

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

**SPACE FORCE INSTRUCTION
13-602V1**



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***Nuclear, Space, Missile, or Command and
Control Operations***

***READY SPACECREW PROGRAM,
TRAINING***

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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Chapter 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Overview. This SPFI outlines the process to gain and maintain Combat Mission Ready (CMR) certification. The Ready Spacecrew Program (RSP) is the USSF's overarching framework that ensures Operational Forces presented to Combatant Commands (CCMD) are at the highest level of readiness. RSP training begins after the completion of Initial Skills Training (IST) and continues throughout an individual's operational tour.

1.2. RSP Applicability. This volume applies to Guardian Space, Cyber, and Intelligence Operational Forces to meet CMR requirements. Operational Forces are forces that are not Institutional Forces IAW Title 10 USC 9013(b). Operational Forces are either service retained (and potentially available for allocation to a CCMD) or assigned to a CCMD. Operational Forces can be deployed or Employed in Place (EiP).

1.3. Program Goals and Objective. The RSP objective is to certify individuals for operations, enhance their knowledge, and warfighting readiness capability throughout the continuum of conflict. RSP includes Qualification Training (QT), Advanced Training (AT), and Recurring Training (RT).

1.3.1. The purpose of RSP training is to provide guidance on achieving and maintaining CMR certification.

1.3.2. All CMR personnel must have the appropriate skills and knowledge to perform operational duties IAW their assigned mission requirements. These skills and knowledge are obtained through a standardized and structured training program and measured by an evaluation.

1.4. Waivers. Units will follow the applicable waiver authority at the level identified for their chain of command. Submit waiver requests using DAF Form 679. Waiver requests will be routed through the chain of command to the appropriate tier waiver approval authority or to the publication OPR for non-tiered compliance items. Waivers that affect total force missions or procedures will include affected offices for coordination. Waivers routed to HQ S3/4/7 must be submitted via Enterprise Task Management Software Solution (ETMS2) to SF/S7O. For more information, reference DAFMAN 90-161, *Publishing Processes and Procedures*.

1.4.1. *Tier 0 (T-0)*—Requirements external to DAF; *T-0* is not used in this document.

1.4.2. *Tier 1 (T-1)*—Field Command Commander (FLDCOM/CC) (may delegate no lower than the appropriate FLDCOM Director) with coordination of the publication's Approving Official. SF/S3/4/7 is the Publication Approving Official for this instruction.

1.4.3. *Tier 2 (T-2)*—FLDCOM/CC or equivalent (delegable no lower than the first general officer in the chain of command moving upward from the unit seeking relief from the requirement).

1.4.4. *Tier 3 (T-3)*—The Delta Commander (DEL/CC), equivalent or higher echelon if applicable (delegable no lower than Squadron/CC or equivalent).

Chapter 2

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. Scope. Higher Headquarters (HHQ) includes Headquarters Space Force (HQ USSF) and Field Commands (FLDCOMs). The term Squadron is used synonymously with Detachment as appropriate. In addition to the paragraphs below, reference SPFGM2024-13-602V2 for additional roles and responsibilities regarding the RSP standardization and evaluation.

2.2. Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Operations (SF/S3/4/7). The SF S3/4/7 is the publication authority for this instruction and has overall responsibility for the RSP. SF S3/4/7 delegates OPR for this instruction to SF/S7O. S3/4/7 accomplishes the following:

2.2.1. Provides oversight on the RSP.

2.2.2. Develops guidance and sets direction on the conduct and execution of the RSP, as well as resolve conflicts between FLDCOMs.

2.2.3. Maintains insight of all FLDCOM-developed guidance documents that affect space operations, operations readiness, operational training, and Stan/Eval.

2.3. Director, Readiness, Training and Exercises (SF/S7O). Serves as the publication authority and OPR for RSP– Training, Standardization & Evaluation policy. Provides and coordinates training policy and guidance to FLDCOMs and establishes a service-level training records system (Patriot Excalibur (PEX)).

2.4. Service Components. Service components will

2.4.1. Establish a training program to qualify/certify personnel that are not generated by Service Force Providers.

2.4.2. Support readiness training for assigned and allocated forces when possible.

2.4.3. Provide mission requirements to Service Force Providers.

2.5. Combat Forces Command (CFC). CFC will:

2.5.1. Develop a CMR certification program and codify the program in a CFC Supplement to this instruction. **(T-1)**

2.5.2. Develop a process to document and prioritize training requirements and codify the process in a CFC Supplement to this instruction. **(T-1)**

2.5.3. Codify a process to track how Operational Forces gain positional experience in their CMR roles and add it as a supplement to this instruction. **(T-1)**

2.5.4. Coordinate with Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM) and Space Systems Command (SSC)/System Delta 81 (SYD 81) on Operational Test and Training Infrastructure (OTTI) IAW OTTI guidance.

2.5.5. Coordinate with STARCOM on use and scheduling of STARCOM controlled training resources. **(T-1)**

2.5.6. Provide oversight of the Delta and Squadron RSP training IAW this instruction. Develop supplemental policy and guidance as needed. **(T-1)**

- 2.5.7. Review/coordinate/approve waivers to this instruction IAW **paragraph 1.3. (T-1)**
- 2.5.8. Ensure CFC subordinate units formally publish (on e-Pubs) supplements for each operationally accepted system or capability. **(T-1)**
- 2.5.9. Develop a process to maintain oversight of all training requirements/products and codify the process in a CFC Supplement to this instruction. **(T-1)**
- 2.5.10. Develop an RSP Training records management process using PEX IAW **Chapter 7.**
- 2.5.11. Ensure Deltas comply with HHQ instructions.
- 2.5.12. Maintain an instructor qualification process that supports the RSP to include appointing service retained and CMR instructors.
- 2.5.13. Ensure Commanders, Deputy Commander's, Senior Enlisted Leaders, and Delta Staff audit the RSP to ensure quality control of the course content.
- 2.5.14. Ensure units maintain a repository of all training products listed in **Chapter 5.**
- 2.5.15. Establish Master Task List (MTL) requirements.
- 2.5.16. Establish Lesson Plan, Scripts, and Test requirements.
- 2.5.17. Develop a process to ensure new and changed procedures are updated and documented.

2.6. Space Systems Command (SSC). Deliver training systems for all systems delivered CFC units.

2.7. Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM). STARCOM will:

- 2.7.1. Provide equipment and facilities where units practice unit, multi-unit, and multi-domain warfare to support a combined arms fight.
- 2.7.2. Provide realistic, threat-informed training via range, aggressor, and combat replication capabilities that meet CMR requirements.

2.8. Space Base Delta Commander. Space Base Delta CCs will provide base services to support RSP Training needs and ensure support agreements (e.g. Host-Tenant Support Agreements, Memorandums of Understanding, Memorandums of Agreement) remain current IAW Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 4000.19, *Support Agreements*. **(T-1)**

2.9. Instructor. Qualified instructors may train in any position in which they are CMR certified. Unit specific supplements may detail additional requirements. Instructors will:

- 2.9.1. Coordinate courseware, lesson plan/script development, student record keeping, QT, and training system scheduling. **(T-2)**
- 2.9.2. Perform instructor responsibilities while continuing to accomplish primary job responsibilities.
- 2.9.3. Maintain instructor qualification.

2.10. Individual Members. Individual members are responsible for maintaining training currency IAW with this instruction and their unit specific supplements. Also, they are responsible for ensuring training documentation is accurate and comprehensive.

Chapter 3

COMBAT MISSION READY (CMR) TRAINING

3.1. Overview. CMR is a certification given to an individual that can perform all MTL tasks in the respective position in the employment of a weapon system/capability to the standards established without supervision and are certified by the unit commander. CMR is obtained upon successfully completing all required QT, AT, knowledge and/or evaluations, and documentation. Initial CMR certification is accomplished prior to member entering the Space Force Generation (SPAFORGEN) cycle.

3.2. Qualification Training (QT).

3.2.1. Purpose. QT is training required to perform operational tasks and is designed to initially qualify an individual towards CMR certification in a specific position. It is the basic level of training needed to operate a weapon system/capability adhering to established standards and/or procedures in an assigned position. Individuals required to be CMR will have the required skills and knowledge to perform operational duties IAW their assigned mission requirements. QT focuses on mission area tasks, weapon system/capability application and mechanics, and duty position-specific technical training.

3.2.1.1. QT requirements are informed by the Unit/CC.

3.2.1.2. IST (or joint/allied equivalent) will be complete prior to receiving QT.

3.2.2. Objectives. QT is used to qualify individual members for an assigned position on a weapon system/capability.

3.2.2.1. QT will be conducted via classroom instruction in combination with hands-on training conducted on systems that mirror the design and function of the weapon system/capability. **(T-1)**

3.2.2.2. If a presented system is required for QT, the Unit/CC must first obtain an approved waiver to this requirement. **(T-1)**

3.2.2.3. Students will be supervised by a qualified instructor when conducting training on the weapon system/capability. **(T-1)**

3.2.2.4. FLDCOM and Delta supplements to this instruction may detail additional CMR maintenance training requirements post-initial CMR certification.

3.2.2.5. Ensure QT is updated to include new or changed tasks.

3.3. Advanced Training (AT).

3.3.1. Purpose. AT follows QT for individuals to achieve CMR. It emphasizes operational proficiency to rapidly identify potential adversarial activities, diagnose related system issues or environmental impacts, and decisively employ fix actions. It enables comprehension of the specifics of the threat and the threat's employment doctrine and tactics, and the Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) to threat-react/threat-defeat via combat performance of weapon system(s)/capabilities. Operational forces should be able to rapidly respond to novel situations presented under combat conditions and successfully operate in any environment.

3.3.2. Objectives. The objective of the AT program is to prepare operational forces with the knowledge and experience to execute weapon system/capability procedures and evolving tactics to overcome adversary threat systems and actions in any environment. Additionally, AT will prepare operational forces with knowledge and experience to understand non-adversary related threats, such as environmental impacts to space systems and unintentional blue-on-blue and grey-on-blue interference.

3.3.2.1. Units should limit AT in scope to strictly focus on specific and realistic threats or vulnerabilities.

3.3.2.2. AT will evolve as capabilities evolve, TTPs are validated, threats develop, or mission requirements change.

3.4. CMR Certification. CMR certification is obtained upon successfully completing all required QT, AT, evaluations, and Unit Commander certification. **(T-1)** These skills and knowledge are obtained through a standardized and structured training program and will be measured by a knowledge and/or performance test based on the proficiency requirements of the MTL and an evaluation to determine the effectiveness of training.

Chapter 4

MAINTAINING CMR

4.1. Overview. CMR is maintained following initial certification by completing RT (which includes QT and AT tasks), Difference Training (DT), meeting all currency requirements, required evaluations, and documentation in PEX.

4.2. Recurring Training (RT).

4.2.1. Purpose. RT is required for individuals to maintain proficiency in certain tasks for their assigned position at their required experience level. RT tasks are not new tasks. They are designated QT and AT tasks from the MTL that require training reinforcement throughout the year as outlined in the Plan of Instruction (POI).

4.2.2. Objectives. Ensure individuals maintain proficiency (based on the MTL Proficiency Code) in those tasks designated in the POI for the crewmember's assigned position and experience level. Ensure the performance of the unit's assigned mission is not compromised due to operator error and ensure safe operations of the system and associated equipment.

4.2.3. Execution.

4.2.3.1. RT tasks may be completed by any means available but must be led by a qualified instructor.

4.2.3.2. AT scenarios may test the member's ability to operate beyond their limits, sometimes to failure. Mission failure in an AT scenario is not a reason to recommend corrective action. There is an expectation that the members will be pushed beyond their limits, sometimes to failure. Instructors should balance a member's performance against the intentionally complex nature of a scenario when recommending additional training.

4.3. Difference Training (DT). DT is administered for new or changed procedures, hardware, or software updates.

4.3.1. DT will incorporate training on tasks that have recently changed, new TTPs, Technical Order changes, or software updates to the weapon system/capability.

4.3.2. Tailor DT on the operational impacts of the new or changed procedures compared to legacy procedures.

4.3.3. Administer changes directly affecting mission accomplishment or safety through DT to all personnel before being assigned to a CCMD (e.g., new task, upgraded proficiency level, etc.).

4.3.4. Ensure new tasks captured in DT are added to the MTL.

4.4. Currency. Currency is the minimum required frequency needed to perform a specific task to achieve/maintain currency in that task within an established timeframe. Currency reinforces baseline proficiency and helps prevent performance atrophy. Lookback is a continuous process used to assess and proactively manage currency requirements.

4.5. Currency Tasks. MTLs specify tasks that require currency.

4.5.1. Not all tasks require currency. Tasks that are a subset of more comprehensive mission tasks should be identified as tasks requiring currency only if they need more frequent exposure than the overall task.

4.5.2. Currency requirements vary by position, experience level, and status (e.g. CMR). Inexperienced (INEXP) members require more frequent exposure to tasks, whereas Experienced (EXP) and Highly Experienced (HEXP) individuals require less frequent exposure to remain proficient.

4.6. Currency Period. The currency period is the timeframe for which currency requirements are defined. MTLs will define the currency cycle.

4.7. Currency Tracking. Track an individual's exposure to currency tasks. Unit supplements will identify the approved methods of task exposure. CMR personnel do not require instructor supervision to count a task toward currency.

4.7.1. For individuals certified in more than one operational position, currency is determined independently; they may be current in one position and non-current in another.

4.7.2. Units may count task exposure common to both positions if the method and level of exposure meet the required criteria.

4.8. Requirements. Document decisions to retain or regress an individual's status following the failure of the individual to meet required standards in PEX.

4.8.1. Non-Combat Mission Ready (N-CMR) status is not to be used as a punitive action. Individuals will be N-CMR if they do not meet the requirements outlined in this chapter or the unit commander determines the member no longer meets standards for their position or as directed per the unit commander.

4.8.2. Individuals may transition from N-CMR to CMR immediately upon meeting CMR criteria. Document return to CMR in PEX.

Chapter 5

TRAINING PRODUCTS

5.1. Overview. The training products outlined in this chapter provide the overall framework for the preparation and execution of unit training. Unit commanders will develop and maintain these products to outline the unit's RSP training requirements. Training products must account for mission objectives, goals, inbound and outbound personnel, and anticipated upgrades.

5.2. Plan of Instruction (POI). The POI is a planned methodology on what (tasks), frequency (how many times the task is trained), and how (Knowledge (K), Performance (P), Both (B)) training will be delivered to the operator to ensure tasks requiring RT are trained. Each unit will develop, review, and update the POI according to mission requirements. **(T-2)**

5.3. Master Task List (MTL). The MTL is a comprehensive list (100%) of all tasks performed. It should include tasks required for deployment/EiP and/or unit type code requirements. The MTL defines at minimum unclassified Task/Sub-Task ID, Task/Sub-Task name, task type (QT, AT), identification for critical tasks, Certification/Duty Position, proficiency code, Timing Standard, Proficiency standard, frequency and experience level.

5.4. Lesson Plans/Scripts. Lesson plans/scripts are required for all training tasks and will be developed IAW Department of the Air Force Handbook (DAFH) 36-2675, *Information for Designers of Instructional Systems*. **(T-2)** Lesson plans are written documents that guide an instructor through the lesson presentation. Scripts are written instructions that guide an instructor through performance-based training scenarios.

5.5. Tests. From an instructor perspective, tests help assess a student's understanding of knowledge or skills, identify gaps in student knowledge and teaching methods, and provide an objective measurement. From a student perspective, tests help demonstrate learning, improve memory, identify strengths/weaknesses, and develop skills. Study guides can be used and are encouraged to prepare students for tests.

Chapter 6

EXPERIENCE LEVELS

6.1. Overview. The purpose of experience levels is to manage the force by identifying readiness for upgrades and ensuring an appropriate mix of experience. Experience levels enable tailored training for mission-specific skill sets. They are based on demonstrated performance and length of time the member has performed space operations for a particular weapon-system.

6.1.1. Units will determine and document a member's experience level changes in PEX.

6.1.2. Unit Commanders will re-designate an individual's experience level if the member fails to maintain the skills required to be experienced or when initially qualified in a new operational position.

Chapter 7

DOCUMENTATION

7.1. Overview. The administration of the RSP requires accurate and standardized documentation.

7.2. Requirements. Document RSP requirements in PEX.

7.2.1. Individuals are responsible for ensuring all documentation is accurate and comprehensive. Units will maintain PEX Records. PEX Records will move with the individual to all subsequent duty assignments. **(T-2)**

7.2.2. Unit/CCs will validate the accuracy of all RSP documentation. **(T-2)**

7.2.3. Unit/CCs will document training delays, interruptions, and issues encountered during training events that result in extended CMR certification timelines for spacecrew members. **(T-2)**

7.2.4. All approved waivers. **(T-2)**

7.2.5. All PEX documentation will be unclassified and will reference only the classification source (e.g., Task S01 – Knowledge of Space – Reference: Delta Lesson Plans).

DOUGLAS A. SCHIESS, Lt Gen, USSF
Deputy Chief of Space Operations
for Operations

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

- AFI 13-602V2_SPFGM2025-13-01, *Spacecrew Standardization and Evaluation Program*, 24 November 2025
- AFI 13-602 Volume 3, *Spacecrew Operations*, 6 September 2019
- AFI 33-322_DAFGM2025-01, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 26 June 2025
- DAFH 36-2675, *Information for Designers of Instructional Systems*, 15 April 2022
- DAFMAN 14-401, *Intelligence Analysis and Targeting Tradecraft/Data Standards*, 26 May 2021
- DAFMAN 36-2689, *Training Program*, 31 March 2023
- DAFMAN 90-161, *Publishing Processes and Procedures*, 18 October 2023
- DAFPD 10-2, *Readiness*, 20 May 2021
- DAFPD 13-6, *Space Policy*, 5 December 2023
- DoDI 5400.11, *DoD Privacy and Civil Liberties Program*, 29 January 2019
- SPFI 10-201_SPFGM2025-01, *Force Readiness Reporting*, 31 July 2025
- SPFI 14-402, *Intelligence Mission, Roles, Responsibilities, and Program Management*, 9 February 2026
- SPFGM 2025-10-02, *Operations Planning and Execution*, 11 June 2025

Abbreviations and Acronyms

- AFI**—Air Force Instruction
- AT**—Advanced Training
- CC**—Commander
- CCMD**—Combatant Command
- CFC**—Combat Forces Command
- CMR**—Combat Mission Ready
- CSO**—Chief of Space Operations
- DAF**—Department of the Air Force
- DAFGM**—Department of the Air Force Guidance Memorandum
- DAFH**—Department of the Air Force Handbook
- DAFI**—Department of the Air Force Instruction
- DAFMAN**—Department of the Air Force Manual

DAFPD—Department of the Air Force Policy Directive

EiP—Employed in Place

FLDCOM—Field Command

GM—Guidance Memorandum

HQ—Headquarters

HHQ—Higher Headquarters

IST—Initial Skills Training

MTL—Master Task List

N-CMR—Non-Combat Mission Ready

OPR—Office of Primary Responsibility

OTTI—Operational Test and Training Infrastructure

PEX—Patriot Excalibur

POI—Plan of Instruction

RSP—Ready Spacecrew Program

RT—Recurring Training

SSC—Space Systems Command

STARCOM—Space Training and Readiness Command

TTPs—Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures

TPL—Threat Priorities List

Terms

Advanced Training (AT)—Threat and environment-informed training designed to provide the knowledge, skills, and experience needed to execute weapon system/capability procedures and tactics above and beyond benign operating conditions. AT emphasizes operational proficiency to rapidly identify potential adversarial activities, diagnose system issues or environmental impacts, and decisively employ fix actions. AT is comprised of an evolving and iterative set of training requirements that cultivates in-depth knowledge of assigned space systems and capabilities, as well as an increased understanding of adversary capabilities.

Certification—Procedure used to formally document competency for a specific position. For the RSP, CMR is the only certification one can achieve.

Combat Mission Ready (CMR)—CMR is a certification given to a spacecrew member that can perform all MTL tasks in the respective position to the standards established without supervision and is certified by the Unit Commander.

Critical Task—Tasks that if not performed correctly, lead directly to mission failure.

Currency—The minimum required frequency needed to perform a specific task to achieve/maintain knowledge in that task within an established timeframe.

Difference Training (DT)—Training for new or changed procedures, hardware, or software updates when requalification training is not required.

Evaluation—A formal measurement of proficiency which qualifies an individual to perform the duties of a particular position in a specific weapon system/capability.

Initial Skills Training (IST)—STARCOM’s collection of required tech school courses that focus on foundational career-field knowledge and culminates in the award of a Space Force Specialty Code.

Institutional Force—Those forces assigned to organizations responsible to carry out the SecAF Title 10 functions at the Space Force level (i.e., organize, train, equip, recruit, supply, etc.). Although these organizations as a whole do not represent a warfighting capability, the members assigned to these organizations can be deployed if the deployment does not break USSF mission requirements.

Instructor—Individual within a unit who is certified to perform instructional duties on the performance of MTL tasks per this instruction.

Instructor Qualification—Process for an individual to perform instructor duties. Qualification is awarded by the unit commander and documented in PEX.

Lookback—A continuous process used to assess and proactively manage currency requirements..

Master Task List (MTL)—A comprehensive list (100%) of all tasks performed by a spacecrew member. Should include tasks required for deployment and/or unit type code requirements. The MTL defines at minimum unclassified Task/Sub-Task ID, Task/Sub-Task name, task type (TO, QT, AT), identification for critical tasks, Certification/Duty Position, proficiency code, Timing Standard, Proficiency standard, frequency and experience level.

Non-Combat Mission Ready (N-CMR)—N-CMR is an indication that a spacecrew member is not ready and available for presentation.

Operational Force—Forces that are not Institutional Forces IAW Title 10 USC 9013(b). Operational Forces are either service retained (and potentially available for allocation to a CCMD) or assigned to a CCMD. Operational Forces can be deployed or Employed in Place (EiP).

Plan of Instruction (POI)—A qualitative course control document designed for use primarily within a school for course planning, organization, and operation. Generally, criterion objectives, duration of instruction, support materials, and guidance factors are listed for every block of instruction within a course.

Procedure—Standard, detailed steps that prescribe how to perform tasks required to accomplish an objective; the “how” of TTPs.

Proficiency—The measure of the quality of task completion. An individual is proficient when they can perform tasks at the minimum acceptable levels of speed, accuracy, and safety.

Qualification—The process in which an individual attains the knowledge, skills, and proficiency needed to perform duties or roles to a prescribed standard. Qualification applies to any positional upgrade that is beyond an individual’s CMR certification (e.g., instructor and evaluator).

Qualification Training (QT)—QT is weapon system/capability training required to perform operational tasks in support of the unit’s combat mission and is designed to initially qualify for CMR status.

Ready Spacecrew Program (RSP)—The USSF’s overarching combat readiness framework that allows for the implementation of training, standardization and evaluation, tactics, techniques, and procedures.

Recurring Training (RT)—RT, which includes QT and AT tasks, is training that focuses on understanding the mechanics, procedures, and capabilities of the assigned space system IAW the POI.

Service Retained—Service retained forces are those operational forces not assigned to a CCMD that remain assigned to the Secretary of the Military Department and are identified on the “Forces For” memorandum.

Space Operations—Operations impacting or directly utilizing space- and ground-based capabilities to enhance the potential effects for the United States and multinational partners.

Spacecrew—A collection of Guardian Space, Cyber, and Intelligence members fulfilling CMR duties.

Standardization—Interrelated efforts conducted at the FLDCOM, Delta, and Squadron levels to develop, adopt, use and maintain policy, procedures, or equipment similar in design or operational use philosophy and/or specifics. The goal is to streamline training, evaluation, and operating procedures to ensure the unit force maximizes mission effectiveness using standardized TTPs.

Task—An independent unit of work selected to reflect mission needs.

Training—A set of events or activities presented in a structured or planned manner, through one or more media, for the attainment and retention of knowledge, skills, abilities, or attitudes required to meet job performance requirements.

Tactic—The employment and ordered arrangement of forces in relation to each other.

Technique—A non-prescriptive method to perform missions, functions, or tasks; the “what” of a TTP.

Weapon System—A combination of one or more weapons with all related equipment, materials, services, personnel, and means of delivery and deployment (if applicable) required for self-sufficiency.