



US European Command



Hybrid Airship for Heavy Lift Conference

31 March 2010

This briefing is **UNCLASSIFIED**



Agenda

- Military Experience with Airships
- EUCOM Heavy Lift Shortfalls
- Impact on Missions
- Potential Solutions/ Way Ahead

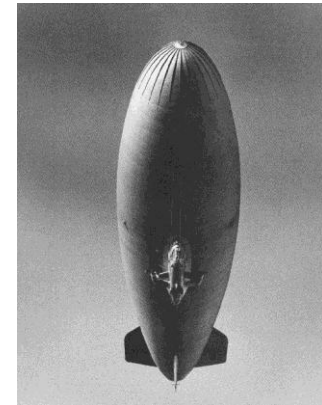


Prior Military Experience

- World War I, airships were utilized for:
 - Observation
 - Convoy Escort
 - Long Range Bombing



- World War II era, utilization was again:
 - Observation
 - Convoy Escort



- Post Korean War
 - Early Warning (Radar Pickets)



EUCOM Requirement

- U.S. strategic-lift system has limited ability to quickly deliver forces and support to undeveloped areas
- EUCOM has a requirement for Point-Of-Need-Delivery (POND) to distant locations with austere infrastructure
- We believe that other groups/organizations, both government and non-government, have the same un-met requirement



Impact of Geography

- Austere, inhospitable, and undeveloped environments throughout the AOR
 - The Caucasus, the Baltics, the Balkans, and internal Russia have significant accessibility issues
- Limited number and capacity of air and sea ports restricts value of strategic air and sea lift
- Road & rail networks are inadequate/incompatible
 - Forces reliant on Air Lines of Communications (ALOCs)



Impact on Humanitarian Missions

- As proven once again by operations in Haiti - Immediacy is essential in responding to humanitarian disasters
- Contingency/Humanitarian Assistance (HA) missions can quickly exceed organic airlift capabilities
- US must anticipate that transportation infrastructure will be damaged/destroyed



Landing craft delivering supplies in Haiti



Potential Solutions/Way Ahead

- EUCOM work with government, industry and academia to investigate technical solutions to this long standing requirement

