

Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) Craft

The OAC Subcommittee on USAP Resupply encouraged OPP to become familiar with developments in the LTA arena. Knowing that this field is experiencing a re-birth after many years of stagnation, new technologies may be applied that will result in considerably greater utility than the zeppelins of the past. The US military establishment is now studying LTA in earnest as a potential means to minimize shortcomings in timeliness and volume of materiel deliveries to support military actions. The Subcommittee believes that, in making the LTA community aware of USAP logistics challenges and needs, there exists the potential for NSF to influence the design of such craft. It is hoped that when LTA craft become available, they may be suitable for one or more applications in the USAP logistics chain, including reaching on-continent sites that are now difficult or impossible to reach by aircraft or traverse.

OPP is seeking information and establishing contacts in the LTA community, particularly the US military, where general performance needs are likely to be similar in scope to the USAP.

The images below show Navy, Air Force and Army LTA concepts that are currently under study.



