



# CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



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

### STEADY-STATE PLANNING

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Steady-state planning operationalizes the [commander, Air Force force's](#) (COMAFFOR's) steady-state strategy. Airmen should employ a process analogous to the [joint operation planning process for air](#) to conduct steady-state planning, ensuring they employ a process that at least includes the important steps of mission analysis, design, and plan development. Steady-state planners should consider the availability of resources in developing the plan, so the plan itself should articulate the need for resources required for plan execution.

Just as the campaign plan is the [combatant commander's](#) (CCDR's) principal steady-state plan, the campaign support plan (CSP) serves the same purpose for the COMAFFOR. Responsibility for planning, execution, and assessment of the COMAFFOR CSP is typically aligned with the AFFOR staff, with the air operations center (AOC) in support. Although elements of the AFFOR staff may take lead for various parts of the planning and execution cycle, the steady state requires coordinated effort by the entire component staff. As in contingency planning, the transition from steady-state planning, typically led by the AFFOR/A5, to steady-state execution, typically led by the AFFOR/A3, should be clearly defined, documented as a key staff process, and closely followed.

The COMAFFOR CSP and country plans are unlike other deliberate plans in that they normally transition into execution. As such, the key constraint on the execution of the plan is the availability of resources—forces, funding, authorities, time, effort, etc. This is arguably the most significant difference between steady-state and contingency planning. Without addressing resource procurement, funding, and so on, steady-state tactical-level operations (and thus the achievement of desired effects) in support of the COMAFFOR CSP are not possible.

Another steady-state planning consideration, closely related to resources, is the need to take a multi-year approach to planning, execution, and assessment. By aligning the steady-state planning cycle with Department of Defense (DOD) and Air Force institutional processes for resource allocation (e.g., program objective memorandum development), Air Force planners acknowledge the vital linkage between steady-state operations and resources.

All plans developed in the steady state are considered deliberate plans, only one of which addresses crisis or contingency operations. The Air Force's Service component plan serves this need, summarizing the Air Force component's support to the CCDR's overarching operation plan (OPLAN) or concept plan (CONPLAN). Whereas the

AFFOR/A5 often takes the lead in the development of deliberate Service component plans, expertise from the AOC may be necessary for its development.

Steady-state plans are normally developed using an effects-based approach, ensuring planned steady-state operations support COMAFFOR-established strategy, objectives, effects, and tasks. Geographic or functional objectives at the operational level are the centerpiece of these plans, enabling all subordinate planning and assessment. Objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, results-oriented, and time-bound.

The Air Force CSP supports the Service's overall Title 10 responsibility to organize, train, and equip Air Force forces for employment by combatant commands. As such, this plan's primary value is to articulate a steady-state demand signal to sequentially inform institutional force planning, capabilities development, and resource allocation.

Steady-state planning products:

- ★ COMAFFOR CSP. The COMAFFOR CSP is an operations plan at the theater-strategic level, summarizing steady-state, component-specific operations in support of CCDR campaign plans. The COMAFFOR CSP may include activities related to the component responsibility to organize, train, equip, and sustain Air Force forces. The COMAFFOR CSP operationalizes the COMAFFOR strategy.
- ★ COMAFFOR Country Plans. The COMAFFOR country plan is a theater security cooperation plan at the operational level that aligns with the CCDR's country plan and nests under the COMAFFOR CSP. Country plans focus on achieving country-specific objectives related to partner relationships, partner capacities and capabilities, access, and interoperability.
- ★ Air Force Service component plan (deliberate). In the context of the steady state, the COMAFFOR Service component plan (deliberate) is an Air Force component-developed operation plan in support of a CCDR OPLAN or CONPLAN.
- ★ Air Force CSP. The Air Force CSP is a biennial plan at the national-strategic level, summarizing Air Force steady-state operations in support of CCDR campaign plans. The Air Force CSP assessment informs Air Force force planning, capabilities development, and resource allocation.

For more specific information on how the many processes involved in steady-state planning are conducted and interrelate, see Air Force Instruction 10-421, [Operations Planning for the Steady-State](#).

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