military success.

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ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND WAYS TO PREVENT THEM