

## GROUND COMBAT SUPPORT CHAPTER 5

### Air Defence Operations

#### **Active defence**

- Active air defence not only involves the protection of air bases from air attack, but forms part of the counter-air campaign by inflicting as much damage as possible on the enemy air forces.

#### **Active ground defence**

Active ground defences should include creating a ground defence area that can be:

- Patrolled using military forces.
- Cleared of obstacles that may be used by an attacking force to provide cover.
- Protected with remote detection systems.
- Guarded by military forces operating from the protection of bunkers or sangars (defensive guard positions using sandbags or other materials).

#### **Passive defence**

- Dispersal
- Deception
- Physical protection
- Resilience

### Training & Logistics Support

Air power can only operate with training given both on and above the air. It requires logistical support from refuelling to maintenance of aircraft to keep Air power strong.

Effective training is the key to successful completion of all military operations. This is especially true for air forces where the air is a particularly dangerous environment in which to operate. While technology is an important factor in the effectiveness of air power, it is of little use unless the aircrew have the necessary skills to be able to use the equipment properly. Similarly, ground branches involve highly demanding skills that can be critically important to air operations, both in peace and war. Training must therefore be both rigorous and realistic. This is generally achieved by conducting large-scale exercises which are designed as far as possible to replicate wartime conditions and are likely to include extra problems such as disrupted communications, degraded command and control and realistic opposing forces.

Logistics is the science of planning and carrying out the movement and maintenance of all aspects of a fighting force. At all levels of war, logistics is a major concern of any commander. Lack of logistic capabilities may cause a commander to delay or even cancel vital

operations, which could lead ultimately to defeat. The full scope of logistics includes:

- The design and development, storage, transport, maintenance, evacuation and distribution of material.
- The movement, evacuation and medical care of personnel.
- The construction, maintenance, operation of facilities.

Logistics will dictate the scale, pace, scope and effectiveness of any air operation. If men and equipment are not in the right place at the right time – if equipment is not properly maintained - if aircraft are not refuelled and rearmed – if wounded personnel do not receive appropriate medical care - then any military operation is doomed to fail.