

## Systems Logistics Integrated Management -- a Unified Multidimensional Logistics Vision

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The management skills and perspective needed to meet challenges anticipated in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century include a cross-functional, multidimensional, life cycle approach, emphasizing full integration of all enterprise infrastructure elements—technology, processes, and people. One existing management specialty discipline capable of providing the vision to meet all these needs is logistics—not the narrow transportation and distribution nor the purely operational logistics perspectives, but a comprehensive integrated logistics perspective. Logistics methodology synthesizes acquisition theory; operations theory, supply chain management theory, information technology theory and uses related models, tools, techniques, and practices. The multi-dimensional model used by logisticians provides for the initial planning, funding, and controlling activities assuring consumers and constituents receive products and service meeting all system requirements, including supportability and sustainability throughout their life cycles. No longer can business enterprises and government agencies continue to use simple vertically or horizontally integrated models for organizational infrastructure. Emerging system requirements of flexibility, adaptability, agility, and reconstitutability need a multi-dimensional model capable of juggling a variety of issues and considerations simultaneously.

Characteristics differentiating a profession from a technical occupation include a) use of specific skills based on theoretical knowledge; b) prolonged and specialized education and training; c) demonstrated professional competence validated through examinations; d) a code of conduct; e) performance of a service for the public good; and f) a professional association which organizes its members. This paper presents the initial discussion of a macro-level multi-dimensional theoretical framework to embrace all logistic practice specializations through a unified infrastructure. This new logistics vision integrates core logistics competencies with considerations of entity life-cycles stages (design, manufacturing, customer / system support, retirement, and disposal) and all management levels--operational through strategic, to support a variety of additional dimensions such as application and or functional focuses, geographic scope, etc. An future-oriented discussion with attendees will follow the explanation of the framework.