

Welcome to the twenty fifth lesson of the DoD Supply Chain Fundamentals module, Characteristics of the "Last Tactical Mile" .

In this lesson you will learn to recognize characteristics of the "last tactical mile".

You will be given an opportunity to test out of this lesson. If you pass the pre-test questions, you can decide to continue, or skip to the next lesson.

Which of the following is a characteristic of the "Last Tactical Mile?"

- A The warfighter develops a "just-in-case" mentality about supplies >
- B Supply pipeline's diameter gets smaller as it gets longer >
- C Supply pipeline's diameter gets larger as it gets longer >
- D Too many distribution points frequently develop >

Feedback:

The correct answer is "Supply pipeline's diameter gets smaller as it gets longer."

As a member of the DoD supply chain, you are already critically aware of how your work affects the lives of warfighters in distant combat areas. By gaining an appreciation for the characteristics and problems associated with supplying warfighters in the "last tactical mile," close to the edge of battle, you may be able to help find solutions that ultimately save lives.

This next lesson describes these characteristics.

Learning Objective

- Recognize characteristics of the "last tactical mile."

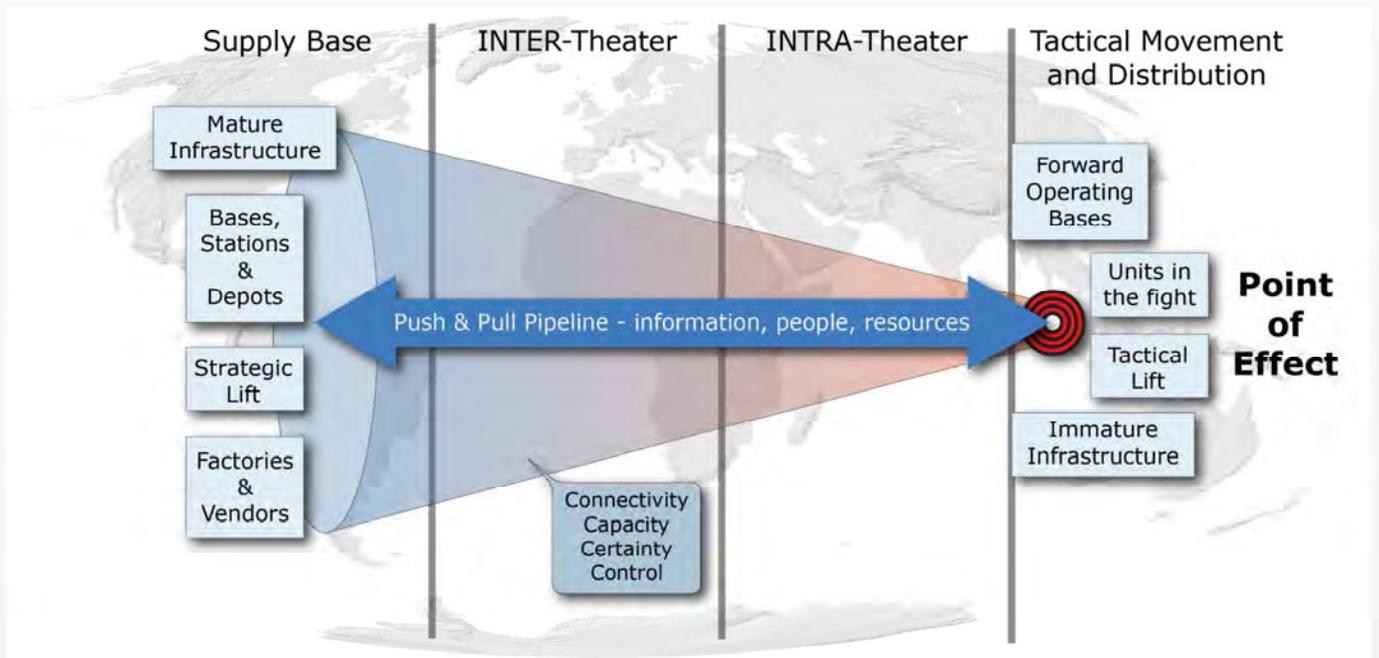
In earlier lessons, you learned many characteristics of supply chains. The descriptions assumed you had adequate lift and transport assets, and a secure environment for completing supply requests. For this next lesson, try to personally recall or imagine a work area where you are very close to a fighting zone, and it is not always physically secure. Try to recall the times in your past work experience when it was critical to quickly fulfill supply requests, and you had meager resources available to transport and distribute the supplies.

With that mental picture in your mind, proceed through the lesson, and read about characteristics of the "last tactical mile" in the DoD supply chain.

The "Last Tactical Mile" is defined as "the perceived gap between national intelligence systems and battlefield operations."

Another definition for Last Tactical Mile might be "the three-dimensional segment of the global battlespace closest to the fight."

From a logistician's perspective, the Last Tactical Mile is "where strategic distribution ends and tactical distribution begins; from the ship, port or airfield and forward."



The illustration of "a pipe" (Last Tactical Mile Illustration) to represent lines of support may be useful in picturing the challenges posed by operations in the last tactical mile. As the pipe carries support forward to the warfighter, its diameter gets smaller as it gets longer. At the big end, where lift is plentiful and communications and transportation infrastructure is mature, manufacturers and vendors are able to support their customers efficiently, employing a "Just-in-Time" logistics strategy. But on a distant beach, port or airfield, the pipe is much smaller. With respect to movement of supplies, there is a sudden bottleneck as transportation capacity is diminished. Planes and ships can haul virtually anything, but only so far. Units in the fight have to carry what they need in their trucks or on their backs. They face a "Just-in-Time" versus "Just-in-Case" dilemma.

Can you think of other industries/companies/government organizations that would have similar difficulties with the last tactical mile?

Characteristics of the "Last Tactical Mile:"

- "where strategic distribution ends and tactical distribution begins"
- A supply pipeline where the diameter gets smaller as it gets longer
- Planes and ships are limited how far they can transport supplies. Units must personally carry what they need to the fight.

Which of the following is a characteristic of the "Last Tactical Mile?"

- A Units must personally carry what they need to the fight >
- B Where tactical distribution ends and strategic distribution begins >
- C Bottlenecks frequently occur at the supply base shipping point >
- D Supply pipeline diameter gets larger as it gets longer >

Feedback:

The correct answer is, "Units must personally carry what they need to the fight." The other alternatives are misleading versions of the correct characteristics.

[← Back](#)

Post-Test Introduction

[Next >](#)

You have completed the learning portion of the Characteristics of the "Last Tacticle Mile" lesson. Next you will be given three attempts to demonstrate mastery of the learning objective.

If you fail all three attempts, you can still progress to the remaining lessons and graduate; however, you are encouraged to restudy the lesson to increase your understanding of the content.

[← Back](#)

[🏠 Home](#)

[i Print](#)

[Next >](#)

Which of the following is a characteristic of the "Last Tactical Mile?"

- A Supply pipeline diameter gets larger as it gets longer
- B "Where strategic distribution ends and tactical distribution begins"
- C Prevailing "just-in-case" mentality
- D "Where national intelligence systems end and battlefield operations begin"

Feedback:

The correct answer is, "Where strategic distribution ends and tactical distribution begins." This is your first attempt. You will be given two more chances. [Review This Lesson](#)

Which of the following is a characteristic of the "Last Tactical Mile?"

- A Supply pipeline diameter gets larger as it gets longer
- B A supply pipeline where the diameter gets smaller as it gets longer
- C Too many distribution points
- D Lift is plentiful and communications is mature

Feedback:

The correct answer is, "A supply pipeline where the diameter gets smaller as it gets longer." This is your second attempt. You will be given one more chance. [Review This Lesson](#)

Which of the following is a characteristic of the "Last Tactical Mile?"

- A Units must personally carry what they need to the fight
- B Where tactical distribution ends and strategic distribution begins
- C Bottlenecks frequently occur at the supply base shipping point
- D Too many distribution points

Feedback:

The correct answer is, "Units must personally carry what they need to the fight." This was your third and final attempt, but you will be allowed to progress to other lessons and graduate. [Review This Lesson](#)

[← Back](#)

Summary

[Next >](#)

In this lesson, you learned about the characteristics of the "Last Tactical Mile." Here are some important points to remember about the characteristics; units must carry what they need to the fight, and a supply pipeline's diameter shrinks as it gets longer.

[← Back](#)

[🏠 Home](#)

[🖨️ Print](#)

[Next >](#)

Can you recall from a previous lesson which of the following is a characteristic of selecting a good SCOR metric?

A Promotes good, open interpretations [▶](#)

B Depicts a strategy [▶](#)

C Serves as a qualitative attribute [▶](#)

D Linked to responsibility [▶](#)

Feedback:

The answer is "Linked to responsibility. "

You have completed the content for this lesson.

To continue, select another lesson from the Table of Contents on the left.

If you have closed or hidden the Table of Contents, click the Show TOC button at the top in the Atlas navigation bar.