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SERVICE COMPONENT PLANNING DURING CONTINGENCIES

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There are three types of Service [component](#) plans that concern Air Force commanders and their staffs at the operational- and tactical-levels:

- ✦ Deliberate plans supporting ongoing, steady-state campaigns.
- ✦ Deliberate plans supporting plans for a particular contingency.
- ✦ Crisis action plans and orders supporting an imminent contingency.

The first type is deliberate planning performed in support of the [combatant commander's](#) (CCDR) steady-state campaign plan. Air Force component planners, in turn, develop [campaign support plans](#) (CSP) and country plans that operationalize the [commander, Air Force forces'](#) (COMAFFOR's) theater or functional [strategy](#) in addition to supporting the CCDR's campaign plan. The second type is deliberate planning performed in support of a CCDR's operation plan (OPLAN) or concept plan (CONPLAN) for a contingency. The third type is crisis action planning performed in a contingency in support of a [joint force commander](#) (JFC) and, when applicable, a [joint force air component commander](#) (JFACC). A component-developed Air Force Service component plan is used to support both the second and third plan types. When a JFACC and associated joint air operations center (JAOC) are designated and active, the component-developed Air Force Service component plan supports the JFACC's joint air operations plan. When time available for planning is constrained, crisis action planning may produce an operation order (OPORD) rather than Air Force Service component plan.

How these plans are developed is significantly influenced by two distinct responsibilities of the COMAFFOR: operational and administrative. The operational side reflects the COMAFFOR's role as a Service component commander to a CCDR or other JFC with assigned responsibility to achieve operational objectives, effects, and tasks associated with the JFC's operations plan. This operational responsibility applies to the first plan type (deliberate steady-state), second plan type (deliberate contingency), and may apply for the third plan type (crisis action contingency). When a JFACC and JAOC are designated for crisis action contingency (as is normally the case, but not required), the operational hat is worn by the COMAFFOR in his role as the JFACC. The administrative side reflects the COMAFFOR's Service-specific responsibility to organize, train, equip, and sustain Air Force forces assigned or attached to a CCDR or other JFC. This incorporates the COMAFFOR's administrative control responsibility, and **always** resides with the COMAFFOR.

The Air Force component manages the three plan types differently on behalf of the COMAFFOR. The AFFOR staff (normally led by the A5) has lead planning responsibility for the first and second plan types, producing a single integrated component plan (CSP for steady-state and an Air Force Service component plan for a deliberate contingency). This plan reflects both operational and administrative roles. For the third plan type without a JFACC designated, the AOC (normally led by the strategy division) has lead responsibility for the operational aspects of the plan while the AFFOR staff has lead responsibility for administrative support to the plan. Despite the division of responsibility within the component, a single integrated Air Force Service component plan is developed for the COMAFFOR. For the third plan type with a JFACC designated, the JAOC strategy division has lead responsibility for the operational aspects of the plan and the AFFOR staff still has lead responsibility for administrative support to the plan. In this case, two separate, but integrated, plans are developed. The JAOC develops a joint air operations plan and the AFFOR staff develops an Air Force Service component plan in support. Service component planning, both operational and administrative, should be tightly integrated with planning conducted by the combatant command or joint task force. Once a [course of action](#) (COA) is selected through the [joint planning process](#) for a particular planning requirement, the CCDR or other JFC normally develop a campaign plan, OPLAN, CONPLAN, or OPORD that describes the COA and tasks supporting commanders to implement the approved COA effectively. The primary purpose of the CCDR/JFC plan is to articulate commander's intent and an operational approach, and provide guidance and direction to subordinate units. Air Force component planners may deploy to the JFC's staff to provide expertise during the COA development process, in order to help shape the COA from a Service component perspective. In some cases, Air Force component planning will run concurrent with combatant command/joint task force planning, further emphasizing the importance of transparency, clear understanding of commander's intent, and good communications during the planning process.
