In-Flight Rearming and Refueling Special Topic:

The Department of Defense envisions future scenarios in which runways on their forward operating bases are destroyed shortly after aircraft have been deployed on missions. One approach to keep operations flowing while the runways are being repaired may be to re-arm and refuel aircraft in flight. This materiel transfer may be performed several times before landing at other operating locations with functioning runways. There is interest in transformational research for in-flight rearming and refueling to preserve competitive advantages and maintain operations on the future battlefield.