To our Industry and DOD Partners,

Thank you for your interest in our 2nd Annual Contested Logistics Industry Week here at Fort Gregg-Adams. We would like to extend a special thank you to our panelists for supporting this event and to our Industry Partners, thank you all for taking time to collaborate with us.

As most of you know, last month (August), the sustainment community lost LTG Arthur J. Gregg at the age of 96. LTG Gregg was a trailblazer who changed the very fabric of how we support our Army and the Joint force. For those of us who serve at Fort Gregg-Adams, we have the distinct privilege of seeing his legacy every day. His name, now forever a part of this installation, serves as a powerful reminder of the standard of excellence he set throughout his career. He was, and will always remain, a model of selfless service, humility, and innovation.

On September 16, 2024, we honored LTG Gregg at a memorial here on Fort Gregg-Adams, and yesterday, September 19, the CASCOM/Fort Gregg-Adams command team had the honor of being present with his family as they laid him to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

The first day of Contest Logistics Industry Week, attendees heard the panelists describe the Army's transformative path as a comprehensive effort to modernize warfighting capabilities, adapt to new forms of warfare, and prioritize the warfighting readiness and well-being of our Soldiers, all while maintaining strategic alliances and sustainability. This transformation ensures the Army remains agile and capable of responding to future threats. However, we know that achieving success on the future battlefield requires a collective effort every day across the Army, our joint partners, our Allies and Partners, our industry partners, and academia.

During the Worldwide Logistics Symposium at DLA HQs, Chairman Brown said, "We have to take the lessons learned from Ukraine, because logistics was not as interoperable as we initially hoped and it continues to be a limiting factor. We must take an integrated approach. Efforts cannot be siloed; we need to communicate and work with each other and share effective solutions."

Through partnerships and our networks, we can forge a tough, adaptable, and lethal force capable of meeting our warfighting demands of today and tomorrow.

At the heart of our sustainment transformation is the need to focus on the following first principles aligned with the tenets of multi-domain operations (agility, convergence, endurance, and depth):

1) We must have the ability to C2 lethal un-crewed autonomous-capable ground and aerial systems that provide expanded operational reach, prolonged endurance, and have the ability to protect military capabilities and resources to help sustain the Joint Force across contested LOCs.

2) We must have interoperable energy solutions for production, collection, storage and distribution that enable and sustain the force.

3) We must have the ability to protect, preserve, and regenerate combat power on a transparent battlefield against a formidable adversary.

4) We must have the ability to set the theater in a land-based and maritime environment, enabled by dynamic decision making, while conducting multi-functional and multi-modal sustainment operations.

Attendees on the first day heard that we are laser-focused on precision sustainment, predictive logistics, autonomous technologies, and demand reduction.

Precision sustainment involves the use of technologies such as automation and robotics to improve the speed and accuracy of sustainment operations in an environment that accounts for speed, complexity, and the intensity of conflict. Predictive logistics involves the use of data analytics and artificial intelligence to anticipate and prevent equipment failures and supply shortages before they occur. Predictive logistics allows us to address the challenges of balancing mass and precision, dispersion and concentration, speed and stamina, and forecasting and reporting. Autonomous ground and aerial distribution technologies will revolutionize battlefield logistics, increase throughput efficiency, and improve the risk to force. Finally, demand reduction seeks to limit the overall requirement for sustainment in a resource-constrained, non-permissive environment.

One key, but not novel, aspect of our sustainment modernization is the integration of logistics with other warfighting functions, namely maneuver, fires, and protection. This integration has been enhanced through the work of the Contested Logistics cross functional teams (CFT), which is furthering our efforts to develop and integrate technologies to support logistics operations in a contested environment.

Another important aspect of sustainment modernization is the need for continuous experimentation. The Army is establishing a culture of experimentation and innovation that can rapidly respond to changing threats and requirements. Most of you have heard of Project Convergence or our very own Sustainment Modernization Experiment (or SMEX). What we now know as TIC or Transformation in Contact, includes the use of experimentation to test and evaluate new organizational designs, technologies, and concepts, as well as the integration of logistics with other warfighting functions in Brigade's and Division's across our Army. I hope you know that we are all ears if you have a capability with a high-tech readiness level that you want us to experiment with.

The first day of the event started with six panels discussing various aspects of contested logistics, and the necessity to link the sensor to the shooter to the sustainer. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the key takeaways. The first panel emphasized the need for a holistic approach to modernization that includes people, processes, data, and technology. The second panel emphasized the importance of agility, adaptability, and innovation in a contested logistics environment. The third panel talked about the Army's new approach to continuous experimentation to develop and field new capabilities to the warfighter at a much quicker pace. The Transportation, Quartermaster, and Ordnance Branch panels emphasized the importance of mobility, precision sustainment, demand reduction, as well as simplicity, survivability, and repairability. They all highlighted that emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, autonomous aerial and ground systems, and advanced manufacturing will and must play a critical role on the future battlefield.

All the panels emphasized the importance of collaborating with our industry partners every day – not just one week out of the year. Warfighting is a team sport and tackling hard sustainment problems for our Army must be a team sport too. We cannot do it alone, and we need the support of all of you to ensure that we have the technology and capabilities required to succeed during large scale ground combat operations whether on land or in a maritime environment.

During day two of our event, we discussed five of our problem sets. The Contested Logistics-Cross Functional Team detailed our requirements for "Autonomous Distribution" followed by our Army Futures

Command partners, who discussed “Renewable & Distributed Energy Generation and Storage”. After lunch, we deep dived “Advanced Manufacturing” with the Ordnance Team, “Water at the Point Need” with the Quartermaster team, and closed the day out with “Enhancing our EOD Training Capabilities”. These are all validated Army capability gaps that we are eager to collaborate with you on and move forward with Small Business Innovation Research awards later this fall.

Thank you once again for your interest in our Contested Logistics Industry Week event, and we all look forward to hearing your insights and ideas – whether by email, on a phone call or a Teams session, at AUSA next month, at a future engagement with our team, or finally, at our next Industry Week next spring. We’re all eager to work together to ensure our Army is ready to meet the challenges of sustaining Large Scale Ground Combat operations.

Thank you.

MG Michelle K. Donahue