



# CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

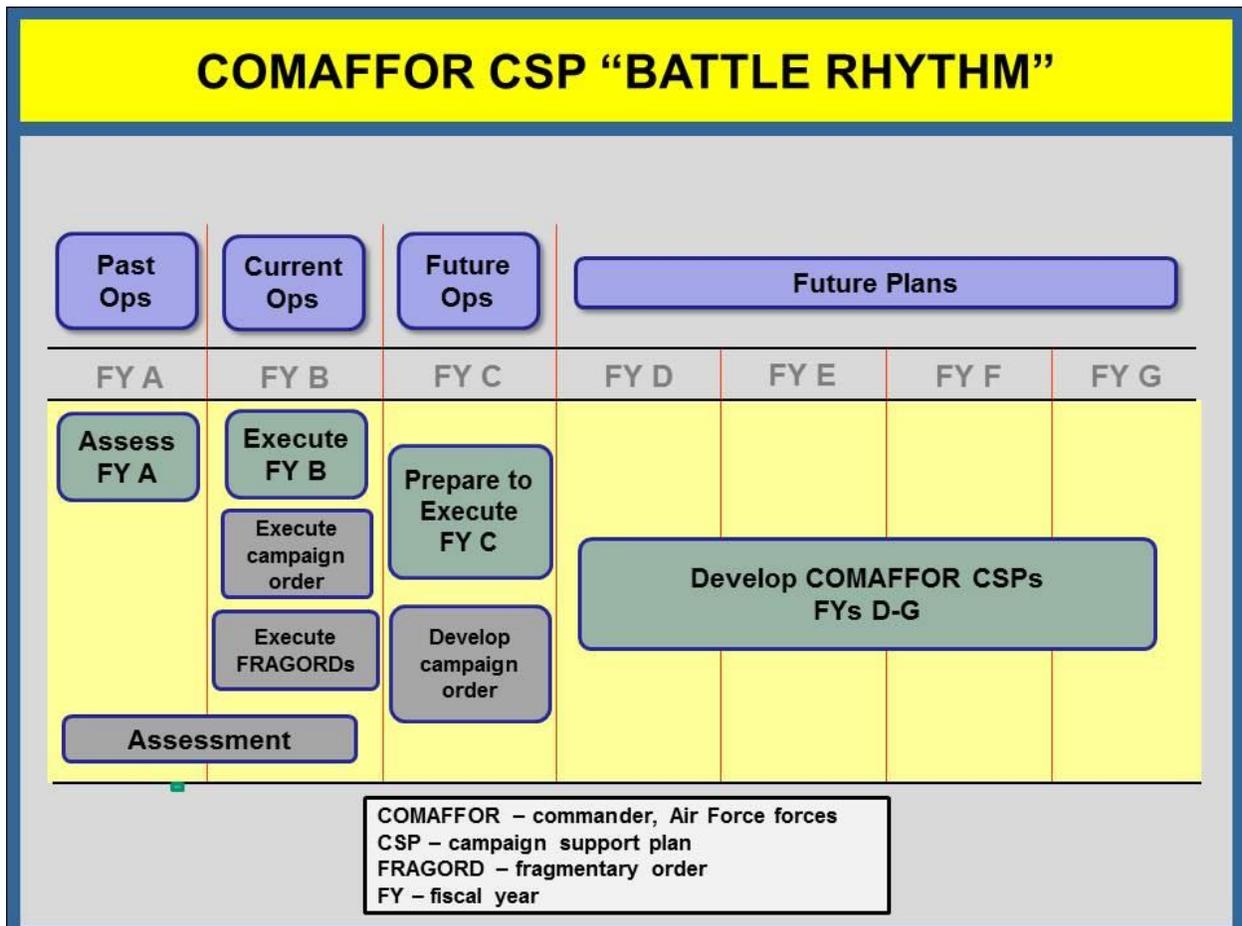


## AIR FORCE DOCTRINE PUBLICATION (AFDP) 3-0 OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

### STEADY-STATE EXECUTION

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Just as with combatant commanders' campaigns and country plans, the [commander, Air Force forces'](#) (COMAFFOR's) campaign support plans (CSPs) and country plans normally transition into execution annually. Because of the multi-year nature of these plans, at least three COMAFFOR CSPs may be in various levels of a life cycle at any given time: one in development, one preparing to execute, and one being executed during the current fiscal year (FY). There may also be one or more past FYs being assessed in order to appropriately adapt COMAFFOR's strategy. The figure, "COMAFFOR CSP 'Battle Rhythm' " notionally depicts the multi-year sequence of the various steady-state plans and orders.



COMAFFOR CSP "Battle Rhythm"

This is called a “battle rhythm” in this context because it is analogous to the day-to-day battle rhythm managed by the joint force air component commander during combat or contingency operations, even though its cycles are measured in years rather than days or hours.

Execution is normally preceded by preparation activities, facilitating the formal transition from planning led by the Air Force forces (AFFOR)/A5 to execution led by the AFFOR/A3. Since execution of steady-state operations largely consists of tactical-level actions, the prepare stage also defines the interface between operational-level entities (e.g., AFFOR staff) and tactical-level units (e.g., mobility support advisor squadron, air advisors). During preparation, tactical planning occurs for the missions and activities that support the achievement of operational-level effects as defined in the COMAFFOR CSP and COMAFFOR country plans. Units prepare Airmen with training and equipment, and may conduct mission rehearsals when necessary. The final actions in the prepare stage occur at the operational-level. Resources requested in the planning stage must be received and distributed before execution can occur. Finally, the COMAFFOR authorizes mission execution with an execute order (EXORD) or a campaign order (also often known as a theater campaign order). The fragmentary order may be used to modify or amend an EXORD or campaign order.

During execution, the AFFOR/A3 staff or air operations center monitor mission execution in real time.

Steady-state execution products:

- ★ Situation report. The situation report is a periodic, often daily, weekly, or monthly, report, summarizing tactical-level military operations and activities since the previous report.
  - ★ Periodic updates to the COMAFFOR. Commanders receive updates on military operations through periodic briefings and reports.
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