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FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



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

STEADY-STATE ASSESSMENT

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The [assessment](#) of operations during steady-state conditions informs the commander concerning progress toward closing the gap between the [commander, Air Force forces'](#) (COMAFFOR's) security cooperation and other steady-state objectives and the associated baselines established in planning. This assessment influences COMAFFOR decision making with respect to resource allocation, prioritization, future planning guidance, future strategy revisions, interaction with partner nations, risk management, force protection, and other potential issues involving the commander and senior leadership. Operational-level assessment is informed by tactical-level assessments.

Assessment begins in planning, with the key being the establishment of objectives that adhere to "SMART" criteria (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and results-oriented, and time-bound) in the steady-state plan. Effects describe the conditions necessary to achieve COMAFFOR objectives. Tasks describe friendly actions to create effects. Measures of effectiveness are used to assess end states (if specified), effects, and objectives. Measures of performance are used to assess the accomplishment of tasks.

Experience has shown that developing an assessment approach after the plan is complete, or while in execution, is ineffective. The development of an assessment annex to the steady-state plan is the preferred technique to support the commander's operation assessment process.

The AFFOR/A5 normally provides the COMAFFOR a comprehensive campaign support plan (CSP) assessment on a periodic basis. As the lead developer of the steady-state plans, the AFFOR/A5 is best qualified to summarize progress toward the achievement of COMAFFOR objectives, effects, and tasks associated with the CSP or country plans. The entire AFFOR staff should support the A5 in this effort.

Steady-state assessment products:

- ✦ After-action report. After-action reports summarize an entire military operation or a steady-state activity following its completion.
- ✦ Periodic operation assessment updates to the COMAFFOR. As steady-state operations are executed, the commander receives periodic updates on mission execution. These updates influence the commander's ongoing informal assessment of steady-state operations.

- ✦ COMAFFOR CSP operation assessment. On a recurring, predictable schedule, the commander requires a formal assessment of plan execution. The AFFOR staff presents its analysis of progress toward the accomplishment of plan objectives; however, only the commander can make the final assessment. The formal assessment results in COMAFFOR decisions related to future steady-state operations.
 - ✦ COMAFFOR country plan operation assessments. Country plans are typically assessed at a level below the COMAFFOR, but these assessments may inform the COMAFFOR CSP assessment.
 - ✦ Tactical-level (mission, event, etc.) operation assessments. Operation assessment, as a bottom-up process, initiates with tactical-level assessments. Mission, events, and activities at the tactical level are assessed conceptually in the same way as operational-level plans. These assessments help determine progress toward the achievement of tactical-level objectives, effects, and tasks. Tactical-level assessments inform operational-level assessments, which, in turn, inform strategic-level assessments.
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