

DOCTRINE



QUARTERLY 

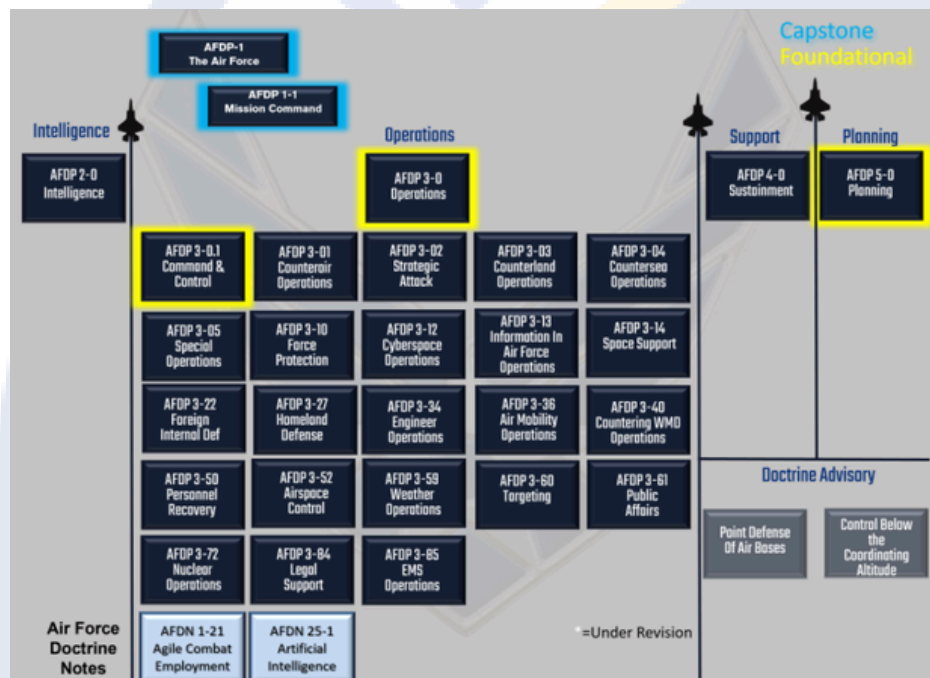
FOUNDATIONAL & OPERATIONAL DOCTRINE

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our doctrine bridges the hard-won lessons from past operations with the strategic demands of future conflict. This newsletter seeks to ensure Airmen receive the latest updates to basic and operational doctrine. We encourage you to take these ideas and talk about them with your teammates so we keep sharpening our warfighting edge together.

DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT'S ROLE

Air Force Doctrine Development Office resides in the LeMay Center. The Air Force Doctrine Development Office is responsible for developing, producing, and sustaining authoritative guidance on the employment of airpower. It shapes Air Force operations, integrates with joint and allied doctrine, and equips warfighters through outreach, education, and advocacy to ensure the effective and credible application of airpower. Air Force doctrine forms the basis for how the Air Force contributes to achieving joint force objectives across the competition continuum. Our office coordinates joint, multinational, and multi-Service doctrine gathering expertise across USAF, Joint Staff, sister services, ALSSA, NATO, and multinational partners to shape coherent doctrinal positions.



Explore the website resources we have available to learn more about Air Force Doctrine.

Place a link in your website's list of resources
<https://www.doctrine.af.mil>

THE PRINCIPLE AGENT FOR AIR FORCE DOCTRINE

The Air Force's foundational Doctrine is developed under the authority of the CSAF. Per DAFPD 10-13, the LeMay Center/CC serves as the CSAF's principal agent for basic and operational doctrine, positioning the LeMay Center/CC directly responsible to the CSAF on matters of doctrine.



Service Doctrine – AF Doctrine Updates

The following publications were approved and released on 1 May 2026.

- ★ **AFDP 2-0, Intelligence**
AFDP 2-0 updates align intelligence doctrine with current national guidance, strengthen production foundations, add mission-data and acquisition support, highlight kill-chain contributions, and streamline appendices into the main text for clarity.
- ★ **AFDP 3-12, Cyberspace Operations**
AFDP 3-12 updates cyberspace doctrine with Cyber Operations Forces (COF) definitions, the Department of Defense Cyber Defense Command (DCDC) transition, JP 3-12 terminology, Air Force organizational changes, cyber leadership roles, Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center (DC3) description, and clarifies JFHQ-C/AFCYBER usage for doctrinal alignment.
- ★ **AFDP 3-13, Information in Air Force Operations**
AFDP 3-13 retitles and reframes doctrine around information in operations, aligning with JP 3-04, clarifying Information Warfare (IW), Operations in the Information Environment (OIE), and information forces terminology, updating Space coordination, sources, and system language for consistency.
- ★ **AFDP 4-0, Sustainment**
The revised publication shifts from Combat Support to Sustainment, aligning Air Force doctrine with JP 4-0, Joint Logistics, and the agreed framework between the LeMay Center and Headquarters Air Force A4. It adds joint definitions for logistics and sustainment, clarifies AFFOR staff responsibilities, and incorporates the AFFORGEN model. The update expands capability descriptions for logistics services, personnel services, operational contracting support, legal, finance, and medical services.
- ★ **AFDP 3-40, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations**
AFDP 3-40, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations, aligns Air Force doctrine with updated DoW strategy, joint publications, and DAF guidance. The revision shifts emphasis toward peer conflict in contested environments, reorganizes terminology to align with current operational doctrine, and incorporates mission command, C2, artificial intelligence, sUAS, and hypersonic glide vehicle considerations. It also adds nuclear C2 and command relationship guidance, reinforces research and human capital priorities, and highlights electromagnetic pulse impacts on higher-echelon communications.
- ★ **AFDP 3-60, Targeting**
AFDP 3-60, Targeting, incorporates updates from JP 3-60, including 50 revised definitions, and integrates recent dynamic targeting changes. The revision adds Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response requirements, clarifies how targets move through the six-stage air tasking cycle, and defines Air Force-specific terms such as target custody. It also clarifies 363 ISRW reachback support, reinforces dynamic targeting as a process rather than a mission type, and aligns procedures with updated Air Operations Center guidance.

Do you want to contribute to the following publications?

CONTACT US

usafdoctrine@us.af.mil

Pubs In Progress	Last Updated
AFDP 3-10, Force Protection	Jun 1, 2023
AFDP 3-01, Counterair Ops	Jun 15, 2023
AFDP 3-04, Countersea Ops	Sep 20, 2023
AFDP 3-85, EMS Ops	Dec 14, 2023

Pubs Up Next	Last Updated
AFDP 3-36, Air Mobility Ops	Jun 24, 2024
AFDP 3-03, Counterland Ops	Oct 31, 2024
AFDP 3-05, Special Ops	Oct 31, 2024
AFDP 3-61, Public Affairs	Oct 31, 2024
AFDP 3-84, Legal Support	Oct 31, 2024

For the latest doctrine publication taskers visit: <https://www.doctrine.af.mil/home/doctrine-tmt/>

Air Force Doctrine Paragon

This month, the LeMay Center highlights the origins and early development of Air Force combat search and rescue (CSAR) in the Vietnam War.



This Air Force Doctrine Paragon highlights the origins and enduring value of combat search and rescue, showing how personnel recovery became a doctrinal expression of the Air Force's promise to never leave its people behind. During Vietnam, dense jungle terrain, enemy threats, and downed aircraft demanded a dedicated rescue capability, leading to refined tactics, specialized aircraft, and integrated rescue teams. HH-43 "Pedro" helicopters, A-1 "Sandy" escorts, airborne controllers, command and control aircraft, and pararescue jumpers worked together in carefully choreographed missions that turned courage into repeatable operational practice. The story of A1C William Pitsenbarger captures the paragon's heart: under fire, he chose to remain with wounded soldiers, helping save lives before sacrificing his own. His actions embodied the air rescuer's code, "That others may live." This sacrifice was recognized with the Medal of Honor.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HIS MOH?

Doctrinally, this vignette demonstrates how personnel recovery is more than a support function. Personnel Recover preserves combat power, strengthens morale, denies adversaries intelligence and propaganda value, and reinforces trust across the force. From Vietnam to modern recovery missions, AFDP 3-50, Personnel Recovery, carries this lesson forward: disciplined doctrine, integrated teams, and courageous execution turn rescue into a force-multiplying warfighting capability. To read the full doctrine paragon visit our website at: <https://www.doctrine.af.mil/Home/Doctrine-Paragon/>

PREVIOUS PARAGONS

MAR 26 DOCTRINE PARAGON-MAJOR GENERAL KENNEY IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

FEB 26 DOCTRINE PARAGON-BALTIC AND NORDIC AIR POLICING

JANUARY PARAGON - OPERATION SOUTHERN SPEAR



ALSSA / JOINT / NATO DOCTRINE ACTIVITIES

Snapshot of Joint Division Doctrine Publication Revisions

2ND QUARTER 2026

ALSSA	JOINT	NATO
PUBLICATIONS WORKED		
Ops Assessment	Foreign Humanitarian Assistance	AJP-2.6, IMINT
Airspace Control	Multi-pub update (JP 3-09, JP 3-33, JP 3-60) (JWFCS)	STANAG 4816, UCATT
Aviation Urban Ops	Multinational Considerations Operations	AJP-3.18, EOD
Airfield Opening	Joint Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction	AJP-3.17 Geospatial Support
Personnel Recovery	Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SIPR)	AJP-3.20, Cyberspace Ops
Special Operations Forces	Multinational Considerations for Joint Ops	AJP-4.2, Medical Support
	Joint Petroleum and Water	Weapons of Mass Destruction
		AJP-4.1, Logistics
		AJP-01, Allied Joint Doctrine
CURRENT PUBLICATIONS BEING WORKED		
Air Control Communications	JP 4-01, Defense Transportation System	AJP-4.3, Host-Nation Support
Brevity	JP 4-04, Contingency Basing	AJP-3.26, Military Contribution to Humanitarian
Airfield Opening TAGS	JP 3-10, Joint Security Operations	AJP-3.2, Land Operations
		AJP-3.9, Targeting
NEXT QUARTER PUBLICATIONS EXPECTED for REVIEW		
Enemy Air Defense (JSEAD)	JP 3-22, Foreign Internal Defense	
Fighter Integration	JP 4-04, Contingency Basing	
Joint Fires (JFIRES)	JP 3-10, Joint Security Operations	
Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO)		



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“

At the very heart
of warfare lies
doctrine.

-- Curtis E. LeMay. ”



REBUILDING
THE FORCE &
LETHALITY



DEFENSE
INDUSTRIAL
BASE



TECHNOLOGICAL
DOMINANCE



DETERRENCE
& DEFENSE



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