



Publication Fact Sheet

Contested Logistics: Sustaining the Pacific War

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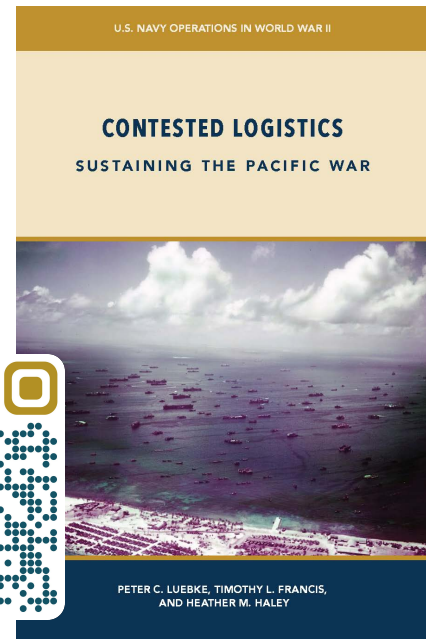
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About the Book

Before World War II, the U.S. Navy relied on an ad hoc system to manage supply and logistical support for deployed ships. The scale and geography of the war in the Pacific forced the Navy to conceptualize how to request, acquire, and distribute the fuel, ammunition, and supplies.

This publication explores the ways in which the Navy struggled to supply the South Pacific during the Guadalcanal campaign and was later unable to adequately plan and track logistics requirements. In response, the Navy adopted a decentralized, inefficient, mass distribution concept of forward logistics, which proved just adequate enough to support late war amphibious campaigns. Post-war, the Navy sought to pass on the lesson that integrated and efficient logistics was the only way forward.

These processes, both in their planned form and actual operation, reveal two significant themes: (1) logistics is line work; and (2) logistics preparations and planning ahead of time are critical for the successful execution of operations, without which the Navy struggled to supply forward-deployed personnel.

About the Authors

PETER C. LUEBKE, is a historian at the Naval History and Heritage Command. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He is editor or co-editor of several NHC publications, including the forthcoming, *The U.S. Navy and Innovation: 20th-Century Case Studies*.

TIMOTHY L. FRANCIS, is senior advisory historian at the Naval History and Heritage Command and a senior chief petty officer in the Navy Reserve. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. His most recent publication, with Peter Luebke and Shawn Woodford, is *Richmond Kelly Turner and Planning the Pacific War, 1940–1945* (NHC, 2022).

HEATHER M. HALEY, is a historian at the Naval History and Heritage Command. She earned her Ph.D. and public history certification from Auburn University in 2021. She is currently working on an NHC publication centered on radio and radar technology use during the Guadalcanal campaign.