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FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



AIR FORCE DOCTRINE PUBLICATION (AFDP) 3-0 OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

THREATS TO OPERATIONS

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Threats to national interests exist across the [range of military operations](#). Since tactical actions can have strategic consequences, threats that are perceived as small can have a large-scale impact on operations. Commanders should consider the [effects](#) that the guiding agent(s) behind a threat intend to produce, not just the nature of the threat itself.

Small-scale actions conducted by agents, insiders, saboteurs, sympathizers, partisans, extremists, and agent-supervised or independently initiated terrorist activities may present a grave danger to Air Force operations. These threats may derive their personnel from nation states or non-state actors. Often [asymmetric](#) in nature, these threats may be unorganized or well-orchestrated. They may take the form of insider threats, riots, random sniper incidents, physical assaults, cyberspace incidents, kidnappings, aircraft hijackings, or bombings. In addition, commanders should consider threats, both natural and man-made, to force health protection.

Major attacks by large conventional forces that may use operations in the [air](#), [space](#), [land](#), [cyberspace](#), or [maritime](#) domains are at the large-scale end of state-to-state conflicts. Attacks may also come from aircraft and theater missiles/artillery armed with conventional weapons or [weapons of mass destruction](#). Engagement of such forces is generally considered part of major combat operations rather than [force protection](#).