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PJD's opening remarks.

Moving materials from suppliers to recipients is long standing concern in all sectors, civilian, government, and military. Much of these logistic networks is invisible to customers – until something disruptive happens. The COVID pandemic revealed to many people how complex are the supply chains that they depend on, and how easily supply chain disruptions can cause shortages and price increases.

In the military, logistics networks are a big concern that cannot go invisible. It is important to get fuel and supplies to the operational fronts. The supply networks are in constant flux as routes and depots move, and they are under constant threat from enemies. They are also very expensive to plan and maintain. Every military command has a logistics division to deal with all the complexities of supply operations.

AI has a history of useful tools for planning. These tools are finding their way into logistics, where they help plan routes, specify stockpiles at depots, and project where supplies will be most needed in the near future. They are becoming indispensable for modern supply networks, which are in constant change and evolution.

Harrison Schramm will discuss how modeling and prediction work for supply chain analysis and planning and what AI brings to the picture for rapidly changing logistics networks. He is a Senior Lecturer in the Graduate School of Defense Management. When he was on active duty he was a military assistant professor in the Operations Research Department. He is president-elect of the Analytics Society of INFORMS.